

Claude Code — everything to get started

One overview for first-timers.
Just try it — you can't break anything.

How to open Claude Code

1 Find your terminal

Mac: 'Terminal' via Spotlight (Cmd+space). Windows: 'Terminal' via Start.

2 Type claude

Go to your project folder, type claude and hit Enter.

3 Log in

First time: a Pro/Max plan or an API key.

Mindset

The AI mindset

A smart colleague without a manual. Check its work — it can make mistakes.

The ADHD mindset

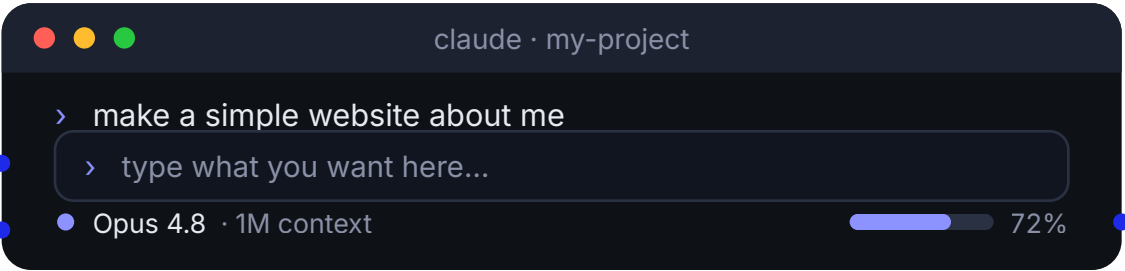
Multiple windows, side-projects, play. Stuck after 30 min? Start over.

Start from your vision

Know what you want to achieve — keep your goal in mind.

This is your screen — the terminal

You type here
plain language · paste/drag (Cmd/Ctrl+V)
The model
Opus 4.8 = the brain



The context bar
how full Claude's 'head' is
above 50%?
type /compact

How to talk to Claude

Give context + your why

Not just the task — also what it's for.

One step at a time

Ask "test it" and check yourself what it did.

Stuck? Differently.

Say: "try it a different way."

What can Claude make for you?

A website

EXAMPLE
"Build a one-page site for my business: bio + 3 items + contact."

An Excel or CSV

EXAMPLE
"Make an Excel of my clients and their outstanding invoices."

A presentation

EXAMPLE
"Make 8 slides about my new service."

Claude can also

explain · look things up · visit websites

Give it your material

drag files in · paste with Cmd+V / Ctrl+V

Steer it to your taste

tell it your style · "more like this" · CLAUDE.md remembers

The brain — the model & the context window

Haiku 4.5

light, fast & cheap

200K

Sonnet 4.6

balanced: fast and smart

1M

Opus 4.8

very powerful · default

1M

Fable 5

the most powerful

1M

Everything in your chat becomes 'tokens'; the context window is how much fits at once. Full or messy? /compact tidies up · /clear = fresh start.

Your toolkit — what it's for

GitHub

Online storage with history. Every version saved, so you can always go back

Vercel

Put your site live on the web in one command — a shareable link.

Supabase

The database behind your app: data, accounts and files.

Safety net: /clear · commit = always go back · paste the error and ask what it means.

Just try it — you can't break anything.