

Vibe Coding Cheat Sheet

Your quick reference for building apps with AI — no coding experience required

What is Vibe Coding?

Vibe coding is building software by describing what you want in plain language. Instead of writing code line-by-line, you have a conversation with AI and it builds the app for you.

"You fully give in to the vibes, embrace exponentials, and forget that the code even exists." — Andrej Karpathy

The Vibe Coding Workflow

- **1. Describe your idea** — Tell the AI what you want to build in plain English
- **2. Review what it builds** — Look at the live preview, not the code
- **3. Iterate with feedback** — Say what to change, add, or fix
- **4. Refine & publish** — Polish the design and share with the world

Writing Great Prompts

Your prompt is your superpower. The better you describe what you want, the better the result.

The Anatomy of a Good Prompt

Element	Example
What it is	"Build a personal portfolio website"
Who it's for	"for a sociology student showcasing research"
Key features	"with a bio section, project gallery, and contact form"
Style/vibe	"clean, warm, and professional — earthy tones"

Pro Tips

- Be specific: "Add a blue button" → "Add a rounded button with a terracotta background in the top-right corner"
- One change at a time — don't ask for 10 things in one prompt
- Reference what you see: "Move the title above the image" instead of describing layout from scratch
- Use comparisons: "Make it look like Apple's website" or "Give it a New York Times editorial feel"
- If something breaks, say "undo that last change" or "go back to how it was before"

Starter Prompts to Try

Portfolio Site

"Build a personal portfolio for a sociology student with a hero section, an about me area, a grid of research projects with images, and a contact form. Use warm earthy colors."

Event Page

"Create an event landing page for a campus workshop. Include the date, time, location, a countdown timer, speaker bios, and a registration button. Make it modern and clean."

Survey Tool

"Build a simple survey app where users answer 5 multiple-choice questions and see their results at the end. Make it mobile-friendly with a progress bar."

Community Board

"Create a community bulletin board where people can post announcements with a title, description, and category tag. Add a search bar to filter posts."

When Things Go Wrong

- **App looks broken?** → Say: "Something looks off. Can you fix the layout?"
- **Wrong colors/style?** → Say: "Change the color palette to warm earth tones with sage green accents"
- **Missing a feature?** → Say: "Add a contact form below the about section"
- **Too complex?** → Say: "Simplify this — remove everything except the hero and gallery"
- **Total restart?** → Start a new project with a clearer initial prompt

Key Vocabulary

Term	What It Means
Prompt	The instruction you give the AI to build something
Iterate	Making changes step by step through conversation
Component	A reusable piece of your app (button, card, form)
Deploy / Publish	Making your app live on the internet for anyone to visit
Responsive	Design that works on both phones and computers
UI / UX	User Interface (what it looks like) / User Experience (how it feels)