CHART CODE ACADEMY

Decode The Market Code

STOCK MARKET TERMS
GLOSSARY (A–Z)

110+ trading & investing terms explained in plain English — from Market Basics to Technical Analysis, Fundamental Analysis, Derivatives (F&O), Trading Orders & Risk, and Market Regulation.

A FREE STUDY RESOURCE BY CHART CODE

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About This Glossary

Most people quit learning the stock market not because the concepts are hard, but because the vocabulary gets in the way first. A single candlestick chart video can throw a dozen unfamiliar words at you before it explains a single strategy — bid, ask, open interest, resistance, lot size, stop-loss. Without a plain-English reference to fall back on, beginners either give up, or worse, start trading with only a half-understood picture of what these words actually mean.

This document is that reference. It is organised alphabetically from A to Z, and by topic — Market Basics, Technical Analysis, Fundamental Analysis, Derivatives (F&O), Trading Orders & Risk, and Regulatory & Institutional terms — so you can either read it start to finish or jump straight to the category you are stuck on. Every definition is written the way we would explain it in a classroom at Chart Code: short, direct, and free of unnecessary jargon.

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Y Yield · YoY Growth (Year-on-Year Growth)

Z Zero Coupon Bond · Zone (Supply/Demand Zone)

A

ADX (Average Directional Index)

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A momentum indicator, ranging from 0 to 100, that measures the **strength** of a trend rather than its direction. Traders often use it alongside the +DI and -DI lines to confirm whether a trend is strong enough to trade or too weak and choppy to bother with.

Annual Report

FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

A yearly document every listed company publishes, containing audited financial statements, management's commentary on performance, and future outlook. It's the single most important document for anyone doing fundamental analysis on a stock.

Arbitrage

ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

Simultaneously buying and selling the same asset in two different markets to profit from a temporary price difference between them. It's considered low-risk in theory because both legs of the trade happen at (almost) the same time.

Ask Price (Offer Price)

ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

The lowest price at which a seller is currently willing to sell a security. Along with the Bid Price, it forms the "bid-ask spread" you see in every order book.

Averaging (Cost Averaging)

ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

Buying additional shares of a stock you already own at a lower price, which brings down your overall average purchase cost. Useful when done with a plan and a strong conviction on the stock — risky when done purely out of hope.

B

Bear Market

MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

A sustained period of falling prices — typically a decline of 20% or more from recent highs — accompanied by widespread pessimism among investors.

Beta

FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

A measure of how volatile a stock is compared to the overall market. A beta above 1 means the stock tends to move more sharply than the market; below 1 means it tends to move less.

Bid Price

ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

The highest price a buyer is currently willing to pay for a security. The gap between this and the Ask Price is the "spread" — see the diagram below.

Blue Chip Stocks
FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

Shares of large, financially strong, and well-established companies with a long track record of reliable performance — usually the least volatile names on the index.

Bollinger Bands
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A volatility indicator made of a moving average with two bands plotted a set number of standard deviations above and below it. Price hugging or breaking a band often signals overbought or oversold conditions, or a coming breakout.

Book Value
FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

A company's net worth per share — total assets minus total liabilities, divided by shares outstanding — as recorded on its balance sheet.

Broker
REGULATORY & INSTITUTIONS

A SEBI-registered intermediary — a person or firm — through whom all your buy and sell orders are placed on the stock exchange. No individual can trade directly on the exchange without one.

Bull Market
MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

A sustained period of rising prices, usually driven by investor optimism and strong underlying economic conditions — the opposite of a bear market.

BTST (Buy Today, Sell Tomorrow)
ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

Selling shares the day after buying them — before they're even credited into your demat account — instead of waiting for full delivery. It carries settlement risks that plain delivery trading doesn't.

C

Call Option
DERIVATIVES (F&O)

A derivative contract giving the buyer the **right, but not the obligation,** to buy an underlying asset at a fixed "strike" price on or before a set expiry date.

