

Gemini 3 CLI Step-by-Step Notes

Prepared by: Yusra Saleem

Short intro

Assalamualaikum. These notes are written in simple English and made for beginners. Follow each step exactly. I have written where to press Enter and where to press Esc. I have also added the official documentation link and the waitlist form link.

Quick checklist

1. Do you have Google AI Ultra consumer access? (not Google AI Ultra for Business)
 2. Do you have a Gemini API key or a Vertex AI key with Gemini 3 access?
- If you do not have any of these, sign up on the waitlist form (link below).

Exact step-by-step commands and keystrokes

Step 1: Open your terminal or command prompt

Open the terminal. If Gemini CLI is installed, continue. If not installed, follow the installation guide given in the documentation link.

Step 2: Start Gemini CLI

Type ``gemini`` and press Enter. This opens the Gemini CLI.

Step 3: Open settings

Type ``/settings`` and press Enter.

What you will see

A settings menu will open. Use arrow keys to move. Highlight Preview Features.

Step 4: Enable Preview Features

When Preview Features is selected, press Enter. Type ``true`` and press Enter again to save.

Step 5: Exit settings

Press Esc to go back to main screen. If Esc does not work, press Ctrl + C.

Step 6: Confirm Gemini 3 Pro is enabled

Type any test message and press Enter. If Gemini 3 Pro is active, it will reply using that model.

Step 7: Manual Pro routing (optional)

Type ``/model`` and press Enter. Select Pro and press Enter.

Step 8: If access error appears

If you see 'Access Required' or 'Not Available', join the waitlist form linked below.

Step 9: If capacity error appears

If you see 'Model capacity is full', try again later or select fallback model Gemini 2.5 Pro.

Step 10: Daily limits

If you hit your daily limit, CLI will show a message. You can switch models or wait for the next day.

Troubleshooting

If Preview Features is enabled early without approval, CLI will automatically use Gemini 2.5 Pro. If the model still doesn't work after enabling preview features, open settings again and re-check. Make sure the email used in the waitlist form is the same email logged in the CLI.

Official links

Documentation link:

<https://geminicli.com/docs/get-started/gemini-3/>

Waitlist form link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQBMmnXxIYDnZhPtTP3xr5lwHNzKW4nLomuQ1tGOO-UldMdQ/viewform?usp=send_form

Prepared by: Yusra Saleem