

# Oh My Zsh Terminal Support — Quick reference & troubleshooting

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Steps to install Oh My Zsh (latest) and set zsh as your login shell:

## 1) Install prerequisites and Oh My Zsh

```
# Install zsh, git, curl (Debian/Ubuntu)
sudo apt update
sudo apt install -y zsh git curl

# Install Oh My Zsh (interactive installer; will prompt to change shell)
sh -c "$(curl -fSSL
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ohmyzsh/ohmyzsh/master/tools/install.sh)"

# Make zsh the default shell (if installer didn't)
chsh -s "$(which zsh)"
```

**Note:** You may need to log out and log back in for the shell change to take effect.

## 2) Install helpful plugins (Optional but recommended)

```
# Autosuggestions - suggests commands as you type
git clone https://github.com/zsh-users/zsh-autosuggestions
${ZSH_CUSTOM:-$HOME/.oh-my-zsh/custom}/plugins/zsh-autosuggestions

# Syntax highlighting - highlights valid/invalid commands
git clone https://github.com/zsh-users/zsh-syntax-highlighting.git
${ZSH_CUSTOM:-$HOME/.oh-my-zsh/custom}/plugins/zsh-syntax-highlighting
```

**Enable plugins in `~/.zshrc`:**

```
# Find the plugins line in ~/.zshrc and add the new plugins:
plugins=(git zsh-autosuggestions zsh-syntax-highlighting)
```

**Reload shell after editing:**

```
source ~/.zshrc
```

## 3) Configure VS Code to use zsh

## Option A: Via Command Palette

- Press **Ctrl+Shift+P** (or **Cmd+Shift+P** on macOS)
- Type: **Terminal: Select Default Profile**
- Choose **zsh**
- Open a new terminal

## Option B: Via Settings (JSON)

Add to your workspace or user **settings.json**:

```
{
  "terminal.integrated.defaultProfile.linux": "zsh",
  "terminal.integrated.profiles.linux": {
    "zsh": {
      "path": "/usr/bin/zsh"
    }
  }
}
```

## 4) Reload VS Code terminal

After configuration changes:

```
# Option 1: Press Ctrl+Shift+P then: Developer: Reload Window
# Option 2: Close all terminals and open new ones (Ctrl+Shift+`)
```

## Verification

After installation, verify your setup:

```
# Check zsh is installed and active
echo $SHELL          # should show /usr/bin/zsh or similar
zsh --version        # should show zsh version

# Check Oh My Zsh is loaded
echo $ZSH_THEME       # should show your theme (e.g., robyrussell)
```

## Common Issues

### Oh My Zsh not loading in VS Code:

- Ensure VS Code terminal default profile is set to zsh (see step 3)
- Reload VS Code window: **Ctrl+Shift+P** → **Developer: Reload Window**

### Plugins not working:

- Verify plugins are listed in `~/.zshrc` in the `plugins=(...)` line
- Run `source ~/.zshrc` to reload

### Permission denied when changing shell:

- Ensure zsh is in `/etc/shells`: `cat /etc/shells | grep zsh`
- If not present, add it: `sudo sh -c "echo $(which zsh) >> /etc/shells"`

### Notes

- For Node.js/npm setup with nvm, see `node_support.md`
- If using Remote-SSH or WSL, perform these steps on the remote/WSL environment
- Oh My Zsh config file: `~/.zshrc`
- Oh My Zsh installation directory: `~/.oh-my-zsh`