Candlestick Chart
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A price chart where each "candle" shows the open, high, low and close for a chosen time period. The size and colour of the body, and the length of the wicks, reveal how buyers and sellers fought over that period.

Capital Gains
REGULATORY & INSTITUTIONS

The profit made when you sell an investment for more than you paid for it. In India, capital gains are taxed differently depending on whether the holding period counts as short-term or long-term.

Circuit Breaker
REGULATORY & INSTITUTIONS

An exchange-imposed trading halt triggered when a stock or index moves beyond a preset percentage in a session, designed to curb panic-driven volatility and give the market a "cooling off" period.

CMP (Current Market Price)
MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

The most recent price at which a security was traded on the exchange — the number you see updating live on your broker's app.

Correction
MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

A short-term drop of roughly 10–20% in a stock or index from its recent peak, occurring within what's still considered a broader uptrend — smaller and shorter-lived than a bear market.

D

Day Trading
ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

Buying and selling the same stock within a single trading session, closing every position before the market shuts for the day — used interchangeably with "intraday trading."

Delivery Trading
ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

Buying shares with the intention of holding them in your demat account beyond the trading day, as opposed to squaring off intraday.

Demat Account
MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

An electronic account that holds your shares and other securities in digital form, replacing the old system of physical paper share certificates. You need one before you can buy or hold any stock in India.

Derivative
DERIVATIVES (F&O)

A financial contract — like a future or an option — whose value is "derived" from an underlying asset such as a stock, index, or commodity, rather than having independent value of its own.

DII (Domestic Institutional Investor)
REGULATORY & INSTITUTIONS

Indian institutions — mutual funds, insurance companies, banks and pension funds — that invest large sums of domestic money in the stock market, often watched as a counterbalance to FII flows.

Dividend
FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

A portion of a company's profit paid out directly to shareholders, usually declared as a fixed amount per share, on top of any price appreciation.

Double Top / Double Bottom
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A reversal chart pattern where price tests the same high (double top) or the same low (double bottom) twice before reversing direction — a classic sign that momentum is running out.

E

Elliott Wave Theory

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A technical analysis approach that views price movement as a series of repeating "waves" shaped by crowd psychology — five waves in the direction of the trend, followed by three corrective waves against it.

EPS (Earnings Per Share)

FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

A company's net profit divided by its total number of outstanding shares — one of the most-watched profitability metrics, and a key input for the P/E Ratio.

Equity

MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

Ownership stake in a company, represented by shares. When people say "equity market," they mean the stock market as opposed to bond or commodity markets.

ETF (Exchange Traded Fund)

MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

A basket of securities, usually tracking an index or sector, that trades on the stock exchange throughout the day just like an individual stock.

Ex-Dividend Date

REGULATORY & INSTITUTIONS

The date on or after which a new buyer of a stock is **not** entitled to the most recently declared dividend — that payout goes to whoever owned the shares before this date.

F

Face Value

FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

The nominal or "par" value assigned to a share for accounting and record purposes (often ₹1, ₹2, ₹5 or ₹10) — usually very different from the stock's market price.

F&O (Futures & Options)

DERIVATIVES (F&O)

The derivatives segment of the market where standardised futures and options contracts, based on an underlying stock or index, are traded for hedging or speculation — distinct from the "cash" equity market.

Fibonacci Retracement

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A technical tool using ratios drawn from the Fibonacci sequence (23.6%, 38.2%, 50%, 61.8%) to mark potential support and resistance levels where a retracing price move might pause or reverse.

FII (Foreign Institutional Investor)

REGULATORY & INSTITUTIONS

Overseas entities — foreign mutual funds, pension funds, hedge funds — that invest in Indian markets. Their daily buy/sell figures are closely tracked as a sentiment gauge.

Fundamental Analysis
FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

Evaluating a company's true, or "intrinsic," value by studying its financial statements, management quality, industry position and the broader economy — as opposed to studying price charts alone.

