

PRINTABLE GUIDE

Use a browser's main buttons

Browser designs differ, but their main controls have similar jobs. Practise with a familiar informational website before trying them during payments or important forms.

Edge, Chrome, Firefox or Safari | 2 min read | 5 steps

Before you start

- ☐ A working internet connection
- ☐ A harmless website you recognise

1. Open a page

Open your browser and click the address bar near the top. Type the website address and press Enter or Go. If you type a phrase instead, most browsers search for it; inspect the result before following a link.

- ☐ Done this step

2. Go back and forward

Follow a link within the site, then choose the left-pointing Back arrow. Forward returns to a page you backed away from. These controls follow history; they do not necessarily undo a purchase, message or form submission.

- ☐ Done this step

3. Reload thoughtfully

Use the circular-arrow reload control to request the page again when content seems outdated. Save or copy unfinished form text first. Avoid reloading during a payment confirmation, because the service may still be processing the request.

- ☐ Done this step

4. Open and switch tabs

Choose the plus beside the tabs for a second tab. Visit another harmless page, then select the first tab again. The small cross on a tab closes that tab; the window's close control may close all its tabs.

☐ Done this step

5. Save a useful page

Use the star or the browser's bookmark command to save a site you want to revisit. A bookmark saves the address, not an offline copy of its content. A Home button, when enabled, opens the configured start page.

☐ Done this step

Try it for yourself

Open two tabs, switch between them and return using Back.

☐ I tried the task.

My notes

Does a padlock prove a site is honest?

No. A secure connection protects data in transit, but a dishonest website can also use it. Check the address and the organisation.

Official help and the online guide

Understand browsers and websites - https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn_web_development/Getting_started/Environment_setup/Browsing_the_web

Read online: <https://plaintechguides.com/guides/use-browser-controls/>