For complete beginners

AI Basics Glossary

One term per slide, no prior knowledge needed.
The original 20 terms + 11 added by Claude = 31, plus an appendix of next-step terms.

AI basics **PC & files** **GitHub & development** **Using & connecting AI**

The original 20 terms and the appendix terms come from a post by @studio_yebisu (in Japanese). The explanations were written by Claude (AI). If you spot a mistake, please let me know: ikasumiworks.com / X @ikasumi_works

How to read this glossary

One term per slide, always in 4 parts

In short

What the word means, in 1 or 2 lines with no jargon

Think of it as

A picture of it using everyday things

Where you'll see it

A moment when the word comes up while using AI

Watch out

Common mistakes, and rules to follow

Terms marked **+ added** next to the heading are ones Claude added to the original 20.

Chapter 1

AI basics

How AI thinks, and where it goes wrong

LLM · Prompt · Context · Token · Hallucination · AI agent

+ Generative AI · Model · Multimodal

AI basics 1

LLM large language model

The engine behind AI that writes. It read huge amounts of text and learned to guess the next word.

Think of it as

Someone who has read every book in the world and is great at guessing how a sentence goes on.

Where you'll see it

Claude, ChatGPT, and Gemini are all LLMs. When you ask a question in chat, an LLM writes the answer.

Watch out: It doesn't really "know" things. It writes what sounds right, so it can be wrong (see Hallucination).

AI basics 2

Prompt the request

The message you send to AI: what you want, the materials, and the conditions.

Think of it as

A delivery order. The more you say what, how many, and by when, the closer you get to what you wanted.

Where you'll see it

Your request when AI builds an app. Saying what to build, what not to change, and how to check it makes a big difference.

Watch out: If it's vague, AI fills the gaps with guesses. Write the goal, the conditions, and what the result should look like.

AI basics 3

Context what AI can see

Everything AI can see right now: the chat so far, files you gave it, instructions, and more.

Think of it as

Papers spread out on a desk. AI knows nothing about what isn't on the desk.

Where you'll see it

To pick up where you left off, have AI read your notes from last time first. It saves time.

Watch out: The desk has a size limit (the context window). In long chats, older parts get summarized, or small details are forgotten.

AI basics 4

Token a piece of text

The unit AI uses to count text. Words are cut into small pieces, and each piece is a token.

Think of it as

A taxi meter. It keeps running as AI reads and writes.

Where you'll see it

Claude's usage limits and API prices are counted in tokens. Giving AI a whole large file uses a lot.

Watch out: Non-English text, like Japanese, often takes more tokens. Giving AI only what it needs saves tokens.

AI basics 5

Hallucination making things up

When AI says something untrue in a way that sounds believable.

Think of it as

A well-meaning know-it-all. Even when it doesn't know, it makes up an answer that sounds right.

Where you'll see it

A common case: you ask for a summary of terms of use, and it lists a "rule" that isn't in the original.

Watch out: Check numbers, rules, and names against the original or a source. Asking for sources makes checking easier.

AI basics 6

AI agent

AI that does the work

AI that, given a goal, plans its own steps and uses tools to get the work done.

Think of it as

An assistant you can say "please handle this" to. It looks things up, writes, and runs things on its own.

Where you'll see it

Ask it to "build this feature," and it reads files, writes code, and even runs tests (Claude Code, Codex, etc.).

Watch out: Because it acts on its own, a person should check before big steps like sending, deleting, or paying.

AI basics + added

Generative AI

gen AI for short

AI that creates new text, images, audio, video, and more.

Think of it as

A craftsperson who writes or draws on the spot to match your order.

Where you'll see it

AI that writes text or code, AI that draws, AI that makes music. An LLM is one kind of generative AI.

Watch out: Check that what it makes isn't too close to someone else's work or trademark, especially for things you sell.

AI basics + added

Model

the AI's brain

The "brain" of the AI. One company may offer several, with different sizes and strengths.