G

Gap Up / Gap Down
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

When a stock opens noticeably higher (gap up) or lower (gap down) than its previous close, leaving a visible "gap" on the chart — usually caused by overnight news or results.

Growth Stock
FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

Shares of a company expected to grow its earnings faster than the market average, often reinvesting profits back into the business rather than paying dividends.

GTT Order (Good Till Triggered)
ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

A standing order that stays active until a specified trigger price is hit, even if that takes several trading days — useful for setting a buy or stop-loss level and walking away.

H

Head & Shoulders Pattern
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A reversal chart pattern with three peaks — a taller middle peak (the "head") flanked by two smaller peaks (the "shoulders") — commonly read as a signal that an uptrend is about to reverse.

Hedging
ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

Taking an offsetting position — often through options or futures — to reduce the risk of an adverse price move in an investment you already hold.

Holding Period
REGULATORY & INSTITUTIONS

The length of time an investor keeps an asset before selling it — a figure that directly determines whether any profit is taxed as a short-term or long-term capital gain.

I

Index
MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

A statistical measure — like the Nifty 50 or Sensex — that tracks the combined performance of a basket of stocks, used as a benchmark for the broader market or a specific sector.

Insider Trading
REGULATORY & INSTITUTIONS

Buying or selling a security based on material information that isn't yet public — strictly illegal under SEBI regulations, regardless of how the information was obtained.

Intraday Trading
ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

Buying and selling within the same trading session, without taking actual delivery of the shares into your demat account. See also: Day Trading.

IOC Order (Immediate or Cancel)
ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

An order that must be executed immediately, in full or in part — any portion that can't be filled right away is automatically cancelled rather than left pending.

IPO (Initial Public Offering)
REGULATORY & INSTITUTIONS

The first time a company sells its shares to the public, after which it becomes listed and tradeable on a stock exchange.

J

Jobber
MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

An older trading floor term for a participant who bought and sold purely to profit from small, quick price movements while providing liquidity — a precursor to today's intraday scalper.

Junk Bond
FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

A corporate bond rated below investment grade, offering a higher interest rate to compensate investors for the higher risk that the issuer might default.

K

Kicker Pattern
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A sharp two-candle reversal pattern where price gaps abruptly in the opposite direction of the prior trend, signalling a sudden, forceful shift in sentiment.

KYC (Know Your Customer)
REGULATORY & INSTITUTIONS

The mandatory identity and address verification process every broker must complete before opening your demat and trading account, as required by SEBI.

L

Leverage
DERIVATIVES (F&O)

Using borrowed capital or margin to control a market position larger than your own funds would normally allow — it magnifies both potential profits and potential losses.

Limit Order
ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

An order to buy or sell at a price you specify, or better — it will only execute at that price or a more favourable one, never worse.

Liquidity
MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

How easily an asset can be bought or sold without significantly moving its price. Highly liquid stocks have tight bid-ask spreads and heavy daily volume.

Long Position
ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

Buying an asset with the expectation that its price will rise, so you can profit from the increase — the standard, default way most people invest.

Lot Size
DERIVATIVES (F&O)

The fixed number of units that make up one futures or options contract, set by the exchange for each underlying stock or index — you can't trade F&O in smaller fractions than this.

M

MACD (Moving Average Convergence Divergence)
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A trend-following momentum indicator built from the relationship between two moving averages, plotted with a signal line — widely used to spot shifts in momentum and potential crossovers.

Margin Trading
DERIVATIVES (F&O)

Buying securities using funds borrowed from your broker, putting up only a fraction of the trade's full value as collateral — a form of leverage available in both cash and F&O segments.

Market Capitalization
FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

The total market value of a company's outstanding shares (share price × total shares), used to classify companies as large-cap, mid-cap or small-cap.

Market Order
ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

An order to buy or sell a security immediately, at whatever the best available price is right now — prioritises speed of execution over price precision.

Moving Average
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

The average price of a security over a fixed number of periods (like 50 or 200 days), plotted as a smooth line on the chart to make the underlying trend direction easier to see.

