

# What IDE Should I Use?

DISCLAIMER: These are just Tiffany's opinions and are meant to help answer questions I receive often! These are in order of what I recommend, but everyone is different.

## Beginner friendly Setups

- These are very easy to get started with almost no setup required

### 1. [Onlinegdb.com](https://onlinegdb.com)

#### PROS:

- Online compiler
- Uses *gcc* by default
- Can save projects easily to your account (Click "Save" button and login with an account)
- Has a decent debugger

#### CONS:

- Requires internet
- Very little quality of life features

### 2. [Repl.it](https://repl.it)

#### PROS:

- Online compiler
- Can save projects easily to your account (autosaves)

#### CONS:

- Requires internet
- No debugger
- Very little quality of life features
- Looks ugly
- *Free accounts default all projects to public*
- No way to change default compiler
  - o Run button uses Clang NOT gcc



### 3. [Codeblocks](#)

#### PROS:

- Easy to setup to use gcc (Download `codeblocks-20.03mingw-setup.exe` from link)
- Has a debugger

#### CONS:

- Very little quality of life features
- Looks ugly

[Setting up gcc in Codeblocks](#) (Note: MinGW is a toolchain that includes gcc)

## Advanced/Enterprise Setups

- If you work with C/C++ in industry, you will likely use one of these
- This will help you code faster (and maybe better) in the long term
- Setup can be difficult!!

### 1. [CLion by JetBrains](#)

#### PROS:

- Used heavily by professionals and industry
- Includes many quality of life features (refactoring, autosuggestions, etc.)
- Good debugger
- Looks nice, customizable
- Easy to setup gcc compiler
- FREE for students! [Make sure to sign up for student licenses](#)

#### CONS:

- Can be difficult for beginners to set up
- Too many features may confuse you

[How to use gcc compiler in CLion \(make sure to toolchains settings, not CMake\)](#)

(I also made a setup guide [here](#) since this is my preferred choice along with onlinegdb.com)

### 2. [Vscode by Microsoft](#)

#### PROS:

- Includes some quality of life features
- Easy to setup gcc compiler 😊
  - o For this reason, I recommend Vscode over Visual Studio
- Includes a debugger
- Easier to setup than CLion
- Looks nice, customizable

#### CONS:

- Can be difficult for beginners to set up
- This is more like a text editor, not a full fleshed IDE like CLion and Visual Studio

[Setting up gcc compiler in Visual Studio Code](#)

### 3. Visual Studio by Microsoft

#### PROS:

- Used heavily by professionals and industry
- Includes many quality of life features
- Good debugger

#### CONS:

- *Very difficult to switch compiler to gcc* 😞
- Can be difficult for beginners to set up
- Too many features may confuse you

### 4. Vim

#### PROS:

- It's Vim
- Already installed in Eustis so you can directly use it

#### CONS:

- It's Vim
- Extremely difficult learning curve