

FREE GUIDE

How to Build a Website for Free in 2025

The complete beginner's checklist: every tool, every step, every command you need to go from zero to a live website without spending a dollar.

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What You'll Have After This Guide

By the end of this checklist, you'll have a professional-looking website live on the internet with a custom domain — and you won't have written a single line of code yourself. Here's the stack:

Claude Code (AI) writes your HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. **GitHub Pages** hosts it for free. **Git** manages your files. Total recurring cost: **\$0**.

This guide gives you the full roadmap. Follow the checklist, run the commands, and you'll be live today.

Step 1: Install the Tools (15 min)

You need 4 things installed. All free.

A VS Code (Code Editor)

Download from code.visualstudio.com. This is where you'll see and manage your files. Install it, open it, done.

B Node.js (JavaScript Runtime)

Download the **LTS version** from nodejs.org. Click the left button ("Recommended For Most Users"). This lets you run Claude Code.

```
node --version
```

Run this in your terminal after installing. If you see a version number, you're good.

C Git (Version Control)

Download from git-scm.com. Git tracks every change you make so you can undo mistakes. It's also how you push your site live.

```
git --version
```

D

Claude Code (AI That Writes Code)

Open your terminal and run:

```
npm install -g @anthropic-ai/claude-code
```

Then verify:

```
claude --version
```

NOTE You'll need an Anthropic API key or Claude Pro/Max subscription. Claude Code is free to install — you pay per usage or through your subscription.

Step 2: Build Your Website (10 min)

Create a folder, open Claude Code, and tell it what to build.

1 Create Your Project

```
mkdir my-website && cd my-website  
claude
```

This creates a folder and opens Claude Code inside it. You're now talking to an AI that can create files directly on your computer.

2 Tell Claude What to Build

Here's a prompt that works. Replace the brackets with your info:

```
Build me a modern, responsive website for [YOUR BUSINESS/NAME]. Include: a hero section with a headline and call-to-action button, an about section, a services/features section with 3 items, and a footer with contact info. Use a clean design with [YOUR COLOR] as the accent color. Make it mobile-friendly.
```

TIP Be specific. "A photography portfolio with dark theme and gold accents" gets better results than "make me a website."

3 Preview It

Open the `index.html` file in your browser (just double-click it). You should see a working website. If you want changes, just tell Claude:

```
Make the hero section taller. Change the font to Inter. Add hover effects to all buttons.
```

Keep asking for changes until it looks right. There's no limit.

Step 3: Put It Online for Free (10 min)

GitHub Pages hosts your site at no cost. Here's how.

1 Create a GitHub Account

Go to github.com and sign up. Free. This is where your website files will live.

2 Create a Repository

Click the green "New" button on GitHub. Name it whatever you want (e.g., my-website). Keep it public. Don't add a README.

3 Push Your Code

Back in your terminal, inside your project folder:

```
git init
git add .
git commit -m "first commit"
git remote add origin https://github.com/YOUR-USERNAME/my-website.git
git push -u origin main
```

TIP Replace YOUR-USERNAME with your actual GitHub username. GitHub shows you these exact commands after creating the repo.

4 Enable GitHub Pages

On GitHub: go to your repo → **Settings** → **Pages** → under "Source," select **main** branch → click **Save**.

Wait 1–2 minutes. Your site is now live at:

`https://YOUR-USERNAME.github.io/my-website/`

Pre-Launch Checklist

Run through this before sharing your URL with anyone.

- Mobile test:** Open your site on your phone. Does everything look right? No text cut off? No horizontal scrolling?
- All links work:** Click every button and link. Nothing should go to a dead page or #.
- Images load:** Check that all images show up and aren't broken. Watch for broken image icons.
- Favicon exists:** The small icon in the browser tab. Ask Claude: "Add a favicon to my site."
- Page title set:** Check the <title> tag in your HTML. This is what shows in Google results and browser tabs.
- Meta description added:** Ask Claude: "Add a meta description for SEO." This is the preview text in search results.
- Contact info correct:** Email, phone, address — double-check everything is accurate.
- Speed check:** Open pagespeed.web.dev, paste your URL. Aim for 90+ on mobile.
- Open Graph tags:** Ask Claude: "Add Open Graph meta tags." This controls how your site looks when shared on social media.
- Share it:** Text your URL to a friend. Ask them if it loads fast and looks right on their phone.

5 Mistakes Beginners Make (And How to Fix Them)

1. Giving vague prompts

Fix: Be specific. "Make it look better" gives random results. "Change the heading font to Playfair Display, increase the hero padding to 120px, and make the CTA button coral (#FF6B6B)" gives exactly what you want.

2. Never checking mobile

Fix: After every major change, resize your browser to phone width (375px) or check on your actual phone. Most of your visitors will be on mobile.

3. Uploading huge images

Fix: Compress images at tinypng.com or squoosh.app before adding them. Keep each image under 500KB. Your site should load in under 3 seconds.

4. Not committing often enough

Fix: Run `git add . && git commit -m "description" && git push` after every change that works. If you break something later, you can always go back.

5. Skipping the meta tags

Fix: Title, meta description, and Open Graph tags take 30 seconds to add with Claude and make your site look professional in search results and social shares.



Want the full audio tutorial?

This checklist gives you the roadmap. The full tutorial walks you through every step with 10 audio modules, written guides, and a complete prompt library — so you never get stuck.

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