

Git branching basics quick reference

In all of these examples, substitute *personal-branch* with the name of your branch.

If you find yourself in a merge conflict, see the [Git merge conflict basics quick reference](#).

Part 1: Create your personal branch

- Note: You only need to do these Part 1 steps once.

(1) Create your new branch locally.

```
git checkout -b personal-branch
```

(2) Push the local copy of your personal branch to a remote origin.

```
git push origin personal-branch
```

[Verify] Go to your repository on GitLab and click on the branches field. You should see your new branch listed.

Part 2: Add your branch changes to the main branch

- Note: Do these Part 2 steps every time you have changes that you want to put in `main`.

Important: Tell your team when you're about to merge something into main! Good communication helps prevent merge conflicts.

(3) On your personal branch, stage and commit your changes.

- Note: You can replace `-A` with the name of a specific file (or a whitespace-separated list of files) if you want to add and commit specific file(s) rather than everything at once. This can be especially helpful when correcting merge conflicts.

```
git add -A  
git commit -m "My commit message"
```

(4) While on your personal branch, push your changes to your remote branch for safekeeping.

```
git push origin personal-branch
```

[Verify] Go to your repository on GitLab and switch to your personal branch. You should see your latest commit(s).

(5) Check out (switch to) your local copy of the main branch.

```
git checkout main
```

(6) While on your local copy of the main branch, pull any changes from the remote main branch (origin) into your local copy of main.

```
git pull origin main
```

(7) While on your local copy of the main branch, merge the changes from your personal branch into it.

```
git merge personal-branch
```

(8) While on your local copy of the main branch, push your merged changes to the remote main (origin).

```
git push origin main
```

[Verify] Go to your repository on GitLab and switch to your main branch. You should see the latest commit(s) from your personal branch.