Claude Code Complete Reference

50+ ready-to-use prompts, every terminal command, troubleshooting fixes, and the full project checklist. Your permanent companion for building with Claude Code.

50+
PROMPTS

25+
COMMANDS

15
FIXES

By Gab

gab.ae

Prompt Library: Building Your Site

Copy, replace the [BRACKETS], paste into Claude Code.

Homepage & Landing Pages

Full Homepage from Scratch

Build a modern, responsive homepage for [BUSINESS NAME]. Include: a hero section with headline "[YOUR HEADLINE]" and a CTA button that says "[BUTTON TEXT]", an about section, a services grid with [3-4] items, a testimonials section with 3 cards, and a footer with email, phone, and social links. Use [COLOR] as the accent on a dark/light theme. Mobile-first.

When to use: Starting a brand new project. This gives you a complete, deployable page in one prompt.

Landing Page with Email Capture

Build a landing page for [PRODUCT/SERVICE]. Hero section with a strong headline, 3 benefit bullets, and an email capture form (name + email fields + submit button). Below that: a "How it works" section with 3 steps, social proof with [NUMBER] testimonials, and a final CTA section that repeats the email form. Accent color [COLOR].

Portfolio / Gallery Page

Create a portfolio page with a filterable grid. Categories: [LIST YOURS]. Each item should have a thumbnail image placeholder, title, category tag, and a hover overlay with a "View" button. Include a hero with my name "[NAME]" and tagline "[TAGLINE]". Responsive grid: 3 columns desktop, 2 tablet, 1 mobile.

Pricing Table

Add a pricing section with [2-3] tiers. Tier names: [LIST]. Prices: [LIST]. Each tier should have a feature list with checkmarks. Highlight the middle tier as "Most Popular" with a different background color. Add a monthly/yearly toggle that shows a discount for yearly. Match existing design system.

Additional Pages

About Page

Create an about.html that matches index.html exactly (same CSS, header, footer, fonts, colors). Include: a hero banner with the headline "About [BUSINESS]", a story section with 2-3 paragraphs, a team section with [NUMBER] members (photo placeholder, name, role), and a values section with [3-4] values in a grid.

Contact Page with Form

Create a contact.html that matches the existing design. Include: a hero, a two-column layout with a contact form on the left (name, email, subject dropdown, message textarea, submit button) and contact details on the right (address, phone, email, business hours). Add a Google Maps embed placeholder below.

FAQ Accordion

Add an FAQ section with [NUMBER] questions. Use an accordion that opens/closes on click with a smooth animation. Only one answer should be open at a time. Questions: [LIST YOUR QUESTIONS]. Style the section to match the existing design with the same fonts and accent color.

Blog Index Page

Create a blog index page (blog/index.html) with a grid of post cards. Each card: thumbnail placeholder, category tag, title, excerpt (2 lines max), date, and "Read more" link. 3 columns on desktop, 1 on mobile. Add a hero with "Blog" title and a short subtitle. Match existing design system.

Prompt Library: Design & Polish

Run these after your initial build to make it look professional.

Visual Polish

The Full Polish Pass

> Review this entire website and improve the design: add hover effects to all interactive elements, add subtle fade-in animations on scroll using IntersectionObserver, improve typography hierarchy (heading sizes, line heights, letter spacing), ensure consistent spacing throughout, and add a premium feel with subtle gradients or shadows where appropriate.

Pro tip: Run this as the very last design step. It's like hiring a designer for a final review.

Color System Overhaul

> Refactor the CSS to use CSS custom properties for all colors. Primary: [COLOR], Secondary: [COLOR], Accent: [COLOR], Background: [COLOR], Text: [COLOR]. Create light/dark variants of each. Apply them consistently across every element. Make sure contrast ratios pass WCAG AA.

Typography Upgrade

> Change the fonts to [HEADING FONT] for headings and [BODY FONT] for body text. Import from Google Fonts. Set up a proper type scale: h1 = 3rem, h2 = 2rem, h3 = 1.5rem, body = 1rem, small = 0.875rem. Line height 1.6 for body, 1.2 for headings. Letter-spacing -0.02em for headings.

