

# Getting Started with Claude Code

A Step-by-Step Guide

# Getting Started with Claude Code

 Your AI coding assistant in the terminal

## Important Notice

The company has not yet released an AI policy permitting the use of Claude Code for work purposes.

Please use personal time and resources only for any experimentation with this tool.

What you'll learn:

1. Subscribe to Claude Pro or Max
2. Install Claude Code
3. Authenticate and start coding!

Time needed: ~10 minutes

# What is Claude Code?

Think of it as having an expert programmer sitting next to you

Claude Code can:

- Write code for you
- Fix bugs in your projects
- Explain how code works
- Set up entire applications

You don't need to be a programmer to use it!

Just describe what you want in plain English.

# Step 1: Get a Claude Subscription

- You need Claude Pro or Claude Max

Go to: <https://claude.ai>

Click "Sign Up" or "Log In"

Choose your plan:

| Plan | Price       | Best for       |
|------|-------------|----------------|
| Pro  | \$20/month  | Individual use |
| Max  | \$100/month | Heavy usage    |

Both plans include Claude Code access!

## Step 2a: Install on Mac

### ■ Option 1: Using Homebrew (recommended)

Open Terminal app and paste:

```
brew install claude-code
```

### ■ Option 2: Using npm

If you have Node.js installed:

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

Don't have Terminal? Press **Cmd + Space**, type "Terminal", press Enter

## Step 2b: Install on Windows

### ■ First: Install Node.js

1. Go to <https://nodejs.org>
2. Download the LTS version
3. Run the installer, click Next through all steps

### ■ Then: Install Claude Code

Open Command Prompt or PowerShell and type:

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

How to open Command Prompt: Press **Windows + R**, type **cmd**, press Enter

# Step 3: Get Your Authentication Token

## ■ Log in to Claude.ai

1. Open your browser
2. Go to <https://claude.ai>
3. Sign in with your Pro/Max account

## ■ Find your token

1. Click your profile icon (bottom left)
2. Click "Settings"
3. Go to "Claude Code" section
4. Click "Copy Token"

Keep this token secret - it's like a password!

## Step 4: Start Claude Code

- Open your terminal

Mac: Terminal app Windows: Command Prompt or PowerShell

- Type the command

```
claude
```

- First time? You'll see:

```
Welcome to Claude Code!
```

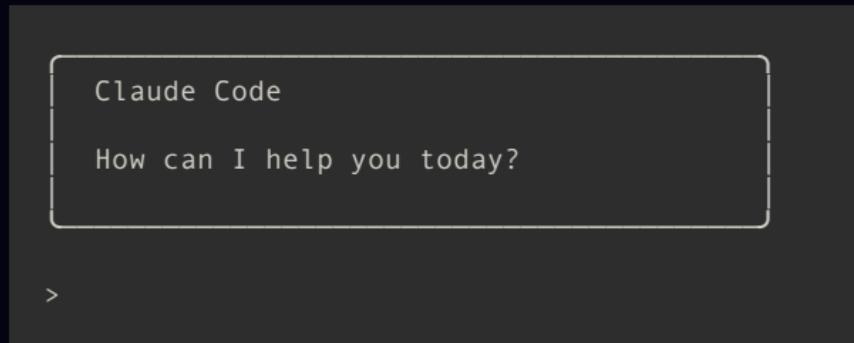
```
Please enter your authentication token:
```

```
█
```

Paste your token (Cmd+V or Ctrl+V) and press Enter

# You're Ready!

## What you'll see



## Try saying:

```
"Create a simple webpage that says Hello World"
```

Claude will write the code and save it for you!

# Helpful Tips

## ■ Basic commands to remember

| What to type | What it does      |
|--------------|-------------------|
| claude       | Start Claude Code |
| /help        | Show help menu    |
| /clear       | Start fresh       |
| exit         | Quit Claude Code  |

## ■ Talk to it naturally

- "Fix the error in my code"
- "Explain what this file does"
- "Add a button to my webpage"

Claude understands plain English!

# Need Help?

## Common issues

"Command not found" → Restart your terminal and try again

"Invalid token" → Get a fresh token from [claude.ai](https://claude.ai)

"npm not found" (Windows) → Reinstall Node.js and restart your computer

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## Resources

- Documentation: <https://docs.anthropic.com>
- Claude.ai: <https://claude.ai>

Questions? Ask your friendly neighborhood developer!