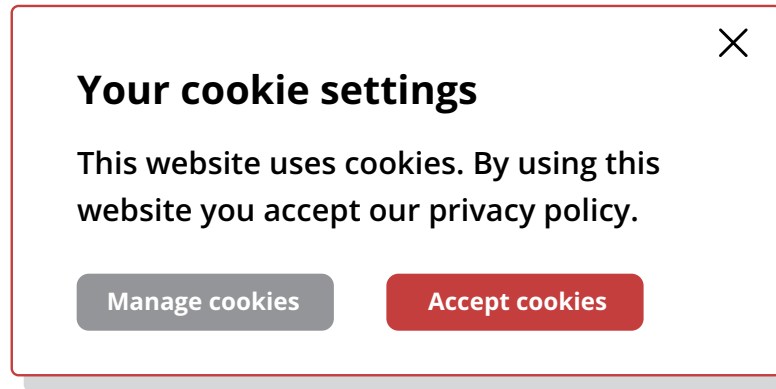


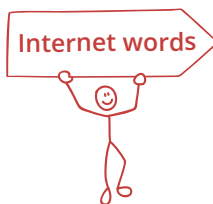


What are website cookies?

Imagine you visit a new website. Suddenly, this message appears:



The message asks you to accept the website's **cookies** before you can look at the rest of the website. But what are cookies? What should you do about them?



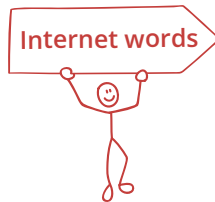
Cookies are pieces of information that a website saves on your device.

Here are some examples of what cookies do:

- Keep you logged into your account
- Remember items that you've added to your shopping cart
- Save and share your personal information with other businesses
- Share your information for marketing and advertising
- Save your information to learn what you like, and recommend other products or websites

What does it mean to accept cookies?

When you accept cookies on a website, you agree to let the website save your information. The website might share your information with other businesses. You can learn more about what information a website collects and who they share it with in their **privacy policy**.



A **privacy policy** is a statement that tells you what a website does with your personal information, such as your name and email address.

When you shouldn't accept cookies

Cookies can make it easier for you to use a website. But they're not always good. Cookies carry some of your personal information, so you should only accept them from websites you trust.

You **shouldn't** accept cookies if:

- The website has an address that starts with “http” instead of “https.” The “s” means the website is secure.
- The website doesn't have a privacy policy that says what the site will do with your personal information, like your name or email address
- You're not comfortable with the website saving your information



Learn more about staying safe online with the *ABC Internet Matters* [website safety checklist](#).