**Step-by-step (no prior experience needed)**

**0) One-time setup (only do this once on your computer)**

1. **Install Node.js (the tool that runs JavaScript apps)**
   * Go to nodejs.org and install the **LTS** version (20 or 22).
   * After installing, you can ignore this step next time.
2. **Install VS Code**
   * If you don’t already have it, download and install “Visual Studio Code”.

**1) Unzip and open the project in VS Code**

1. **Unzip the ZIP file**
   * Right-click E-Commerce.zip → “Extract All…” (Windows) or just double-click to unzip (Mac).
   * You should end up with a folder named **E-Commerce**.
2. **Open the folder in VS Code**
   * Open VS Code → **File → Open Folder…** → select the **E-Commerce** folder → **Open**.
   * If VS Code shows a pop-up about “Trust authors”, click **Yes, I trust the authors** (it’s your project).

**2) Install the project’s dependencies (first-time per project)**

These are the building blocks the app needs.

1. **Open the Terminal inside VS Code**
   * In VS Code, go to **View → Terminal**. A panel opens at the bottom.
   * Make sure the terminal says you are **inside the E-Commerce folder**. (The path shown on the left of the cursor should end with E-Commerce.)
2. **Run this command and press Enter:**
   * npm install
     1. This may take a minute. You’ll see a lot of messages—totally normal.

**3) Start the app (the fun part!)**

1. In the same terminal, run:
   * npm run dev
2. After a moment you’ll see a line with a **Local** address like:
   * Local: http://localhost:5173/
3. **Open that link** (you can usually hold Ctrl/Cmd and click it), or copy-paste it into your web browser.
   * You should now see your mini e-commerce site running!
4. **Leave this terminal running** while you test the app.
   * To **stop** the app later, click the terminal panel and press **Ctrl + C** (Cmd + C on Mac), then press **Y/Enter** if asked.