Core Crypto Concepts

Altcoin – Any cryptocurrency other than Bitcoin.

Bitcoin (BTC) – The first and most widely used cryptocurrency.

Blockchain – A decentralized digital ledger that records transactions.

Cryptocurrency – Digital money that uses cryptography for security.

Decentralization – A system not controlled by one central authority.

Token – A digital asset created on an existing blockchain.

Smart Contract – Self-executing contracts with terms written into code.

Fork – A change to a blockchain protocol (e.g., Bitcoin Cash split from Bitcoin).

Gas Fee – A small fee required to process transactions on networks like Ethereum.

Proof of Work (PoW) – A consensus mechanism used by Bitcoin for validation.

Proof of Stake (PoS) – A newer consensus mechanism using staking.

Wallets & Security

Hot Wallet – A crypto wallet connected to the internet (e.g., MetaMask).

Cold Wallet – An offline wallet (hardware or paper) for secure storage.

Private Key – A secret code that allows access to your crypto funds.

Public Key – An address where people can send you crypto.

Seed Phrase – A set of words to recover your wallet if lost.

Multi-Signature (Multi-Sig) – A wallet requiring multiple keys for transactions.

2FA (Two-Factor Authentication) – A security step requiring two verification methods.

Hardware Wallet – A physical device (e.g., Ledger, Trezor) for cold storage.

Paper Wallet – A printed form of your keys for offline security.

Trading & Investing

Exchange – A platform to buy, sell, or trade cryptocurrencies.

Centralized Exchange (CEX) – Exchange run by a company (e.g., Coinbase).

Decentralized Exchange (DEX) – Peer-to-peer exchange (e.g., Uniswap).

Spot Trading – Buying or selling crypto for immediate delivery.

Futures Trading – Contracts to buy/sell crypto at a future date.

Margin Trading – Trading with borrowed funds (higher risk).

Market Order – Buying/selling crypto at the current price.

Limit Order – Setting a price at which you want to buy/sell.

Liquidity – How easily a crypto can be bought or sold.

Volatility – Price fluctuation level of a cryptocurrency.

Market Cap – The total value of a crypto (price x circulating supply).

Bear Market – A period of declining prices.

Bull Market – A period of rising prices.

Whale – Someone holding large amounts of crypto.

Dollar-Cost Averaging (DCA) – Buying crypto in small amounts over time.

Stop-Loss Order – An order to sell crypto at a certain price to avoid loss.

DeFi & Web

DeFi (Decentralized Finance) – Financial services without banks.

Yield Farming – Earning rewards by lending/staking crypto.

Liquidity Pool – A collection of crypto used for decentralized trading.

APY (Annual Percentage Yield) – Earnings from staking or lending over a year.

Staking – Locking up crypto to help secure a network and earn rewards.

DAO (Decentralized Autonomous Org) – Community-run organizations on the blockchain.

NFT (Non-Fungible Token) – Unique digital assets (e.g., art, collectibles).

Metaverse – A virtual universe powered by blockchain and crypto.

Web3 – The next phase of the internet, built on decentralized tech.

Slang & Culture

FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) – Buying due to hype or fear of missing profit.

FUD (Fear, Uncertainty, Doubt) – Negative news or rumors affecting markets.

HODL – Slang for "hold," meaning to keep crypto long-term.

Shill – Aggressively promoting a crypto, often for profit.

Moon / Mooning – When a crypto's price skyrockets.