# Create React App with Vite — Quick Commands & Explanation

This is a one-page cheatsheet to create a modern React app using **Vite**, avoid interactive prompts, install Tailwind, and handle daily workflows (start, stop, reopen). Follow commands exactly in PowerShell (Windows) or a POSIX shell (macOS / Linux).

## 1 — Quick non-interactive project creation (recommended)

Create a new React project (JavaScript) without interactive prompts:

# creates a new project named `w4day23` using the React (JS) template  
npm create vite@latest w4day23 -- --template react

**Why this works:** the -- --template react portion is forwarded to create-vite and tells it exactly which template to use so it doesn’t prompt for the framework/variant.

## 2 — Alternative: interactive (if you want choices)

If you prefer the guided prompts use:

npm create vite@latest

Then choose React → JavaScript → No for experimental options, etc.

## 3 — Enter project & install dependencies

After project scaffolding finishes, run:

cd w4day23  
npm install

npm install will install the dev server and other dependencies created by Vite.

## 4 — Start dev server

To start the development server:

npm run dev

Open the URL shown in your terminal (usually http://localhost:5173).

## 5 — Stop dev server and reopen later

If you close the terminal or stop the server (Ctrl+C):

To reopen the project later (from the project folder):

# if node\_modules still exists  
npm run dev  
  
# if node\_modules was removed (e.g., you deleted it or pulled repo on a new machine)  
npm install  
npm run dev

## 6 — Build for production and preview

# create optimized production build  
npm run build  
  
# preview the production build locally  
npm run preview

## 7 — Installing Tailwind CSS (step-by-step)

From your project root run exactly:

# 1) install Tailwind and PostCSS tooling  
npm install -D tailwindcss postcss autoprefixer  
  
# 2) generate config files (creates tailwind.config.js and postcss.config.js)  
npx tailwindcss init -p

If npx tailwindcss init -p errors with “‘tailwind’ is not recognized…” then run the npx command explicitly via npm’s create-vite project bin: you can also try the direct binary path (POSIX):

# POSIX (macOS / Linux)  
./node\_modules/.bin/tailwindcss init -p

On Windows PowerShell, if that fails, try:

npx.cmd tailwindcss init -p

If the CLI still isn’t present in node\_modules/.bin, reinstall the package:

npm uninstall tailwindcss  
npm install -D tailwindcss

If PowerShell prevents scripts from running, run as admin or allow execution for current user:

Set-ExecutionPolicy RemoteSigned -Scope CurrentUser

## 8 — Tailwind configuration (what to edit)

Open tailwind.config.js and set content to scan your source files:

// tailwind.config.js  
module.exports = {  
 content: ['./index.html', './src/\*\*/\*.{js,jsx,ts,tsx}'],  
 theme: { extend: {} },  
 plugins: [],  
}

Add Tailwind directives to your CSS (for Vite default: src/index.css or src/main.css):

@tailwind base;  
@tailwind components;  
@tailwind utilities;

Then import that CSS from src/main.jsx or src/main.js (Vite default):

import './index.css' // or ./main.css depending on template

Restart npm run dev if necessary.

## 9 — One-liners & shortcuts

Create + install + start (single-line):

# non-interactive create + install + start  
npm create vite@latest w4day23 -- --template react && cd w4day23 && npm install && npm run dev

Create + Tailwind + start (single-line):

npm create vite@latest w4day23 -- --template react && cd w4day23 && npm install && npm install -D tailwindcss postcss autoprefixer && npx tailwindcss init -p && npm run dev

## 10 — If you must stay with Create React App (CRA)

CRA still works but can cause headaches with some CLI tool installs on Windows. Quick CRA commands:

npx create-react-app my-app  
cd my-app  
npm install  
npm start

CRA doesn’t require Vite knowledge, but Vite is faster and increasingly the industry standard. If you’re comfortable with CRA, you can keep using it; however, when tooling like Tailwind CLI misbehaves, Vite tends to avoid those problems.

## 11 — Troubleshooting (common Windows issues)

* tailwind is not recognized: check node\_modules/.bin for tailwindcss.cmd. If missing, reinstall tailwindcss.
* PowerShell execution policy: run Set-ExecutionPolicy RemoteSigned -Scope CurrentUser.
* If npm create vite still prompts, pass -- --template react to skip framework selection.
* If npm warns about unknown flags when you append -y, remove -y; create-vite does not support -y as some other tools do.

## 12 — Summary / Recommendation

* Use npm create vite@latest my-app -- --template react for a fast, predictable, non-interactive setup.
* Use npm run dev to start the dev server and npm run build to create production bundles.
* For Tailwind, install the three packages and run npx tailwindcss init -p. If PowerShell blocks you, use the .cmd or adjust policy.

If you want, I can also generate a **short bash/PowerShell script** that runs all the commands for you (choose platform), or convert this into a printable checklist. Tell me which you prefer.