Mutual Fund
MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

A professionally managed investment pool that collects money from many investors to build a diversified portfolio of stocks, bonds or other securities on their behalf.

N

NAV (Net Asset Value)
FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

The per-unit value of a mutual fund scheme — total assets minus liabilities, divided by the number of outstanding units — updated at the end of each trading day.

Nifty 50
MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

The benchmark index of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), tracking the weighted performance of 50 of India's largest, most liquid companies.

Notional Value
DERIVATIVES (F&O)

The total value of the position you actually control in a derivatives trade (lot size × price) — usually far larger than the margin you put down, which is what makes leverage risky.

NSE (National Stock Exchange)
MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

India's largest stock exchange by trading volume, and home to the Nifty 50 index.

O

Open Interest
DERIVATIVES (F&O)

The total number of outstanding futures or options contracts that haven't yet been closed, exercised or settled — used by traders to gauge how much money and conviction is sitting in a particular strike or contract.

Options
DERIVATIVES (F&O)

Derivative contracts giving the buyer the right, but never the obligation, to buy (a call) or sell (a put) an underlying asset at a fixed price before a set expiry date.

Order Book

ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

The real-time list of all pending buy and sell orders for a security at different price levels — also called "market depth" — showing where liquidity is stacked above and below the current price.

OTM (Out of the Money)

DERIVATIVES (F&O)

An options position with no intrinsic value at the current price — a call option with a strike above the spot price, or a put option with a strike below it.

Oscillator

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A technical indicator, like the RSI or Stochastic, that swings between a fixed range (often 0–100) to flag overbought or oversold conditions in price.

P

P/E Ratio (Price-to-Earnings Ratio)

FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

A valuation metric comparing a company's share price to its earnings per share (EPS). A higher P/E generally suggests the market expects stronger future growth — or that the stock is simply expensive.

Penny Stock

MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

A very low-priced, often small-cap and thinly traded stock — generally considered high-risk due to poor liquidity and a tendency for sharp, unpredictable price swings.

Pivot Point

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A price level calculated from the previous session's high, low and close, used by intraday traders to identify likely support and resistance zones for the current day.

Portfolio

MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

The complete collection of investments — stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other assets — held by an individual or institution.

Position Sizing

ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

Deciding how much capital to put into a single trade based on your total account size and risk tolerance — one of the most under-taught, and most important, skills in trading.

Put Option

DERIVATIVES (F&O)

A derivative contract giving the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to sell an underlying asset at a fixed strike price on or before expiry.

Q

QIB (Qualified Institutional Buyer)

REGULATORY & INSTITUTIONS

A category of large, SEBI-recognised institutional investors — mutual funds, banks, FIIs — eligible to bid for a reserved portion of shares in an IPO.

Quarterly Results

FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

A listed company's financial performance report released every three months, closely tracked by traders and analysts for earnings surprises that often move the stock sharply.

R

Rally

MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

A sustained, sharp rise in the price of a stock, sector, or index over a relatively short period.

Resistance

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A price level where selling pressure has historically been strong enough to halt an upward move — often tested multiple times before either holding firm or breaking.

Rights Issue

REGULATORY & INSTITUTIONS

An offer allowing existing shareholders to buy additional new shares, usually at a discount to the market price, in proportion to what they already hold.

Risk-Reward Ratio

ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

A comparison of how much you stand to lose versus how much you stand to gain on a trade — used to judge whether a setup is worth taking before you even enter it.

RSI (Relative Strength Index)

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A momentum oscillator ranging from 0 to 100 that measures the speed and size of recent price changes, commonly used to flag overbought (above 70) or oversold (below 30) conditions.

S

SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India)

REGULATORY & INSTITUTIONS

India's market regulator, responsible for protecting investors and overseeing stock exchanges, brokers, and listed companies to keep the market fair and transparent.

Sensex
MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

The benchmark index of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), tracking 30 of the largest and most actively traded Indian companies.

