

Crypto Glossary Cheat Sheet (A-Z for Beginners)

150+ Terms Every Beginner Should Know

Term	Definition
Altcoin	Any cryptocurrency that isn't Bitcoin.
Address	A string of letters and numbers used to receive crypto.
Airdrop	Free crypto given out by a project to promote itself.
Algorithm	A set of rules a blockchain or coin follows.
APR	The flat yearly interest you can earn or pay on crypto.
APY	Like APR, but includes compounding (interest on interest).
Bear Market	A period when crypto prices keep falling.
Blockchain	A digital ledger that records every transaction publicly.
Bull Market	A time when prices are rising and optimism is high.
Burn	Permanently destroying crypto tokens to reduce supply.
Bridge	A tool that lets you move crypto between two different blockchains.
Bitcoin	The first and most well-known cryptocurrency.
Coin	A type of crypto that runs on its own blockchain.
Cold Wallet	A wallet not connected to the internet.
Confirmation	Proof that your transaction is approved and recorded.
Custodial Wallet	A wallet where a third party controls your private keys.
Crypto	Short for cryptocurrency, a digital form of money.
Consensus	How blockchains agree on what transactions are valid.
dApp	An app that runs on blockchain without a central company.
DAO	A community-run crypto project that makes decisions by voting.
DEX	A crypto trading platform with no central authority.
DeFi	A system that lets you lend, borrow, and trade crypto without banks.
DCA	Investing a fixed amount regularly to reduce risk over time.
Dust	Very small amounts of crypto left in wallets, often too small to trade.

Ethereum	The second biggest cryptocurrency, known for smart contracts.
Exchange	A website or app where you trade cryptocurrencies.
EVM	The 'computer' that runs apps and contracts on Ethereum.
El Salvador	The first country to make Bitcoin legal money.
Encryption	A way of hiding information using secret codes.
Escrow	A holding area for funds until conditions of a transaction are met.
Fiat	Traditional money like dollars, euros, or naira.
Flash Loan	A fast loan in DeFi, often repaid within seconds.
Fork	A split in a blockchain that creates two separate chains.
FOMO	The feeling of wanting to buy because others are making money.
FUD	Scary or negative news that causes panic.
Faucet	A website that gives small amounts of free crypto to users.
Gas Fee	A small payment made to process a transaction on certain blockchains.
Governance Token	A token that gives holders voting power in a crypto project.
Genesis Block	The first-ever block recorded on a blockchain.
Gas Limit	The maximum amount you're willing to pay for a transaction.
Gwei	A tiny unit of Ethereum used to measure gas fees.
GPU Mining	Using graphics cards to mine crypto.
HODL	A slang term meaning 'Hold On for Dear Life' dont panic sell.
Hot Wallet	A crypto wallet connected to the internet.
Hash	A scrambled digital fingerprint of a transaction.
Halving	An event where the reward for mining Bitcoin gets cut in half.
Hardware Wallet	A physical device that stores your crypto securely.
Hashrate	The power of a computer network to solve blockchain puzzles.
ICO	When a new crypto project sells tokens to raise money.
IDO	A token launch that happens on a decentralized exchange.
Inflation	When the supply of money or tokens grows, reducing value.

Interoperability	The ability for different blockchains to work together.
Impermanent Loss	Temporary loss from providing liquidity when prices change.
Input	The coins or data used in a transaction.
Junk Coin	A useless or scammy token with no real purpose.
JavaScript Wallet	A wallet built into a browser using JavaScript code.
JPEG	A term often used for NFT images, sometimes mockingly.
Just-in-Time Mining	Joining mining at the last minute for quick rewards.
Key	A string of characters used to access your wallet (private or public).
KYC	A verification process required by exchanges.
KYT	Monitoring crypto transactions for suspicious activity.
Kill Switch	A tool that shuts down access during emergencies.
Ledger	A record of all blockchain activity.
Layer 1	A base blockchain like Bitcoin or Ethereum.
Layer 2	A faster add-on built on top of Layer 1.
Limit Order	A trade that only happens at your chosen price.
Liquidity	How easily something can be bought or sold.
Locked Tokens	Tokens that can't be traded until a set date.
Mainnet	The live version of a blockchain where real transactions happen.
Market Cap	The total value of all coins in a project.
Margin Trading	Borrowing money to trade crypto. High risk, not for beginners.
Max Supply	The most coins that will ever exist for a cryptocurrency.
Metaverse	A digital world where people interact and use crypto.
Miner	A person or computer that helps run the blockchain and earns rewards.
Node	A computer that stores a copy of the blockchain and helps keep it running.
NFT	A unique digital item like art or music stored on a blockchain.
Network Fee	A small fee paid to process a crypto transaction.
Native Token	The main token of a blockchain like ETH or BTC.

NFA	Not Financial Advice a common crypto disclaimer.
Non-Custodial Wallet	A wallet you fully control without a third party.
Off-Ramp	The process of converting crypto into real money.
On-Chain	Any activity that takes place directly on a blockchain.
Order Book	A list showing buy and sell orders on an exchange.
Oracle	A tool that brings real-world data into a blockchain.
Overbought	When a coin's price rises too fast and may drop.
Oversold	When a coin's price drops too much and may rebound.
Paper Wallet	A printed paper with your private keys and wallet info.
P2P	Peer-to-peer. Sending crypto directly to another person.
Portfolio	All your crypto assets and their total value.
Private Key	A secret password that gives you access to your crypto.
Public Key	Your crypto address that others use to send you coins.
Pump and Dump	A scam where prices are hyped then quickly sold.
QR Code	A scannable code that helps share your wallet address.
Rug Pull	A scam where developers take investor funds and vanish.
ROI	Return on Investment your profit or loss in percentage.
Reserve Currency	A token kept to back another token or system.
Seed Phrase	A list of secret words to restore your crypto wallet.
Smart Contract	A digital agreement that runs automatically on blockchain.
Stablecoin	A crypto that stays stable, often tied to real money.
Staking	Locking up crypto to earn rewards and support the network.