

1. What is a Branch?

A branch is like a **parallel universe** for your code:

- The main branch (`main` or `master`) is your stable code.
- A new branch lets you **experiment or work on a feature** without breaking the main code.

Think: "I want to try something new, but I don't want to ruin the main code." That's a branch.

2. See Which Branch You Are On

Open your terminal in your project folder:

```
git branch
```

- The branch with `*` is your current branch.
- Usually, it starts on `main` (or `master`).

3. Create a New Branch

```
git branch my-new-branch
```

Replace `my-new-branch` with your feature name, e.g., `feature/login` or `bug/header-fix`.

This creates the branch, but you are still on your old branch.

- Always switch back to `main` before creating a new branch:

```
git checkout main
```

4. Switch to the Branch

```
git checkout my-new-branch
```

Now you are “inside” the branch and can make changes safely.

5. Shortcut: Create & Switch in One Step

```
git checkout -b my-new-branch
```

This does both create and switch at the same time.

6. Push Your Branch to Remote (Optional)

```
git push -u origin my-new-branch
```

`-u` sets it as the default remote branch so next time you can just `git push`.