

FLASH CARDS

Cookies and fingerprints

Terminology and quiz cards for the Take Back Your Bytes lesson on cookies, user agents and browser fingerprinting.

What is in this set

40 cards: **24 term cards** (term on the front, definition on the back) and **16 quiz cards** (question on the front, answer on the back). Bracketed numbers on the backs, like [1], match the reference list on the last page and in the instructor guide.

How to print

1. Print double-sided on US Letter at 100% scale (no "fit to page").
2. Choose **flip on the long edge**. The backs are arranged so each answer lands behind its card.
3. Cut along the dashed lines. Each card is 3.75 by 2.5 inches.

How to use them

- **Self-test:** read the front, answer aloud, flip to check.
- **Pairs:** one reads the front, the other answers. Swap every five cards.
- **Boxes:** keep a "missed" pile and a "got it" pile. Re-test the missed pile after a break, then again the next day.
- **Warm-up:** deal a few quiz cards at the start of the next session.

Facts checked October 27, 2026. Tools and models change quickly, so confirm details against the current documentation. These materials are dedicated to the public domain under CC0 1.0 and shared for the public good. The PrivacySafe and PrivacySafe Foundation names and logos are trademarks and are not included in that dedication.

TERM

1 / 40

Cookie

Say it in your own words, then flip.

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2 / 40

Set-Cookie

Say it in your own words, then flip.

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Cookie header

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Session cookie

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Persistent cookie

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Max-Age

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Secure

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HttpOnly

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The response header a server uses to ask the browser to store a cookie.

[\[2\]](#)

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A small piece of text a site asks your browser to keep and send back on later requests.

[\[1\]](#) [\[3\]](#)

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A cookie with no set lifetime. It normally ends when the browser session ends.

[\[1\]](#)

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The request header the browser uses to send stored cookies back to the site.

[\[1\]](#)

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A cookie setting for how many seconds it lasts. Zero or less expires it at once.

[\[2\]](#)

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A cookie with a Max-Age or Expires, so it lasts until a time or date.

[\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#)

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A cookie setting that hides the cookie from page scripts. Only a server can set it.

[\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#)

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A cookie setting that sends the cookie only over HTTPS.

[\[2\]](#)

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SameSite

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First-party cookie

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Third-party cookie

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Cookie syncing

Say it in your own words, then flip.

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Partitioned cookies

Say it in your own words, then flip.

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User agent

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User-Agent string

Say it in your own words, then flip.

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Mozilla/5.0

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A cookie set by the site you chose to visit.

[4]

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A cookie setting for whether it is sent on cross-site requests: Lax, Strict or None.

[2]

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Companies swapping IDs to match their cookies and profiles for the same person.

General

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A cookie set by an outside company on a page you visit, which can recognize you across sites.

[4]

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The software that acts for you on the web. Usually your browser.

[8]

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Cookies kept in a separate jar for each top-level site, so a third party cannot link them across sites.

[2] [6]

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A historical token almost every browser still sends at the start of its user agent string.

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Text your browser sends with every request, naming its browser, version, engine and operating system.

[8]

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User-Agent reduction

Say it in your own words, then flip.

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Client Hints

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Browser fingerprint

Say it in your own words, then flip.

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Canvas fingerprinting

Say it in your own words, then flip.

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Anonymity set

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Cookie banner

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Global Privacy Control

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Cover Your Tracks

Say it in your own words, then flip.

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A way for sites to request more detail about the browser, beyond the reduced user agent.

[\[9\]](#) [\[10\]](#)

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Browsers hiding the exact OS version, device model and minor version in the user agent.

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Drawing a hidden image and reading it back, because small differences by graphics stack help tell browsers apart.

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An ID made by combining many small details about your browser and device. It needs no cookie.

[\[11\]](#) [\[13\]](#)

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A pop-up asking you to accept or reject cookies. In the EU, pre-ticked boxes are not valid consent.

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The group of visitors who look identical to a tracker. The smaller it is, the easier you are to pick out.

[\[11\]](#)

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An EFF tool that tests how well your browser resists tracking and fingerprinting.

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A browser signal that asks sites not to sell or share your data. Some laws require honoring it.

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What is a cookie?

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What turns a cookie into a tracker?

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Name three settings on a cookie.

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What does HttpOnly do?

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How do you delete a cookie?

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Why can three sites with one ad company be linked?

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What does a partitioned cookie jar change?

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If you delete all cookies, can a site still recognize you?

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A unique ID, usually set by an outside company that appears on many sites.

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A small piece of text a site asks your browser to keep and send back. It cannot run code.

[\[1\]](#)

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It hides the cookie from page scripts. Only a server can set it.

[\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#)

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For example: Max-Age or Expires, Secure, HttpOnly, SameSite, Domain and Path.

[\[2\]](#)

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The same third-party cookie ID is sent from every site, so the company joins the visits.

[\[4\]](#)

Cookies and fingerprints

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Set it again with the same name and scope and a Max-Age of zero.

[\[2\]](#)

Cookies and fingerprints

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QUIZ

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Yes. A fingerprint, an IP address or an account can still link you.

