

The 50 Best Claude Codes

Short phrases that help Claude give you clearer, kinder, more useful answers. Made for beginners 50+, by Carla at 72.

What's Claude? Claude is an AI assistant, like ChatGPT, made by a company called Anthropic. You can use it free at claude.ai or in the Claude app. It's especially good at writing, reading long documents, and explaining things patiently.

What's a "code"? It's a short phrase you type with your question. It isn't a secret command. It works because it tells Claude exactly what you want. Copy a code, add your request, and send.

How to use this guide

1. Go to claude.ai or open the Claude app and sign in.
2. Pick a code from the list.
3. Type the code, then your request. Example: **PLAIN ENGLISH: What does "two-factor authentication" mean?**
4. Keep the conversation going. Claude remembers what you said earlier in the same chat.

Understand anything

1. **PLAIN ENGLISH:** Explains it with everyday words and no tech talk.
2. **EXPLAIN LIKE A FRIEND:** A warm, patient explanation, like a friend sitting next to you.
3. **START FROM ZERO:** Assumes you know nothing yet, and builds up slowly.
4. **WHY DOES THIS MATTER:** Tells you why you should care before the details.
5. **DEFINE THE WORDS:** Lists and explains every unfamiliar word in its answer.
6. **REAL LIFE EXAMPLE:** Shows how this works in an ordinary day.
7. **PICTURE IT:** Describes the idea as an image or story you can imagine.
8. **WHAT'S THE CATCH:** Explains the downsides or fine print.
9. **MYTH OR FACT:** Tells you whether something you heard is true. *MYTH OR FACT: AI can hear everything my phone hears.*
10. **SLOW DOWN:** Asks Claude to go one small piece at a time and check in with you.

Read and summarize for you

- 11. SUMMARIZE THIS:** Paste a long article, letter, or email and get the main points.
- 12. WHAT DOES THIS LETTER MEAN:** Paste a confusing letter (insurance, Medicare, bank) and get it in plain English. Remove personal numbers first.
- 13. KEY DATES AND ACTIONS:** Pulls out deadlines and things you need to do.
- 14. QUESTIONS TO ASK:** Reads a document and lists questions you should ask about it.
- 15. RED FLAGS:** Points out anything that looks unusual or worth a second look.
- 16. COMPARE THESE:** Paste two offers or plans, and see the differences side by side.
- 17. ONE PARAGRAPH:** Any long text, boiled down to one paragraph.
- 18. READ IT TO ME SIMPLY:** Rewrites complicated text at an easy reading level.
- 19. MAKE NOTES:** Turns a long text into tidy notes with headings.
- 20. WHAT'S MISSING:** Tells you what information a document leaves out.

Write it for me

- 21. DRAFT IT:** Writes a first draft of a letter, email, or message for you to edit.
- 22. IN MY VOICE:** Paste a few of your own messages first, and Claude writes like you.
- 23. KINDER:** Makes your message softer and more caring.
- 24. CLEARER:** Makes your message easier to understand.
- 25. SHORTER, SAME MEANING:** Cuts the extra words without losing the point.
- 26. THANK YOU NOTE:** Writes a warm thank-you for a gift, a visit, or a favor.
- 27. HARD CONVERSATION:** Helps you find gentle words for a difficult talk.
- 28. COMPLAINT LETTER:** Writes a firm, polite complaint to a company.
- 29. TOAST OR SPEECH:** Writes a short toast for a birthday, wedding, or retirement party.
- 30. STORY FOR THE GRANDKIDS:** Writes a short bedtime story starring your grandchildren. Tell it their names and what they love.

Think it through with me

- 31. THINK IT THROUGH:** Asks Claude to reason carefully before answering.
- 32. ASK ME QUESTIONS FIRST:** Claude asks you questions before giving advice.
- 33. BE HONEST WITH ME:** Asks for a frank opinion, kindly delivered.

- 34. OTHER SIDE:** Shows the strongest argument against your idea.
- 35. WHAT WOULD YOU DO:** Asks Claude to suggest a choice and explain why.
- 36. SMALLEST NEXT STEP:** Breaks something big into one easy first step.
- 37. MAKE A PLAN:** Turns a goal into a simple weekly plan.
- 38. PRACTICE WITH ME:** Role-plays a conversation so you can practice. *PRACTICE WITH ME: A phone call to cancel a subscription.*
- 39. TEACH ME:** Gives you a short lesson, then a small quiz.
- 40. CHECK MY WORK:** Reviews your writing, plan, or idea and suggests fixes.

Make things you can use

- 41. CHECKLIST:** Turns anything into a checklist.
- 42. TABLE:** Organizes information in a table.
- 43. ONE-PAGE GUIDE:** Makes a printable one-page guide on any topic.
- 44. SHOPPING LIST:** Turns a recipe or plan into a shopping list.
- 45. WEEKLY SCHEDULE:** Lays out a simple week, with time for rest.
- 46. RECIPE MAKEOVER:** Adjusts a recipe for fewer people, less salt, or what's in your pantry.
- 47. CAPTIONS:** Writes 5 Instagram captions for a photo you describe.
- 48. REEL SCRIPT:** Writes a short 30-second video script in your voice.
- 49. EMAIL TO MY GROUP:** Writes a friendly message for your club, church, or family group.
- 50. MAKE IT PRETTY:** Asks Claude to lay out the answer neatly with headings and spacing.

Carla's favorite combos

- **WHAT DOES THIS LETTER MEAN + KEY DATES AND ACTIONS:** For confusing mail.
- **IN MY VOICE + KINDER:** For family messages that matter.
- **START FROM ZERO + TEACH ME:** For learning something brand new.

A few honest reminders

- Claude can make mistakes. Double-check anything important.
- Never paste passwords, account numbers, or your Social Security number.

- For health, money, or legal decisions, use Claude to prepare questions, then talk to a professional.

Find more beginner-friendly AI tips on Instagram: @carla_after_50