

Claude Code cheat sheet

Start small. Inspect the output. Keep the evidence clear.

DOCUMENTED VERSUS TESTED

Documented: The commands and features below are described in official documentation. Their workflows were **not tested inside Claude Code** for the guide or this sheet.

Locally tested samples only: A Node bug fixture passed three tests after its fix; a Python validator covered four synthetic cases. Both ran directly, outside Claude Code.

A useful first workflow

1. Confirm the folder, model, permission mode, and account route.
2. Ask Claude to inspect the relevant files.
3. Request one focused change.
4. Open the saved output and review the changes.
5. Check the result; record anything left untested.

A reusable prompt

Create [output] using [input] in this folder.

Change only [scope] and preserve [files].

The result must [expected behavior].

Run the relevant checks available here.

Report saved paths, changes, actual check results, failures, and checks left unrun.

Remember

- Plan Mode can run exploratory commands; it is not a separate sandbox.
- Stopping work does not undo completed changes.
- Checkpoints cover supported tracked edits, not every shell change or external action.
- Local execution does not mean offline inference.
- A saved file, passing test, and published result establish different things.
- Usage estimates can differ from the bill.

In your terminal

Enter these outside a running conversation.

claude	Start in this folder
claude --version	Check the CLI version
claude --continue	Continue the latest session for this directory
claude --resume	Choose a saved session

Start in Plan Mode:

claude --permission-mode plan

Inside the conversation

/help	Find available help
/status	Inspect session and account setup
/model	Inspect or change the model
/usage	View applicable usage and estimates
/permissions	Inspect tool permission rules
/context	Inspect context-window contents
/compact	Summarize to make room
/rewind	Open recovery choices

Availability varies by interface, version, account, and organization.

Choose the right customization

CLAUDE.md	Recurring project guidance
Skill	A reusable workflow
MCP server	Connected tools or information
Hook	A check triggered by an event
Subagent	Separate delegated work
Schedule	Timed work: confirm its host and cancellation