Sector Rotation
FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

The strategy of shifting investment capital between different industry sectors based on where the economic cycle or market trend currently favours growth.

Short Selling
ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

Selling a borrowed security with the plan to buy it back later at a lower price, profiting from a decline rather than a rise in its price.

Smart Money Concepts (SMC)
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A trading approach that studies how large institutions — "smart money" — build liquidity pools, order blocks, and market structure shifts, and how retail traders can read those footprints on a chart.

Stop-Loss
ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

A pre-set order that automatically closes your position once price hits a specified level, capping your loss if the market moves against you — arguably the single most important risk-management tool a trader has.

Support
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A price level where buying pressure has historically been strong enough to halt a downward move — the mirror image of resistance.

T

T+1 Settlement
REGULATORY & INSTITUTIONS

India's current settlement cycle, under which shares and funds from a trade are credited to your account one working day after the transaction ("T") date.

Technical Analysis
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

Studying historical price and volume data — through charts, patterns and indicators — to forecast likely future price movement, rather than analysing the company's underlying business.

Trading Volume
MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

The total number of shares or contracts traded in a security during a given period — a rising price on high volume is generally read as a stronger, more reliable move than the same rise on thin volume.

Trend Line
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A straight line drawn connecting a series of highs or lows on a chart, used to visualise the direction and strength of the underlying trend.

U

Underlying Asset

DERIVATIVES (F&O)

The actual stock, index or commodity on which a derivative contract — a future or an option — is based.

Unrealized Gain/Loss

ORDERS, STRATEGY & RISK

The paper profit or loss on a position that is still open — it doesn't become a real, "realized" gain or loss until you actually close the trade.

Uptrend

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A price pattern marked by a series of higher highs and higher lows, indicating sustained buying interest over time.

V

Volatility

MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

The degree and speed of price fluctuation in a security — higher volatility means larger, faster swings in either direction, and generally higher risk.

Volume

MARKET BASICS & STRUCTURE

The number of shares or contracts that change hands in a given period — see also Trading Volume.

VWAP (Volume Weighted Average Price)

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

The average price a security has traded at throughout the day, weighted by the volume traded at each price — widely used by intraday and institutional traders as a fair-value reference line.

W

Wash Trading

REGULATORY & INSTITUTIONS

An illegal, manipulative practice of simultaneously buying and selling the same security to create a false impression of trading activity or interest.

Wedge Pattern

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A chart pattern formed by two converging trend lines, either rising or falling, which typically resolves into a continuation or reversal move depending on the broader context.

Working Capital

FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

A measure of a company's short-term financial health, calculated as current assets minus current liabilities — a key indicator of whether a business can comfortably meet its near-term obligations.

X

XIRR (Extended Internal Rate of Return)

FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

A method for calculating the annualised return on an investment with irregular cash flows — like SIPs or staggered stock purchases made on different dates — rather than a single lump-sum investment.

Y

Yield

FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

The income — dividend or interest — generated by an investment, expressed as a percentage of its current price or face value.

YoY Growth (Year-on-Year Growth)

FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

The percentage change in a financial metric — like revenue or profit — compared to the same period exactly one year earlier, commonly used to judge a company's real growth trend.

Z

Zero Coupon Bond

FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

A bond issued at a discount to its face value that pays no periodic interest — the investor's entire return comes from the difference between the discounted purchase price and the full value paid at maturity.

Zone (Supply/Demand Zone)

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS & INDICATORS

A price **range**, rather than a single line, where significant past buying (demand zone) or selling (supply zone) has occurred — a core Smart Money/ICT-style alternative to marking support and resistance as one exact price.

Learn These Terms Live

Knowing the words is step one. Applying them on a live chart with a mentor watching your back is step two. Chart Code runs structured stock market courses — offline at our Boisar training centre, and live online for students anywhere in India — covering everything from these fundamentals to advanced Technical Analysis, F&O, and Smart Money Concepts.

Get in Touch

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