# What the Market Taught Me This Week

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The Motley Fool's 10% Promise team was back at it again this week, reporting on all the crazy moves in the market. Earnings dominated our articles, but possible acquisitions, a new fashion trend, and a beaten-down stock caught my eye.

**Just buy something already**
While **Microsoft** (Nasdaq: MSFT _) sprinted to the checkout line to pay $8.5 billion for Skype, other companies preferred to browse the aisles this week.

**Apple** (Nasdaq: AAPL _) is reportedly undecided whether **Nuance Communications** (Nasdaq: NUAN _) is the right fit for the tech giant, but investors were buying the rumors anyway. I, for one, hope Apple decides to take the plunge, for selfish reasons if nothing else. A Mac, iPhone, or iPad that could turn my speech into Foolish articles is sure to reduce my chances of developing carpal tunnel syndrome. Plus, I would love to see "that guy" writing an email while talking to a headset in line at the corner drugstore.

**Dollar Thrifty** (NYSE: DTG _) is still giving **Hertz Global** (NYSE: HTZ _) the cold shoulder after a $72-per-share offer for the company. Now that Dollar Thrifty is trading for well over $80 per share, the market thinks the company can squeeze a few more dollars out of a potential buyer.

I'm not sure if either of these deals will go through, but I'm hoping it's a sign some of the cash on corporate balance sheets will be put to work this summer. The market could use the boost.

**Not all fashion is created equal**
I don't know much about fashion, but I know that retailers that rely on fickle customers to buy their clothes can go in and out of style very quickly. Both **Guess?** and **Aeropostale** have gone out of fashion recently, but **Fossil** (Nasdaq: FOSL _) got fashionable again quickly, with a solid earnings report.

Companies in this market usually make me nervous, but Fossil has a less risky set of products with watches and sunglasses. Plus, it beat expectations so soundly analysts are likely to increase future estimates soon.

**It may be time to pounce on Ebix**
I've had my eye on **Ebix** (Nasdaq: EBIX _) for months, but I haven't had the guts to pull the trigger as its stock price rose consistently. But now that shares have been crushed by an article by a short-seller yet posted better-than-expected earnings, it's time to look at the company again.

In the first quarter, revenue grew 27% to $40.1 million, diluted earnings per share rose 16% to $0.37, and the stock's forward P/E ratio is just 14 based on 2011 expectations. The company has consistently exceeded analyst expectations.

*Motley Fool Rule Breakers* has stuck by the company, and its current valuation is at least worth a thumbs-up from me on Motley Fool CAPS. Ebix may make it into my portfolio soon.