



Crypto Glossary for Normal People

A simple, calm dictionary of the most important crypto terms.

This glossary was created as part of the Mind Treks: Crypto for Normal People learning journey.

This glossary is designed to sit quietly beside you — on your desk, in your files, or on your phone — so you can look up terms without stress, hype, or jargon.

HOW TO USE THIS GLOSSARY

A calm reference, not an exam.

This glossary is not an encyclopedia. It's a calm, plain-language reference designed to help you understand the most common crypto terms you'll encounter in articles, videos, or conversations.

Each definition is written for normal people — not developers, traders, or insiders. If a term feels too technical for your goals, you're free to skip it. Use this guide as a confidence builder, not a homework assignment.

Glossary (A–Z)

Terms are listed alphabetically. Each entry is short, plain, and meant to be re-read whenever you like.

A

Address — A place where crypto can be sent. Like an email address, but for money. Publicly visible, safe to share.

Airdrop — Free tokens given out to promote a project. Usually unnecessary for beginners.

Altcoin — Any cryptocurrency that is not Bitcoin.

B

Bitcoin — The first and largest cryptocurrency, often described as “digital gold.”

Blockchain — A shared, tamper-resistant ledger that records transactions.

Bridge — A tool for moving crypto between different blockchains; often risky for beginners.

Bull Market — A period when prices rise and optimism increases.

C

Cold Wallet — A wallet kept offline (e.g., hardware wallet). Very secure.

Consensus — The process blockchains use to agree on transaction history.

Custodial Wallet — A wallet where a company (like an exchange) holds your private key.

D

Decentralized Exchange (DEX) — A platform that lets people trade crypto directly without a company managing it.

DeFi (Decentralized Finance) — Financial tools built on blockchains. Early, experimental, often risky.

DYOR (Do Your Own Research) — A reminder to think independently and avoid hype.

E

Ethereum — A major blockchain that supports apps, smart contracts, NFTs, and more.

Exchange — A platform where you can buy, sell, or trade crypto.

F

Fiat Currency — Government-issued money such as dollars, euros, or yen.

FOMO — Fear of Missing Out. A common emotional trap in crypto.

FUD — Fear, Uncertainty, Doubt. Negative emotions or rumors that cause panic.

G

Gas Fee — The small fee paid to process transactions on Ethereum.

Genesis Block — The first block of a blockchain. (Fun fact, not essential.)

H

Halving — An event in Bitcoin that reduces new coin issuance every four years.

Hardware Wallet — A physical device that stores your private key offline.

HODL — A slang term for holding crypto long-term despite volatility.

I

ICO — Initial Coin Offering. A way crypto projects raise money. Often high-risk.

Immutable — Cannot be changed, referring to blockchain history.

K

KYC (Know Your Customer) — Identity verification required by most regulated exchanges.

L

Ledger — A record of transactions. Blockchains use shared ledgers visible to everyone.

Liquidity — How easily an asset can be bought or sold without moving the price too much.

M

MetaMask — A popular software wallet for Ethereum-based apps.

Mining — The process computers use in Proof of Work blockchains to validate transactions.

N

NFT (Non-Fungible Token) — A unique digital item stored on a blockchain.

Node — A computer that helps maintain a blockchain network.

P

Private Key — A secret number that allows you to access your crypto. Never share it.

Public Key — The address where crypto is received; safe to share.

Pump-and-Dump — A scheme to artificially inflate a coin's price before dumping it.

R

Recovery Phrase — A 12–24 word phrase that restores access to your wallet. Protect it offline.

Rug Pull — When developers abandon a project and take investor money.

Ripple / XRP — A popular asset used for cross-border payments.

S

Satoshi — The smallest unit of Bitcoin.

Seed Phrase — Another term for recovery phrase.

Smart Contract — Code that runs on a blockchain automatically.

Stablecoin — A crypto token designed to maintain a stable value, usually \$1.

Staking — Locking up crypto to help run a Proof of Stake network.

T

Token — A digital asset that exists on a blockchain.

Trading Pair — Two assets used together for buying or selling (e.g., BTC/USDC).

V

Volatility — Large and frequent price swings. Very common in crypto.

W

Wallet — A tool for managing your private keys and crypto access.

Web3 — A broad, loosely-defined term for decentralized applications.



Terms You Can Safely Ignore (For Now)

These terms appear in crypto conversations but are rarely important for beginners.

Hash rate

Merkle tree

Layer-2 rollups

Oracles

Wrapped tokens

Liquidity mining

Zero-knowledge proofs

On-chain governance

You may encounter these terms in advanced discussions. You can safely skip them until you're genuinely curious.

Mind Treks

Built by learners. Not sellers.