Micro-Animations

> Add these animations: buttons scale to 1.02 on hover with a 0.2s transition. Cards lift with a subtle shadow on hover. Navigation links have an underline that slides in from left on hover. Page sections fade in and slide up 20px as they scroll into view using IntersectionObserver. Keep all animations under 0.3s. Respect prefers-reduced-motion.

Dark Mode Toggle

Add a dark mode toggle button in the navigation (sun/moon icon). When toggled, switch all colors using CSS custom properties. Save the preference in localStorage so it persists. Default to the user's system preference (prefers-color-scheme). The transition between modes should be smooth (0.3s).

Mobile & Responsive

Complete Mobile Audit

Check every section at 375px width (iPhone SE). Fix: text that's too small (min 16px body), buttons too close together (min 44px tap targets), images that overflow, grids that don't stack properly, padding that looks off, horizontal scrolling. Add a hamburger menu for mobile navigation with a slide-in animation.

Responsive Images

Audit all images on the site. Add width and height attributes to prevent layout shift. Add loading="lazy" to all images below the fold. Make sure hero images use object-fit: cover. Ensure no image is wider than its container on any screen size. Add srcset for images that have multiple sizes available.

Prompt Library: SEO & Launch

Get your site ready for search engines and the public.

Full SEO Setup

Add complete SEO to every HTML page: a unique title tag (under 60 chars), meta description (under 155 chars), Open Graph tags (og:title, og:description, og:image, og:url), Twitter card tags, canonical URL, and proper heading hierarchy (only one h1 per page). Add a robots.txt and sitemap.xml that lists all pages.

Performance Optimization

Optimize this site for speed: move all CSS to a single minified file, defer non-critical JavaScript, add preconnect hints for external fonts, ensure images have explicit dimensions, add a service worker for offline caching, and verify there's no render-blocking resources. Target a Lighthouse score of 95+.

Accessibility Check

Audit this site for accessibility: add alt text to every image, ensure all interactive elements are keyboard-navigable, add aria-labels where needed, check color contrast meets WCAG AA, add skip-to-content link, ensure forms have proper labels, and add focus-visible styles that are visible and clear.

Structured Data

Add JSON-LD structured data to the site. For the homepage: Organization schema with name, url, logo, and sameAs (social links). For blog posts: Article schema with headline, author, datePublished, and description. For a business: LocalBusiness schema with address, phone, hours, and geo coordinates.

Analytics & Tracking Setup

Add Google Analytics 4 to every page. Measurement ID: [YOUR-ID]. Load it asynchronously so it doesn't block rendering. Add event tracking for: CTA button clicks, form submissions, outbound link clicks, and scroll depth (25%, 50%, 75%, 100%). Also add a cookie consent banner that loads GA4 only after consent.

Prompt Library: Advanced Features

Level up your site with interactive features and integrations.

Multi-Step Form

```
Build a multi-step form with [NUMBER] steps. Step 1: [FIELDS]. Step 2: [FIELDS]. Step 3:
[FIELDS]. Show a progress bar at the top. Validate each step before allowing "Next." Show a
summary before the final submit button. Add smooth slide transitions between steps. On submit,
POST to [URL] as JSON.
```

Image Lightbox Gallery

```
Create an image gallery with a lightbox. Grid of thumbnails (3 columns). Clicking a thumbnail
opens a full-screen overlay with the large image, left/right arrows for navigation, keyboard
support (arrow keys, Escape to close), and a counter showing "3 of 12". Swipe support on mobile.
Smooth fade transition.
```

Animated Stats Counter

```
Add a stats section with [3-4] numbers. Each stat should count up from 0 to its final value when
it scrolls into view, using IntersectionObserver. Numbers: [LIST, e.g., "500+ clients", "10
years", "50 projects"]. Add a suffix/prefix to each number. Animation duration: 2 seconds with
easeOutExpo.
```

Sticky Header with Scroll Effect

```
Make the navigation sticky. When the user scrolls past 100px: shrink the header height, add a
subtle backdrop-blur background, reduce the logo size, and add a slim bottom shadow. All
transitions should be smooth (0.3s). On mobile, keep the hamburger menu working with the sticky
header.
```

Newsletter Popup

```
Create a newsletter popup that appears after the user has been on the page for 30 seconds OR
when they move their mouse toward the browser close button (exit intent). Include a headline, 2
benefit bullets, email input, and submit button. Add a "No thanks" close button. Save dismissal
in localStorage so it only shows once per week.
```

Custom 404 Page

Create a 404.html page that matches the site design. Include a large "404" heading, a friendly message like "This page doesn't exist," a search bar, 3 suggested links to popular pages, and a "Go Home" button. Keep it minimal and on-brand. Add it to the sitemap exclusions.