Think of it as

Car models. From a small, nimble city car to a big, powerful truck.

Where you'll see it

With Claude, you can pick Opus (strongest thinking), Sonnet (in between), or Haiku (fast and light).

Watch out: Bigger models are smarter but take more time and cost more (they use up your limits faster). Choose based on how hard the task is.

AI basics + added

Multimodal

more than just text

Able to read (or make) not just text, but also images, audio, and more.

Think of it as

Like giving eyes and ears to someone who could only read text.

Where you'll see it

Paste a screenshot, and AI can read it, explain it, or draft a reply.

Watch out: Tiny text or blurry images can be misread. Give important numbers as text too.

Chapter 2

PC & files

Words for telling AI which file to use, and how to read it

File path · File extension · Markdown · JSON · Terminal (CLI)
+ Local and cloud

PC & files 7

File path

where a file lives

A file's address. It lists the folders it sits in, in order, then the file name.

Think of it as

A postal address like "country, city, street, number." It narrows down from big to small.

Where you'll see it

Written like C:\Users\name\Documents\memo.md. Windows uses \ to separate parts. Mac and the web use /.

Watch out: One wrong character and it can't be found. If a path has spaces in it, wrap it in " ".

PC & files 8

File extension

the part after the dot

The end of a file name, after the last ".". It shows what kind of content is inside.

Think of it as

Color labels on book spines. One look tells you "novel" or "picture book."

Where you'll see it

.md (notes), .json (data), .html (web page), .js (program), .png (image), .exe (app).

Watch out: Renaming the extension doesn't change what's inside. Windows hides extensions at first, so it helps to turn them on.

PC & files 9

Markdown

simple text formatting / .md

A way of writing where a few symbols give you headings and bullet lists.

Think of it as

A word processor made of plain text. Add # for a heading, and - for a bullet point.

Where you'll see it

Markdown is a good choice for notes and instructions you give AI. It's the easiest format for AI to read and write.

Watch out: It looks different in each app. In Notepad you see the symbols as typed (nothing is broken).

PC & files 10

JSON

JavaScript Object Notation / .json

A way to write data in a fixed "name: value" format. Easy for programs to read.

Think of it as

A form with the labels already printed. You fill in the "Name:" and "Price:" boxes.

Where you'll see it

App settings files (like a Chrome extension's manifest.json), and data sent between services.

Watch out: One missing comma or bracket and none of it can be read. If you edit by hand, ask AI to check the format.

PC & files 11

Terminal (CLI) command line

A screen where you type text commands, not click buttons, to operate your PC.

Think of it as

Ordering at a counter by saying what you want, instead of pointing at menu photos.

Where you'll see it

Claude Code and Codex run in a terminal. Windows PowerShell is one kind of terminal.

Watch out: Delete commands may skip the Recycle Bin. Ask before you run a command you don't understand.

PC & files + added

Local and cloud

your PC / online servers

Local means inside your own PC. Cloud means computers out on the internet.

Think of it as

A bookshelf at home vs. a rented storage unit. You can reach the unit from anywhere.

Where you'll see it

Claude Code runs on your PC (local), but the AI model it talks to runs in the cloud. So does a chat AI in your browser.

Watch out: "Processed only on your PC" means local. Anything you upload to the cloud follows that service's rules.

Chapter 3

GitHub & development

Words for saving, storing, and sharing what you make

GitHub · Repository · README · OSS · Git

+ Commit · Branch · Push and pull · License · Package · Deploy

GitHub

an online home for Git projects

A service that stores and shares your Git projects online.

Think of it as

A safe-deposit box for your work. It can be your own shelf (private) or a library anyone can visit (public).

Where you'll see it

You can keep your app's code private. If you make it public, it can become OSS.

Watch out: Git is the tool that records. GitHub is the place to keep it. Anyone can see what you make public.

Repository

repo for short

A container for one project. It holds the files and their full change history.

Think of it as

A file box for each project. It holds the contents and a record of every rewrite.

