

# A Fast Guide on Writing LaTeX with LaTeX Workshop in VS Code

 [mathjiajia.github.io/vscode-and-latex](https://mathjiajia.github.io/vscode-and-latex)

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Jia Jia included in category tools and series Editors

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## Series - Editors

- A Fast Guide on Writing LaTeX with LaTeX Workshop in VS Code
- [A Quick Guide on Writing LaTeX in Neovim](#)

There are dozens of TeX editors so far, such as Texpad and WinEdt.

After encountered some wired bugs on Texpad, I decided to use native [TeX Live](#) / [MacTeX](#). However, TexShop (on macOS) does not have a pretty highlight system. It seems that the Visual Studio Code is one of the beast choice.

## Step 1. Download & Install TeX Live

Windows users: download `texlive.iso` [here](#).

Mac users: download `MacTeX.pkg` [here](#).

Here are some references for the installation:

- [TeX Live on Windows](#)
- [Installing MacTeX](#)

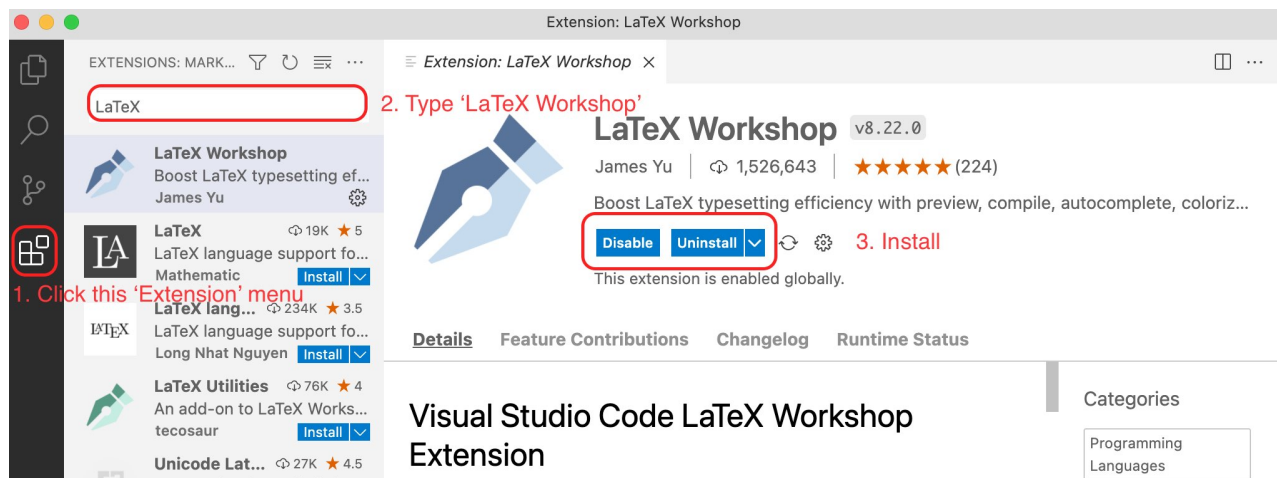
For Windows users, after installation, you should add TeX Live executables to your system `PATH`.

## Step 2. Download & Install Visual Studio Code

You can download it [here](#). The installation is easy.

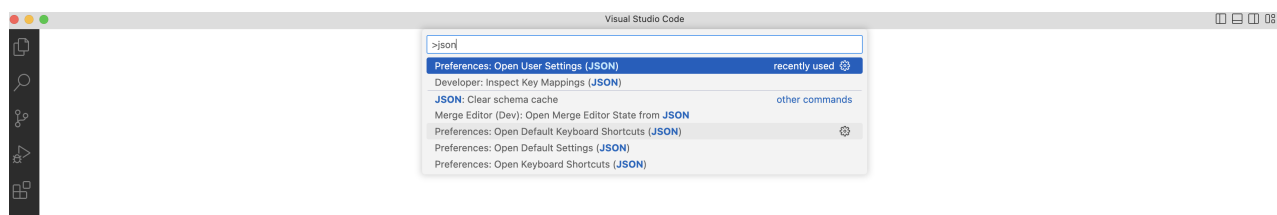
### Step 3. Install & Configure LaTeX Workshop