Every Command You Need

The complete terminal reference. Copy and paste.

Git Essentials

Command	What It Does
`git init`	Start tracking this folder with Git
`git status`	See what files changed since last commit
`git add .`	Stage all changed files for commit
`git add [file]`	Stage one specific file
`git commit -m "message"`	Save a snapshot with a description
`git push`	Upload your commits to GitHub
`git pull`	Download latest changes from GitHub
`git log --oneline`	See your commit history (compact)
`git diff`	See exactly what changed (line by line)
`git checkout -- [file]`	Undo changes to a file (revert to last commit)
`git remote -v`	Check which GitHub repo is connected

GitHub Pages

Command / Action	What It Does
`git remote add origin [URL]`	Connect your local folder to a GitHub repo
`git push -u origin main`	Push to GitHub for the first time
Settings → Pages → main → Save	Enable GitHub Pages on the repo
Create `CNAME` file	Set a custom domain (file contains just the domain)
Add 4 A records to DNS	185.199.108.153, .109., .110., .111.
Add CNAME `www` to DNS	Points to [username].github.io

Claude Code

Command	What It Does
`npm install -g @anthropic-ai/claude-code`	Install Claude Code globally
`claude`	Start Claude Code in current folder
`claude --version`	Check installed version
`/clear`	Clear conversation (save tokens)
`/help`	See all available slash commands
`Ctrl+C`	Cancel current generation
`Escape`	Exit Claude Code

Node.js & npm

Command	What It Does
`node --version`	Check Node.js is installed
`npm --version`	Check npm is installed
`npm install -g [package]`	Install a package globally
`npm update -g @anthropic-ai/claude-code`	Update Claude Code to latest
`npx serve`	Quick local server to preview your site

Troubleshooting: 15 Common Errors & Fixes

When something breaks, find the error here.

Site shows 404 on GitHub Pages

Fix: Make sure your main file is called `index.html` (not `home.html` or `Index.HTML`). Check that Pages is set to the `main` branch in Settings → Pages. Wait 2-3 minutes after pushing.

CSS changes not showing up

Fix: Hard refresh: `Cmd+Shift+R` (Mac) or `Ctrl+Shift+R` (Windows). GitHub Pages can cache for up to 10 minutes. Also check you actually committed and pushed: run `git status` to verify.

git push rejected (failed to push)

Fix: Run `git pull --rebase` first, then try `git push` again. This happens when the remote has changes you don't have locally (like editing files on GitHub directly).

Images not loading on GitHub Pages

Fix: Check the file path. GitHub is case-sensitive: `Photo.JPG` is not the same as `photo.jpg`. Use lowercase filenames, no spaces. Make sure the images were committed: `git status` should show no untracked image files.

npm: command not found

Fix: Node.js isn't installed. Download from nodejs.org (LTS version). After installing, close and reopen your terminal, then try again.

claude: command not found

Fix: Run `npm install -g @anthropic-ai/claude-code` to install. If already installed, close and reopen your terminal. On Mac, you might need `sudo npm install -g @anthropic-ai/claude-code`.

Permission denied (publickey) on git push

Fix: You need to authenticate with GitHub. Easiest way: install GitHub CLI (`brew install gh` on Mac) then run `gh auth login`. Or use HTTPS URL instead of SSH when adding remote.

Custom domain not working

Fix: DNS takes up to 48 hours (usually 1-2 hours). Check: CNAME file exists in repo root, 4 A records point to GitHub IPs (185.199.108-111.153), and the domain is set in Settings → Pages. Use `dig yourdomain.com` to verify DNS.

HTTPS not working / "Not Secure" warning

Fix: In your repo Settings → Pages, check "Enforce HTTPS." If it's grayed out, wait for GitHub to provision the certificate (can take up to 24 hours after setting up the custom domain).

