

Week 2 · Wallets and on-chain basics

The idea in one line

Your wallet holds keys, not coins. Balances live on the ledger, in accounts.

Key terms

Term	Meaning
Keypair	A secret key and the public key made from it
Address	A public key written in base58
Recovery phrase	12 or 24 words that rebuild every key
Account	lamports, data, owner, executable
Lamport	One billionth of a SOL
Rent	A refundable deposit for an account's storage
Mint	The account that defines a token
Token account (ATA)	Holds one wallet's balance of one token
Instruction	One call to one program inside a transaction
Devnet	Solana's free test network for apps

Three things to remember

1. Wallet → token account → mint. Each token you hold has its own token account.
2. The mint address is a token's identity. Names and logos can be copied.
3. A new token account costs a deposit of 0.00203928 SOL, returned when it closes.

Do and don't

- Never share your recovery phrase, or any part of it, with anyone.
- Use devnet and test tokens only.
- Read every signing popup before you approve.
- A failed transaction still pays its fee.

This week's task

Set up a devnet wallet. Get SOL (faucet.solana.com) and USDC (faucet.circle.com).

Send USDC to a partner. On Orb with ?cluster=devnet, find the fee, the token instruction and the new token account.

Blog: "How I interacted with my first Solana dApp."

Circle devnet USDC mint: 4zMMC9srt5Ri5X14GAgXhaHii3GnPAAERYPJgZJDncDU

Deck: /week-2/