

The Prompt Swipe File

15 Copy-Paste Prompts from the Claude Code Team

Sourced from Boris Cherny's thread (Creator of Claude Code) — @bcherny on X

How to use this:

Copy any prompt below and paste it directly into Claude Code, Claude.ai, or any AI tool.
Adapt the wording to your project. These are templates — make them yours.

PLANNING & ARCHITECTURE

PROMPT #1

Enter plan mode. Think through this step by step and don't write any code until I approve the plan.

WHEN TO USE: Starting any task that's more than a simple bug fix. Forces Claude to think before acting.

PRO TIP: Run a second Claude session and tell it: "Review this plan as a staff engineer. Poke holes in it."

PROMPT #2

Knowing everything you know now, scrap this and implement the elegant solution.

WHEN TO USE: After Claude gives you a working but messy first attempt. Keeps all the context, drops the baggage.

PROMPT #3

Before you start, explain your approach and what could go wrong. Don't proceed until I confirm.

WHEN TO USE: High-risk changes — database migrations, auth flows, anything you can't easily undo.

The Prompt Swipe File

continued

CODE REVIEW & QUALITY

PROMPT #4

Grill me on these changes and don't make a PR until I pass your test.

WHEN TO USE: Before shipping anything important. Makes Claude the gatekeeper instead of the assistant.

PRO TIP: This is great for learning too — Claude will quiz you on edge cases you didn't think about.

PROMPT #5

Review this code like a senior engineer who's having a bad day. Be brutally honest.

WHEN TO USE: When you want real feedback, not polite suggestions. Gets past Claude's tendency to be agreeable.

PROMPT #6

What are the three worst things about this implementation? Then fix them.

WHEN TO USE: Quick self-audit after a feature is working. Catches the stuff you'd normally ignore and ship.

DEBUGGING & FIXING

PROMPT #7

Go fix the failing CI tests.

WHEN TO USE: When tests break and you don't want to dig through logs. Give Claude autonomy to figure it out.

PRO TIP: Also works with: "Look at the Docker logs and troubleshoot what's going wrong."

PROMPT #8

[Paste full Slack bug thread] Fix this.

WHEN TO USE: Enable Slack MCP, paste the whole thread — context, screenshots, everything — and just say fix.

PROMPT #9

Something went sideways. Stop coding. Enter plan mode and re-plan from scratch.

WHEN TO USE: The moment a fix starts spiraling. Breaks the cycle of patching on top of patches.

The Prompt Swipe File

continued

LEARNING & DOCUMENTATION

PROMPT #10

Update your CLAUDE.md so you never make that mistake again.

WHEN TO USE: After every correction. Claude writes guardrails for itself so the same mistake doesn't happen twice.

PRO TIP: Boris says Claude is "eerily good" at writing rules for itself. Do this consistently and error rates drop.

PROMPT #11

Explain what you just did and why — like you're teaching a junior developer.

WHEN TO USE: When Claude makes changes you don't fully understand. Turns every task into a learning moment.

PROMPT #12

Generate a visual HTML presentation explaining this codebase for someone new.

WHEN TO USE: Onboarding to unfamiliar code. The Anthropic team says Claude "makes surprisingly good slides."

PRODUCTIVITY & WORKFLOW

PROMPT #13

Use subagents for this.

WHEN TO USE: Any large task — logs, test output, deep code searches. Keeps your main context clean.

PROMPT #14

[plain English question about your data] Use the bq CLI. Show me the query, a results table, and 3 insights.

WHEN TO USE: Analytics and data questions. Replace SQL entirely — Boris hasn't written a line in 6+ months.

PRO TIP: Works with any database that has a CLI, MCP, or API. Not just BigQuery.

Want to build with AI — even if you're not technical?

I help businesses automate their operations with AI agents, voice AI, and smart workflows.

Follow me on Instagram for more breakdowns like this, or reach out to work together.

[@maxfoukal](#) • elev8growth.solutions

WHEN TO USE: End of every coding session. Automates cleanup so tech debt doesn't accumulate.

PRO TIP: If you do anything more than once a day, turn it into a custom slash command.