


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/claude-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:
```

```
■
```


You're Ready!

 What you'll see

Claude Code

How can I help you today?

>

 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
<code>claude</code>	Start Claude Code
<code>/help</code>	Show help menu
<code>/clear</code>	Start fresh
<code>exit</code>	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`

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

Resources

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

Questions? Ask your friendly neighborhood developer!