### **Step 1: Install Python (if you haven't already)**

If you don't have Python installed, download the latest version from the official website: [python.org](https://www.python.org/downloads/).

* **For Windows:** Look for the installer and make sure to check the box that says "Add Python to PATH" during installation.
* **For macOS/Linux:** Python often comes pre-installed, but you might want to install a newer version via Homebrew (macOS) or your distribution's package manager (Linux).

### **Step 2: Set Up a Virtual Environment (Recommended)**

A virtual environment helps keep your project's dependencies separate from other Python projects.

1. **Open your terminal or command prompt.**
2. **Navigate to where you want to create your project folder:**

****cd path/to/your/desired/directory

1.   
   (Replace path/to/your/desired/directory with an actual path, e.g., cd Documents/Projects)
2. **Create a new project directory:**

****mkdir personal\_habit\_tracker

cd personal\_habit\_tracker

1.   
   **Create a virtual environment:**

****python -m venv venv

1.   
   This creates a folder named venv inside your project directory, containing a isolated Python installation.
2. **Activate the virtual environment:**
   * **On Windows:**

****.\venv\Scripts\activate

* +   
    **On macOS/Linux:**

****source venv/bin/activate

1.   
   You'll see (venv) at the beginning of your command prompt, indicating the virtual environment is active.

### **Step 3: Create Basic Project Structure**

Inside your personal\_habit\_tracker directory, you'll create the main Python script and a folder for your data.

1. **Create the main application file:**
   * In your personal\_habit\_tracker directory, create a new file named main.py. This will contain your application's logic.
2. **Create a data storage directory:**
   * Create a folder to hold your data file.

mkdir data

### **Your Project Structure Should Now Look Like This:**

****personal\_habit\_tracker/

├── venv/ (Your virtual environment files)

├── data/ (This is where your CSV/SQLite file will go)

└── main.py (Your main application code)

You are now ready to start writing the code for your "Personal Habit & Mood Linker" in main.py!