

A BYKOV-BRETT ENTERPRISES GUIDE

---

# Claude Code for Non-Coders

Your first session in the terminal, step by step. From install to your first real result, without writing a line of code.

*Turn Intent Into Impact.*



# An agent that does the work.

Most AI tools answer questions. Claude Code is different. You describe the outcome you want in plain English, and it carries out the work across your real files, then shows you exactly what it did.

## Not a chatbot

A chatbot gives you words to copy and paste. This works directly on your files.

## Not a no-code builder

No drag-and-drop canvas. You type what you want in plain English.

## It is a doer

It plans, acts, and keeps a record of every change it makes.

# First, open a terminal.

A terminal is just a window where you type instructions instead of clicking buttons. It comes free with your computer. Here is how to open one.

## On a Mac

Open the Terminal app. Press Cmd and Space, type Terminal, and hit enter.

## On Windows

Open PowerShell from the Start menu. Just type PowerShell and open it.

## Inside VS Code

Prefer an editor window? Claude Code also runs inside VS Code and JetBrains, using the terminal built in.

*You do not need to learn terminal commands. You only need to open it once, then talk to Claude Code in plain English.*

# Paste one line into your terminal.

```
# Mac or Linux
$ curl -fsSL https://claude.ai/install.sh | bash

# Windows PowerShell
$ irm https://claude.ai/install.ps1 | iex

Installed. Now type  claude  to start.
```

## You will need a plan

Claude Code needs a Claude Pro or Max plan to log in. The free plan does not include it. The install itself needs nothing else, no coding tools to set up first.

# Open your folder, then talk to it.

```
$ cd my-business
```

```
$ claude
```

```
Opening your browser to log in...
```

```
Claude Code ready.
```

```
> Clean up this spreadsheet, remove the duplicates, sort by  
date
```

## Talk like a colleague

The first time you run claude it opens your browser to log in. After that, just describe what you want in plain English. The clearer you are, the better the result.

# It shows a plan, then asks permission.

> Clean up this spreadsheet, remove duplicates, sort by date

Plan: remove 42 duplicate rows, then sort by date.

Allow edit to sales.csv ?

> 1. Yes

2. Yes, and don't ask again

3. No, tell Claude what to do differently

## This is your seatbelt

Read what it plans before you approve. Press Shift+Tab to change how much it checks with you. Never turn off all the checks at once. That is how people wipe their own files.

# Review, undo, and move on cleanly.

## IF IT GOES WRONG

### Rewind it.

Press Escape twice to jump back to an earlier save point. One honest caveat: it can undo its own file edits, but not a file removed by a system command, so do not run delete commands you do not understand.

## BETWEEN JOBS

### Clear and plan.

Type `/clear` when you switch to a new task so it stays sharp. Your usage is shared across Claude Code, Claude.ai and Cowork on a rolling window, so plan the bigger jobs rather than burning it on trial and error.

# Three safe things to build this week.

All on your side of the line. Useful, real, and not one of them puts a customer at risk.

## 01

### Daily ops briefing

Point it at your sources and have it email you a short digest each morning. Set it up once and it runs on its own.

## 02

### Lead tracker

Hand it the spreadsheet you already keep. It cleans it, removes duplicates, and turns it into a tracker you can read and update.

## 03

### Internal dashboard

A single page that pulls your numbers from a CSV and shows them at a glance. For your eyes, on your screen, no customers involved.

# One line decides almost everything: who has to live with it if it breaks.

## Green line: build freely

Internal tools only you use. If it breaks, you are the only one inconvenienced. So build, experiment, and learn.

## Red line: stop and get help

Customer data, payments, logins, anything public. If it breaks, someone else pays. This is where you bring in a developer.

*You do not need to become a developer. You need to know which side of the line you are standing on.*

## WHERE THIS FITS

---

# We do not use AI the same way.

Everyone will teach you how to start. Almost nobody teaches you what to build, what to never touch, and how not to break it. That judgement is the whole game. Start on the green side this week, and bring us in when you reach the red line.

[Work with us](#)[Read more](#)

[bykovbrett.net](https://bykovbrett.net)

*Turn Intent Into Impact.*

