

# n8n Getting Started Guide

## Your First Automation in 15 Minutes

Out The Mud Work Shops

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### What is n8n?

Think of n8n as digital Legos for connecting your apps. No coding needed - just drag, drop, and connect.

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### Get Started FREE

#### Option 1: n8n Cloud (Easiest)

1. Go to [n8n.io](https://n8n.io)
2. Click "Get started free"
3. Sign up with email
4. You're ready!

Free tier includes:

- 5 active workflows
  - 2,500 executions/month
  - All app connections
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### Understanding the Basics

#### Workflows = Recipes

Just like cooking:

- **Trigger** = When to start (timer goes off)
- **Nodes** = Steps (chop, mix, bake)
- **Connections** = Order (first this, then that)

#### Visual Example

```
[New Email] → [Save Attachment] → [Upload to Google Drive] → [Send Confirmation]
```

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### Your First Automation: Email to Spreadsheet

#### What We'll Build

Automatically save important emails to a spreadsheet for tracking.

#### Step 1: Add Email Trigger

1. Click "+" to add node
2. Search "Gmail" or "Outlook"
3. Choose "Email Trigger"
4. Connect your account
5. Set filter: Subject contains "Order"

#### Step 2: Add Google Sheets

1. Click "+" again
2. Search "Google Sheets"
3. Choose "Append Row"
4. Connect your Google account
5. Select your spreadsheet

### Step 3: Map the Data

Connect these fields:

- Email Date → Column A
- From → Column B
- Subject → Column C
- Body → Column D

### Step 4: Test It

1. Click "Execute Workflow"
2. Send yourself a test email
3. Check your spreadsheet
4. Celebrate! 🎉

### Step 5: Turn It On

1. Click the "Active" toggle
2. It now runs automatically
3. Every matching email gets saved

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## Essential Nodes to Know

### 1. Schedule Trigger

Run automations at specific times

- Daily reports
- Weekly summaries
- Monthly reminders

### 2. Webhook

Receive data from other apps

- Form submissions
- Payment notifications
- Any web service

### 3. IF Node

Make decisions

- If amount > \$100, send to manager
- If customer is VIP, priority service
- If weekend, different process

### 4. Google Sheets

Your free database

- Store data
  - Read information
  - Update records
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## Pro Tips for Beginners

1. **Start Simple:** One trigger, one action
  2. **Test First:** Always test with sample data
  3. **Name Everything:** Clear node names help later
  4. **Save Often:** Workflows auto-save but be safe
  5. **Check History:** See what ran and when
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## Quick Wins to Try Next

### Social Media Scheduler

[Google Sheets with Posts] → [Schedule Trigger] → [Post to Twitter]

### Form to Email

[Google Form] → [Format Response] → [Send Email to Team]

### Daily Reminder

[Schedule: 9 AM] → [Get Today's Tasks] → [Send SMS Reminder]

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## Common Questions

**Q: How many apps can I connect?** A: 400+ apps available, all included free

**Q: What if I get stuck?** A: Hover over any field for help, check docs, or ask community

**Q: Can I break something?** A: No! Everything can be undone or fixed

**Q: When do I need to pay?** A: Only if you need more than 5 workflows or 2,500 runs/month

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## Next Steps

1. Complete your first automation
  2. Join n8n community forum
  3. Try one more simple workflow
  4. Share your success!
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**Remember:** Every expert started exactly where you are. One node at a time.

*Rise above manual work. Start automating today.*