Follows the screenshot below to install the extension **LaTeX Workshop**.



install-extension

After doing that, you may press **Shift** + **Ctrl** + **P** (Windows) or **Shift** + **Cmd** + **P** (macOS) to show all commands. Then type **Open User Settings JSON** and open the first item (as shown below).



open-json


Now copy and paste the following two snippets into your **json** file (inside the brackets **{}** of your file).

```
"latex-  
workshop.latex.tools": [  
  {  
    "name": "latexmk",  
    "command": "latexmk",  
    "args": [  
      "-synctex=1",  
      "-  
interaction=nonstopmode",  
      "-file-line-error",  
      "-pdf",  
      "-outdir=%OUTDIR%",  
      "%DOC%"  
    ],  
    "env": {}  
  },  
  {  
    "name": "xelatex",  
    "command": "xelatex",
```

```

    "args": [
      "-synctex=1",
      "_
interaction=nonstopmode",
      "-file-line-error",
      "%DOC%"
    ],
    "env": {}
  },
  {
    "name": "pdflatex",
    "command": "pdflatex",
    "args": [
      "-synctex=1",
      "_
interaction=nonstopmode",
      "-file-line-error",
      "%DOC%"
    ],
    "env": {}
  },
  {
    "name": "bibtex",
    "command": "bibtex",
    "args": [
      "%DOCFILE%"
    ],
    "env": {}
  }
],

```

```
"latex-workshop.latex.recipes": [  
  {  
    "name": "pdfLaTeX",  
    "tools": [  
      "pdflatex"  
    ]  
  },  
  {  
    "name": "latexmk ,  
    "tools": [  
      "latexmk"  
    ]  
  },  
  {  

```

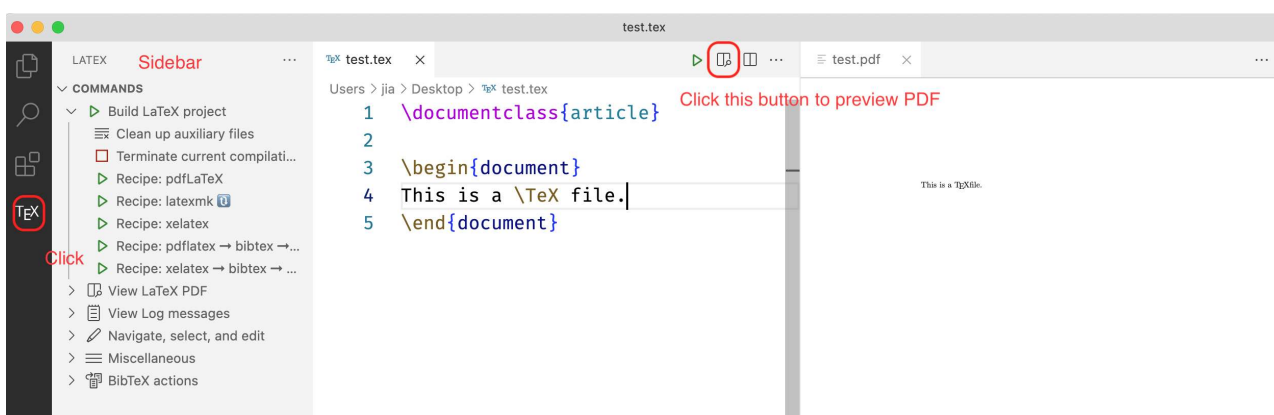
```

    "name": "xelatex",
    "tools": [
      "xelatex"
    ]
  },
  {
    "name": "pdflatex → bibtex →
pdflatex`×2",
    "tools": [
      "pdflatex",
      "bibtex",
      "pdflatex",
      "pdflatex"
    ]
  },
  {
    "name": "xelatex → bibtex →
xelatex`×2",
    "tools": [
      "xelatex",
      "bibtex",
      "xelatex",
      "xelatex"
    ]
  }
]

```

## Step 4. Write & Compile

Now you may open a `tex` file or create a new one. If you want to compile the file, press `Ctrl + Alt + B` (Windows) or `option + Cmd + B` (macOS). Moreover, you may choose another recipes from the sidebar. There is a button in the right top corner to preview `PDF` file.



tex-recipes

Reference: [LaTeX-Workshop Wiki](#)

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