Mobile layout broken (horizontal scrolling)

Fix: Usually caused by an element wider than the viewport. Tell Claude: "Find and fix any element that causes horizontal scrolling on mobile. Check for fixed widths, overflowing images, and elements with negative margins."

Form not submitting

Fix: Check the form `action` URL is correct. Check the browser console for errors (F12 → Console). If using JavaScript to handle the form, make sure you're calling `e.preventDefault()` and the fetch URL is right.

Fonts not loading / fallback showing

Fix: Check that the Google Fonts `<link>` tag is in the `<head>` of every HTML file. Add `preconnect` hints: `<link rel="preconnect" href="https://fonts.googleapis.com">`. Check spelling of the font name in your CSS.

Claude Code running slow / timing out

Fix: Break large prompts into smaller ones. Instead of "build me an entire site," do it page by page. Use `/clear` to reset context if the conversation is long. Check your API usage hasn't hit rate limits.

Changes overwritten by Claude

Fix: Always commit before asking Claude to make changes: `git add . && git commit -m "save point"`. If Claude breaks something, revert with `git checkout -- .` to go back to your last commit.

GitHub Pages shows old version

Fix: Check your push actually went through: `git log --oneline -3` should show your latest commit. Then check GitHub Actions tab — Pages builds there and sometimes fails. Hard refresh your browser. Wait 5 minutes.

Full Project Checklist: Zero to Live

Check off each item as you complete it. This is the entire process.

Phase 1: Setup

- [ ] **VS Code** installed and opened
- [ ] **Node.js LTS** installed — `node --version` works
- [ ] **Git** installed — `git --version` works
- [ ] **Claude Code** installed — `claude --version` works
- [ ] **GitHub account** created and signed in

Phase 2: Build

- [ ] Project folder created (`mkdir + cd`)
- [ ] Homepage built with Claude Code
- [ ] Colors, fonts, and branding applied
- [ ] Additional pages created (About, Contact, etc.)
- [ ] Navigation links working between all pages
- [ ] Real images added and compressed (<500KB each)
- [ ] Favicon added (browser tab icon)
- [ ] Contact form functional

Phase 3: Polish

- [ ] Hover effects on all buttons and links
- [ ] Scroll animations added
- [ ] Mobile tested at 375px — no broken layouts
- [ ] All text readable (min 16px body text)
- [ ] Consistent spacing and alignment throughout
- [ ] Footer complete with all contact info and links

Phase 4: SEO & Meta

- [ ] Unique `<title>` tag on every page (under 60 chars)

- [ ] Meta description on every page (under 155 chars)
- [ ] Open Graph tags added (title, description, image)
- [ ] All images have alt text
- [ ] One h1 per page, proper heading hierarchy
- [ ] `robots.txt` created
- [ ] `sitemap.xml` created

Phase 5: Launch

- [ ] GitHub repo created
- [ ] Code pushed to GitHub (`git push`)
- [ ] GitHub Pages enabled (Settings → Pages → main)
- [ ] Site loads at `username.github.io/repo`
- [ ] Custom domain configured (optional)
- [ ] HTTPS enforced
- [ ] Google Analytics added
- [ ] Site submitted to Google Search Console
- [ ] PageSpeed Insights score 90+ on mobile
- [ ] Shared with a friend for final feedback

Resources & Tools

Every tool and link mentioned in the course, in one place.

Essential (Free)

VS Code
Code editor for viewing and managing your files
code.visualstudio.com

Node.js
Required to run Claude Code (download LTS)
nodejs.org

Git
Version control and deployment to GitHub
git-scm.com

GitHub
Free hosting for your website via GitHub Pages
github.com

Images & Design

Unsplash & Pexels
Free, high-quality stock photos (no attribution needed)
unsplash.com · pexels.com

TinyPNG & Squoosh
Compress images before adding to your site
tinypng.com · squoosh.app

Favicon.io
Generate a favicon from text, image, or emoji
favicon.io

Google Fonts
Free web fonts (Inter, Playfair Display, etc.)
fonts.google.com

Testing & SEO

PageSpeed Insights

Test your site's speed and get fix recommendations

pagespeed.web.dev

Google Search Console

Submit your site to Google, monitor search performance

search.google.com/search-console

Google Analytics 4

Track visitors, page views, and conversions

analytics.google.com

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