

Step 1 – Install Node.js and npm

React requires **Node.js** (JavaScript runtime) and **npm** (Node Package Manager).

1. Go to <https://nodejs.org>
2. Download **LTS (Long-Term Support)** version (recommended for stability).
3. Install it — keep all default settings.

✅ **Check installation** in Command Prompt / PowerShell:

```
node -v
```

```
npm -v
```

You should see version numbers for both.

Step 2 – Install a Code Editor (VS Code)

- Download **Visual Studio Code** from <https://code.visualstudio.com/>
 - Install it and open it — we'll use it to write and run code.
-

Step 3 – Create Your First React App

We'll use the **create-react-app** tool to generate the folder structure automatically.

Open Command Prompt / PowerShell and run:

```
npx create-react-app my-first-react-app
```

Note: If you get *execution policy* errors in PowerShell, run:

```
Set-ExecutionPolicy -Scope CurrentUser -ExecutionPolicy RemoteSigned
```

and then retry.

Step 4 – Navigate to Project and Start Server

```
cd my-first-react-app
```

```
npm start
```

- This will open your browser at <http://localhost:3000>
- You'll see the default React welcome screen.

Step 5 – Write Your “Hello World” Program

1. In **VS Code**, open the folder my-first-react-app.
2. Open file: src/App.js.
3. Replace the code inside the return() with:

```
function App() {  
  return (  
    <div>  
      <h1>Hello World from React!</h1>  
    </div>  
  );  
}
```

export default App;

4. Save the file — the browser will auto-refresh and show **Hello World from React!** 🎉

Step 6 – Understanding the Project Structure

After create-react-app, your folder will look like this:

my-first-react-app/

node_modules/ # All installed dependencies

public/ # Public files like index.html

src/ # Your React source code

 App.js # Main component file

 index.js # Entry point

package.json # Project settings & dependencies

📌 The **real HTML** lives in public/index.html

📌 React inserts your components into the <div id="root"></div> inside it.

Step 7 – Stopping the Server

In the terminal where it's running, press:

CTRL + C

to stop it.

✅ **Now your environment is ready** and you've successfully run your **first React app**.