



A raw guide to manually building your own chatbot using Replit + ChatGPT — for non-coders, solo warriors, and those who want to prove they can do it themselves.

■ STEP 1: Set Up Your Replit Workspace

✓ Go to <https://replit.com>

→ Click the “+ Create Repl” button in the top left

💡 A popup will appear. Do this:

Search “Python”

Click “Python” (not chatbot or template)

Name it: Whatever You Like

Choose Public (if you want to show people your work)

Click Create Repl

-  **Screenshot Tip:** Take a picture of this screen before hitting "Create"
-  **Video Tip:** Record your screen as you name your project — it proves you started from scratch

STEP 2: Add Your OpenAI API Key

This part confuses everyone. Let's go slow.

Look on the left-hand sidebar

Click the  icon (called “Secrets” or “Environment Variables”)

Add a new secret like this:

Key: OPENAI_API_KEY

Value: Your actual API key from platform.openai.com/account/api-keys

Check the box if it says “Include this key in my Repl”

Screenshot Tip: Show where the API key is being added

 If you don't check the box, your code won't work — that was one of the biggest hiccups in this build.

STEP 3: Understand What You're Seeing

Replit has 3 main areas. Don't get lost:

 main.py — This is where your actual code goes

 Console — This is where the code runs, and where the chatbot talks back

 Shell — You can install packages or run backend commands here manually (don't confuse this with Console)

 Screenshot Tip: Capture your full screen once it's loaded so you remember what everything looks like

STEP 4: Clean Out main.py

Click on main.py

Delete everything inside

Now you'll paste the actual chatbot code (I'll give it next)

 Emotional note: This is where you might feel nervous. But trust it. CTRL+V changed everything here — literally helped copy-paste the working build when other things failed.



STEP 5: Paste the Working ChatBot Code

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X THEO7 ChatBot ▾

```
1 import os
2 import openai
3
4 openai.api_key = os.getenv("OPENAI_API_KEY")
5
6 def chat_with_bot():
7     print("Welcome to THEO7 ChatBot! Type 'exit' to leave.")
8     while True:
9         user_input = input("You: ")
10        if user_input.lower() == "exit":
11            print("THEO7: Peace. Logging you out.")
12            break
13        try:
14            response = openai.ChatCompletion.create(
15                model="gpt-3.5-turbo",
16                messages=[
17                    {"role": "system", "content": "You are a helpful assistant."},
18                    {"role": "user", "content": user_input}
19                ]
20            )
21            reply = response.choices[0].message["content"]
22            print("THEO7:", reply)
23        except Exception as e:
24            print("THEO7 Error:", str(e))
25
26 chat_with_bot()
27
```