# Claude Code — cheat sheet

Install, commands, config files and token saving · November 2026

## INSTALL

| | |
|---|---|
| macOS / Linux / WSL | `curl -fsSL https://claude.ai/install.sh \| bash` |
| Windows PowerShell | `irm https://claude.ai/install.ps1 \| iex` |
| Homebrew | `brew install --cask claude-code` |
| WinGet | `winget install Anthropic.ClaudeCode` |
| npm (Node 22+) | `npm install -g @anthropic-ai/claude-code@latest` |
| Check | `claude --version · claude doctor` |

## RUN FROM THE TERMINAL

| | |
|---|---|
| `claude` | ▶ |
| `claude "task"` | + prompt |
| `claude -p "query"` | one-off |
| `claude -c` | continue |
| `claude -r` | resume |
| `claude update` | update |

## KEY IN-SESSION COMMANDS

| | |
|---|---|
| `/init` | create CLAUDE.md for the project |
| `/model` | choose the model |
| `/permissions` | allow / ask / deny rules |
| `/memory` | CLAUDE.md and auto memory |
| `/compact [focus]` | compact context with a focus |
| `/clear` | new conversation (old one via /resume) |
| `/context` | what fills the context |
| `/usage` | cost and limits (= /cost) |
| `/mcp` | MCP servers: list, enable/disable |
| `/hooks` | configured hooks |
| `/skills` | list skills |
| `/agents` | subagents |
| `/plan` | plan mode |
| `/rewind` | undo steps |
| `/resume` | resume a session |
| `/doctor` | installation check-up |
| `/config` | settings |
| `/effort` | reasoning effort |

## KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

| | |
|---|---|
| `Shift+Tab` | permission modes (plan / auto-edit) |
| `Esc` | stop the response |
| `Esc Esc` | rewind |
| `Tab` | autocomplete |
| `↑` | prompt history |
| `/` | commands and skills |
| `Ctrl+D ×2` | exit |

## WHERE THINGS LIVE

| | |
|---|---|
| `~/.claude/CLAUDE.md` | personal |
| `./CLAUDE.md` | project |
| `./CLAUDE.local.md` | local |
| `~/.claude/settings.json` | user |
| `.claude/settings.json` | team |
| `.claude/settings.local.json` | local |
| `.claude/skills/<name>/SKILL.md` | skills |
| `.claude/agents/<name>.md` | subagents |
| `.claude/rules/*.md` | rules |
| `.mcp.json` | MCP (team) |

## PERMISSIONS (SETTINGS.JSON)

```
{
  "permissions": {
    "allow": ["Bash(npm run test *)", "Bash(git diff *)"],
    "ask":   ["Bash(git push *)"],
    "deny":  ["Read(./.env)", "Read(./.env.*)"]
  }
}
```

## MCP SERVERS

```
claude mcp add --transport http notion https://mcp.notion.com/mcp
```

```
claude mcp add --env KEY=... airtable -- npx -y airtable-mcp-server
```

```
claude mcp add -s project ...   # → .mcp.json
```

```
claude mcp list  ·  claude mcp remove <name>
```

## HOW TO SAVE USAGE

- /clear between unrelated tasks
- Keep CLAUDE.md under 200 lines; move long workflows into skills
- Sonnet by default, Opus for hard problems
- Disable unused MCP servers (/mcp)
- Delegate noisy work (tests, logs) to subagents
- Plan mode (Shift+Tab) before big changes
- Specific prompts: file, function, definition of done