

Crypto Terms for Beginners

ADDRESS A unique identifier used to send and receive cryptocurrency	AIRDROP Distributing cryptocurrency for free as a marketing strategy	ALTCOIN Alternative cryptocurrencies to Bitcoin
ALL TIME HIGH (ATH) / ALL TIME LOW (ATL) The highest or lowest price a cryptocurrency has reached	ARBITRAGE Buying and selling the same asset on two exchanges to profit from small price differences	
BAGHOLDER Someone who missed an opportunity to sell at a high price and now owns low value cryptocurrency	BEAR Someone who is pessimistic about the market or coin value	BITCOIN (BTC) A digital currency launched in 2009 that boomed the cryptocurrency market
BLOCK A group of transactions made in a blockchain	BLOCKCHAIN A globally distributed digital record of transactions; permanent and secure	BULL Someone who is optimistic about the market or asset value
BUY THE DIP (BTD) Buying cryptocurrency when the price has fallen		
COLD WALLET A digital wallet that is not connected to the internet	CRYPTOCURRENCY A digital currency that uses cryptography to secure wallets; often decentralized, though not always	CRYPTOGRAPHY The method of using code to convert information and communications into an unreadable format
DECENTRALIZED No entity holds control over the network; anyone can join (see 'node') and blockchain records are stored in many locations	ETHEREUM A cryptocurrency and decentralized computing platform, launched in 2015	EXCHANGE A platform to buy, sell, and invest in cryptocurrency. Exchanges can be centralized (Coinbase) or decentralized (Unstoppable)
FEAR OF MISSING OUT (FOMO) When someone is concerned that they might miss a good buying or selling opportunity	FEAR, UNCERTAINTY, AND DOUBT (FUD) Negative sentiment about the market, usually spread in the media	FIAT Currency that is government issued legal tender, unlike cryptocurrency
FORK A change in how the blockchain operates that can be backwards compatible (soft fork) or not (hard fork)	HARDWARE WALLET A physical device used for storing cryptocurrency keys (usually USB connected)	HASHING Transforming chunks of data into unique text strings that are nearly impossible to decipher
HODL Slang term for "hold", to keep cryptocurrency instead of selling it	HOT WALLET A digital wallet that is connected to the internet	INITIAL COIN OFFERING (ICO) A method of raising funds for a new project in exchange for a token
MARKET CAPITALIZATION The total number of coins in circulation multiplied by individual coin price	MEMORY POOL (MEMPOOL) Unconfirmed transactions, held until they're picked up by a node on the network	MINING Using computer hardware to process and validate cryptocurrency transactions
MINING POOL Miners combining their mining rig power to increase the chances of closing the block and receiving the reward for it	MINING RIG A computer built specifically for mining cryptocurrency, usually containing high specification components	MOONING When a cryptocurrency's value is rapidly rising in a short period of time
NODE A computer that connects to the cryptocurrency network and becomes one of the network participants	PEER-TO-PEER (P2P) When two entities/devices communicate directly without a third-party	PRIVATE KEY Secret identifier that proves ownership of a wallet
PROOF OF STAKE (POS) Method used to process transactions, with miners having more control based on how much cryptocurrency they hold	PROOF OF WORK (POW) Method used to process transactions, requiring completion of complex mathematical equations by computers	PUBLIC KEY Generated by the private key and turned into an address; generally used to receive cryptocurrency
PUMP AND DUMP Fraudsters spreading false info to increase a cryptocurrency's value (pump), then cashing out (dump)	SATOSHI NAKAMOTO The pseudonym given to the person or persons who created bitcoin (their identity is unknown)	SATOSHIS The smallest unit of Bitcoin; one Bitcoin equals 100,000,000 satoshis
SHILLING Spreading fake news to increase the price of a cryptocurrency	SOFTWARE WALLET A method of storing cryptocurrency keys within software files on your computer or mobile device	TICKER An abbreviation to identify a cryptocurrency (for example, "BTC" for Bitcoin)
TOKEN Used interchangeably with "coin". Technically, a subset of cryptocurrency that has its own blockchain and represents an asset or utility	TRANSACTION (TX) Movement of cryptocurrency from one address to another	WHALE Someone who owns lots of cryptocurrency
WHITEPAPER An authoritative document to explain a new cryptocurrency		