

FREE REFERENCE GUIDE

Claude Code Cheat Sheet

The commands, prompt patterns, and workflows you need to build
real software with Claude Code.

Setup

Stack Picker

Prompt Patterns

Design Translation

Troubleshooting

Commands

CLAUDE.md Template

HOW CLAUDE CODE WORKS

Claude Code is a **conversation in your terminal**. Describe what you want — Claude writes code, creates files, and runs commands. It sees your **entire project** and edits files directly.

Context is everything. Vague prompt → generic code. Specific prompt + CLAUDE.md → exactly what you designed.

Sessions degrade. After 30+ min, use `/compact` to summarize or `/clear` to restart fresh.

Get Started

Prerequisite: You need Node.js. In Terminal, type `node -v`. See a version? You're set. If not → nodejs.org, install LTS.

```
npm install -g @anthropic-ai/claude-code    # install once
cd ~/Desktop/my-project                    # go to your project
claude                                     # start
```

Pick Your Stack

YOU'RE BUILDING...	USE THIS
Landing / marketing page	Astro + Tailwind
Portfolio / multi-page site	Next.js + Tailwind
Web app with accounts	Next.js + Tailwind + Supabase
iOS app	SwiftUI
Chrome extension	Vanilla JS or React

Unsure? Ask Claude: `I'm building [thing]. What stack should I use?`

Prompt Patterns

START A PROJECT – REAL EXAMPLE

Build a portfolio site using Next.js 15 and Tailwind. It should have: a homepage with a project card grid, a detail page for each project, an about page with bio and contact links, and a sticky header nav. Use Inter for body, monospace for accents. Dark bg (#0A0A0A), white text, accent #3B82F6. Start with layout and nav.

ADD A FEATURE SAFELY

Read the existing codebase first. Then add a contact form to the about page. Follow the patterns already used — same components, same styling. Don't modify unrelated files.

FIX SOMETHING SPECIFIC

The card grid has these problems: (1) cards aren't equal height, (2) gap too tight on mobile, (3) no hover state. Fix only these three. Don't touch anything else.

Preview: Tell Claude `start the dev server` → opens at `localhost:3000`. Updates live.

How to Describe Design in Prompts

Replace adjectives with numbers. "Clean" means nothing. "64px padding, 720px max-width" means everything.

INSTEAD OF...	SAY THIS
"Make it clean"	"64px padding between sections. Max-width 720px. Background #F8F8F8."
"Match my design"	"Header: fixed, 64px tall, logo left, 3 nav links right. White bg, 1px border-bottom #E5E5E5."
"Better typography"	"Inter 16px/1.6 body. Headings Semi-Bold: H1 48px, H2 32px, H3 24px."
"Make it responsive"	"Desktop: 3-col grid, 24px gap. Tablet (<768): 2-col. Mobile (<480): single column."
"Add animation"	"Fade in cards 0.3s ease-out on viewport entry, stagger 100ms. Hover: lift 4px + shadow."

When Things Break

PROBLEM	SAY THIS TO CLAUDE
"Module not found"	Fix the missing module error — install whatever's needed
"Port already in use"	Kill whatever's on port 3000 and restart the dev server
App won't start	Read the error and fix whatever's preventing startup
Looks unpolished	The [component] needs polish: [spacing, type, color issues]. Fix without changing functionality.
Changed wrong files	Undo changes to [file]. I only asked you to modify [other file]
Going in circles	Type <code>/clear</code> and re-describe from scratch
Undo everything	Undo all changes from your last response

Save Your Work (Git)

Git = save/undo for your project. A **commit** = a save point you can always go back to.

WHAT YOU WANT	SAY THIS TO CLAUDE
Save progress	Commit this with the message "added project grid"
See what changed	Show me what files changed since last commit
Undo since last save	Reset all files back to the last commit

Commit after every milestone. Nav done? Commit. Cards working? Commit.

Ship It

WHAT YOU WANT	SAY THIS TO CLAUDE
Deploy to the internet	Set up this project for Vercel and walk me through deploying
Custom domain	Deploy first → add domain in Vercel dashboard (Settings → Domains)

Vercel gives you a free `.vercel.app` URL instantly. Custom domains work with any registrar.

Your Secret Weapon — CLAUDE.md

A `CLAUDE.md` file in your project root = instructions Claude reads before every response. It's the difference between generic output and output that matches your design system.

Starter Template — Copy Into Your Project Root

```
CLAUDE.md

# Project: [Your Project Name]

## What this is
[One sentence — what you're building and who it's for]

## Tech stack
- Framework: [e.g., Next.js 15]
- Styling: [e.g., Tailwind CSS]
- Components: [e.g., shadcn/ui]

## Design direction
- Fonts: [e.g., Inter body, JetBrains Mono accents]
- Colors: [e.g., bg #0A0A0A, text #FAFAFA, accent #3B82F6]
- Spacing: use Tailwind gap/padding — no margin hacks
- Max content width: [e.g., 1200px]

## Don'ts
- Don't use inline styles
- Don't add features I didn't ask for
- Don't refactor unless I ask
- No default browser styling — everything intentional
```

Design Audit Prompt

After Claude builds something, paste this to catch the "works but looks like a developer built it" problem:

DESIGN AUDIT
Review what you just built:
1. Is spacing consistent and intentional, or are there random gaps?
2. Is there a clear type hierarchy (size, weight, color)?
3. Do all interactive elements have hover and focus states?
4. Does the layout work at 375px, 768px, and 1440px?
5. Are all colors from my palette, or did you introduce new ones?
Fix anything that fails.

Useful Prompt Techniques

TECHNIQUE	WHAT TO SAY
Scope changes	"Only modify [file]. Don't touch anything else."
Prevent over-engineering	"Keep it simple. No abstractions I didn't ask for."
Get a plan first	"Before writing code, outline what you'll do and which files you'll change."
Reference existing code	"Look at how [component] is built and follow the same pattern."
Multi-step builds	"Let's build this in stages. Start with [first thing] only."

Claude Code Commands

Type these inside a Claude Code session.

COMMAND	WHAT IT DOES
<code>/init</code>	Generate a CLAUDE.md for your project
<code>/clear</code>	Reset conversation — use when Claude gets confused
<code>/compact</code>	Compress conversation to free up context space
<code>/cost</code>	See how much you've spent this session
<code>/model</code>	Switch between Claude models (Opus, Sonnet, Haiku)
<code>/help</code>	Show all available commands

Terminal Flags

Use these when launching Claude Code from your terminal.

FLAG	WHAT IT DOES
<code>claude - -resume</code>	Pick up your last conversation where you left off
<code>claude - -print "question"</code>	Get a quick answer without starting a full session
<code>claude - -model sonnet</code>	Start with a specific model

Keyboard Shortcuts

SHORTCUT	WHAT IT DOES
<code>Ctrl + C</code>	Cancel the current operation
<code>Esc</code>	Interrupt Claude while it's working (lets you redirect)
<code>Up Arrow</code>	Cycle through your previous prompts

Go deeper

AI Automation Templates — 15K+ ready-to-use workflows and systems designed for real-world business automation, not just theory. Instead of wasting time figuring everything out from scratch, you can plug into proven systems used for client work, lead generation, and automation services. Inside the community, you'll get access to pre-built AI workflows, real business use-cases, step-by-step implementation, and guidance from beginner to advanced level. There's no setup headache—just learn, implement, and start earning.

Join here: <https://www.skool.com/aiautomation-by-adam-8725/classroom/94996297?md=ca15dc80203d4a499e2380d632350517>