**🌟 Laravel Beginner Notes – Setup & Common Issues (Windows + CMD)**

**📁 Step 1: Create a New Laravel Project**

**✅ Pre-requisites:**

* PHP installed (via XAMPP recommended)
* Composer installed
* Node.js installed (for frontend assets)
* VS Code or any text editor

**🔧 Command to create a Laravel project:**

bash

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composer create-project laravel/laravel firstProject

**📂 Step 2: Navigate to Your Project**

bash

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cd "C:\Users\YourName\Web Development\Laravel\firstProject"

**🛠️ Step 3: Install Laravel Breeze (Starter Kit - optional)**

bash

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composer require laravel/breeze --dev

php artisan breeze:install none # or react/vue/livewire

npm install

npm run dev

**🧪 Step 4: Choose Testing Framework**

You'll be asked:

"Which testing framework do you prefer?"

* 0 for **Pest** (recommended for beginners)
* 1 for **PHPUnit**

Just press Enter to accept default Pest.

**🚀 Step 5: Serve the Application**

bash

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php artisan serve

Visit: <http://127.0.0.1:8000>

**❌ Common Errors & Fixes**

**1. vendor/autoload.php not found**

**Reason:** You haven't run composer install.

✅ Fix:

bash

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composer install

**2. ZIP extension or unzip not found**

**Error:**

pgsql

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Failed to download from dist: The zip extension and unzip/7z commands are both missing

✅ Fix:

* Edit php.ini and enable:

ini

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extension=zip

* Restart Apache from XAMPP.

**3. MissingAppKeyException**

**Reason:** Laravel encryption key is missing.

✅ Fix:

bash

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cp .env.example .env # Or: copy .env.example .env (Windows)

php artisan key:generate

**4. database.sqlite does not exist**

**Reason:** You're using SQLite but haven’t created the file yet.

✅ Fix:

* Create an empty file:

bash

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type nul > database/database.sqlite

* Update .env:

env

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DB\_CONNECTION=sqlite

DB\_DATABASE=C:/Users/YourName/Web Development/Laravel/firstProject/database/database.sqlite

**5. Ambiguous class resolution warnings**

**Reason:** Duplicate class definitions (harmless for beginners).

✅ Fix (optional):

bash

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composer dump-autoload --optimize

**🧼 Useful Commands**

| **Command** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| composer install | Installs dependencies from composer.lock |
| php artisan serve | Starts the Laravel server |
| php artisan migrate | Creates tables in the database |
| php artisan make:controller | Creates a new controller |
| php artisan make:model ModelName -m | Creates a model with migration |
| php artisan key:generate | Generates APP\_KEY in .env |
| npm install && npm run dev | Installs frontend assets |

**📌 Tips for Beginners**

* Always check .env settings first for DB or app-related issues.
* Use php artisan list to explore all Artisan commands.
* Use forward slashes / in .env paths, even on Windows.