

# Crypto Basics: A Quick Guide - Lesson 1

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Cryptocurrency is digital money that works without banks or governments controlling it. Instead, it runs on **blockchain technology**—a public digital ledger where every transaction is recorded and verified by computers worldwide. This makes it secure, transparent, and hard to tamper with.

The most well-known cryptocurrency is **Bitcoin**, created in 2009. Since then, thousands of others have been launched, like **Ethereum, Solana, and Ripple**, each serving different purposes—some focus on payments, others on powering apps or smart contracts.

People use crypto mainly for three reasons:

1. **Payments** – Fast, borderless transactions.
2. **Investment** – Many see it as “digital gold” or a high-risk, high-reward asset.
3. **Innovation** – Powering decentralized finance (DeFi), NFTs, and Web3 applications.

To buy or use crypto, you need a **wallet** (a digital app or device to store your coins) and access to a **crypto exchange** (like Coinbase, Binance, or WazirX).

Crypto is exciting but also volatile. Prices can swing wildly, and scams exist, so it’s important to research before investing and only put in what you can afford to lose.

In short: crypto is reshaping how we think about money, but it’s still early days. Approach with curiosity—and caution.

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