[\[11\]](#) [\[12\]](#)

Cookies and fingerprints

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The same company gets a different cookie on each site, so it cannot match them.

[\[2\]](#) [\[6\]](#)

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What does a user agent string contain?

Cookies and fingerprints

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What does User-Agent reduction hide?

Cookies and fingerprints

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What did the 2010 Panopticlick study find?

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Why can a random fake value make you stand out?

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Name two ways to resist fingerprinting.

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In the EU, is a pre-ticked cookie box valid consent?

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What does the Global Privacy Control do?

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Name one step from the cookie plan.

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The exact OS version, the device model and the minor browser version.

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Browser, version, engine and operating system, plus the historical Mozilla/5.0.

[\[8\]](#)

Cookies and fingerprints

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Few other browsers would show it, so it can make your fingerprint more unusual.

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83.6% of 470,161 browsers had a unique fingerprint in the sample. It is historical.

[\[11\]](#) [\[12\]](#)

Cookies and fingerprints

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No. The court and data protection authorities say it is not.

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For example: common settings, an updated browser, built-in protection, and few unusual add-ons.

[\[13\]](#)

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QUIZ

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For example: check third-party cookie settings, choose Reject on banners, test your fingerprint, use separate profiles.

[General](#)

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QUIZ

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It sends a signal asking sites not to sell or share your data. It asks, it does not block.

[\[18\]](#) [\[19\]](#)

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Reference list

Links were checked on October 27, 2026.

#	SOURCE	WHAT IT SUPPORTS
[1]	MDN Web Docs, Using HTTP cookies https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTTP/Guides/Cookies	How cookies move between browser and server, session and persistent cookies, and the Secure, HttpOnly and SameSite attributes.
[2]	MDN Web Docs, Set-Cookie header https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTTP/Headers/Set-Cookie	Cookie attributes including Max-Age, Path, Secure, HttpOnly, SameSite and Partitioned, and deleting a cookie by expiring it.
[3]	IETF, RFC 6265: HTTP State Management Mechanism https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc6265	The standard that defines cookies.
[4]	MDN Web Docs, Third-party cookies https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/Privacy/Third-party_cookies	How third-party cookies enable cross-site tracking, and how browsers respond.
[5]	WebKit, Full Third-Party Cookie Blocking and More https://webkit.org/blog/10218/full-third-party-cookie-blocking-and-more/	Safari's default blocking of third-party cookies.
[6]	Mozilla Support, Third-party cookies and Firefox tracking protection https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/kb/third-party-cookies-firefox-tracking-protection	Firefox's default protection against cross-site tracking cookies.
[7]	Google Chrome Help, Manage cookies in Chrome https://support.google.com/chrome/answer/95647	Chrome's cookie settings, including the option to allow or block third-party cookies.
[8]	MDN Web Docs, User-Agent header https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTTP/Headers/User-Agent	The format of the User-Agent header and the historical Mozilla/5.0 token.
[9]	MDN Web Docs, User-Agent reduction https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTTP/Guides/User-agent_reduction	What reduction removes (exact OS version, device model, minor browser version) and why the string can be used for fingerprinting.
[10]	MDN Web Docs, User-Agent Client Hints API https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/User-Agent_Client_Hints_API	The navigator.userAgentData interface and low-entropy versus high-entropy values.
[11]	Peter Eckersley, How Unique Is Your Web Browser? (2010) https://panopticlick.eff.org/browser-uniqueness.pdf	The Panopticlick study: 470,161 browsers, 83.6% with a unique fingerprint, how fingerprints change, and how changed fingerprints can still be matched.
[12]	Electronic Frontier Foundation, press release on the Panopticlick findings (May 2010) https://www.eff.org/press/archives/2010/05/13	EFF's summary of the study, including that fingerprints must be considered alongside cookies and IP addresses.
[13]	Laperdrix, Bielova, Baudry and Avoine, Browser Fingerprinting: A Survey (2020) https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.01051	A review of fingerprinting techniques, studies and defenses.
[14]	Electronic Frontier Foundation, Cover Your Tracks https://coveryourtracks.eff.org/	A tool that tests how well a browser resists tracking and fingerprinting.
[15]	AmlUnique https://amiunique.org/	A research project and tool for checking how unique a browser fingerprint is.
[16]	European Data Protection Board, Report of the work undertaken by the Cookie Banner Taskforce (January 2023) https://www.edpb.europa.eu/system/files/2023-01/edpb_20230118_report_cookie_banner_taskforce_en.pdf	Pre-ticked boxes are not valid consent, and most authorities expect a reject option as easy to use as accept.
[17]	Bird & Bird, Planet49: CJEU rules on cookie consent (2019) https://www.twobirds.com/en/news/articles/2019/global/planet49-cjeu-rules-on-cookie-consent	The EU court ruling that pre-ticked checkboxes are not valid consent for cookies.
[18]	Global Privacy Control https://globalprivacycontrol.org/	The browser signal for opting out of the sale or sharing of personal data.
[19]	California Attorney General, announcement of the Sephora settlement as part of ongoing CCPA	California's position that businesses must honor user-enabled global privacy controls.