Where you'll see it

Usually you make one per app or website. You can name it anything.

Watch out: Copying one from GitHub to your PC is called "cloning." Never put passwords or key files in it.

README

"read me first"

The guide you read first in a repository. It says what it does, how to use it, and the rules.

Think of it as

Page one of an appliance manual: "Please read this first"

Where you'll see it

Written as README.md (Markdown). You can also note work rules, like how to publish.

Watch out: GitHub shows the README first when you open a repository. If the repository is public, make sure this page explains what it is.

OSS

open-source software

Software whose blueprint (source code) is public. Anyone can use or change it, within the rules.

Think of it as

A dish with a published recipe. You can copy it or make your own version.

Where you'll see it

Many everyday tools are OSS: OBS for streaming, FFmpeg for video, VS Code for writing code.

Watch out: Free still has conditions. Before you put it in something you sell, check the license (see License).

GitHub & development 16

Git version control

A tool that records the history of file changes. You can go back to an earlier state anytime.

Think of it as

Save points in a game. If you fail, you can restart from an earlier save.

Where you'll see it

When AI writes your code, each step leaves a record. If something breaks, go back to an earlier one.

Watch out: Git runs on your own PC. To put work online, send it to GitHub or similar (see Push and pull).

GitHub & development + added

Commit a saved snapshot

In Git, recording a set of changes together. One save.

Think of it as

Writing "fixed this today" in your diary and closing the page.

Where you'll see it

Each gets an ID like "a1b2c3d", plus a short note on what changed (the commit message).

Watch out: After a commit, the work is still only on your PC. It has not reached GitHub yet.

GitHub & development + added

Branch a side path for your work

A side path to try things without breaking the main line. If it works, join it back in.

Think of it as

A draft notebook kept apart from your clean copy. Copy over what turns out well.

Where you'll see it

Build a new feature on its own branch, check it, then add it to the main line (main).

Watch out: Joining it back into the main line is called "merging." Always check which branch you are on.

GitHub & development + added

Push and pull send / fetch

Push sends the records on your PC to GitHub. Pull brings new records from GitHub to your PC.

Think of it as

Push is mailing a letter. Pull is taking mail from your mailbox.

Where you'll see it

If the AI says "not pushed," your work has not been sent to GitHub yet.

Watch out: If you don't push, a broken PC means lost work. Anything pushed to a public repository is visible right away.

GitHub & development + added

License

the terms of use

The rules for who may use what you made, and how.

Think of it as

The conditions for lending something out. For example: "Use it freely, but keep my name on it"

Where you'll see it

There are many kinds, like MIT (mostly free if you keep the credit) and GPL (share under the same terms).

Watch out: Some, like AGPL, require you to publish your own code too. Always check before using one in something you sell.

GitHub & development + added

Package

also called a library

A useful program part that someone else made and shared.

Think of it as

A store-bought sauce mix. You get the same taste without cooking from scratch.

Where you'll see it

JavaScript uses a tool called npm, Python uses pip. AI often installs what you need.

Watch out: Some fakes use look-alike names and hide harmful code. Before installing one you don't know, check its author and download count.

GitHub & development + added

Deploy go live

Putting what you made in its real home so everyone can use it.

Think of it as

Finishing a new dish in the kitchen and adding it to the menu.

Where you'll see it

Uploading your website to Cloudflare or Vercel so it opens at a URL.

Watch out: You may still see the old version (your browser remembers it). After deploying, check the version number on the live page.

Chapter 4

Using & connecting AI

Words for connecting AI to other services and tools, and staying safe

API · API key · MCP · Skills

+ Prompt injection

API application programming interface

A fixed counter and a set way of asking, so programs can talk to each other.

Think of it as

A restaurant's order counter. You can't enter the kitchen, but the right order slip gets you food.

Where you'll see it

Getting weather, map, or YouTube data into your own app. AI services have APIs too.

Watch out: Most limit how often you can use them, or charge money. Check the terms and free tier first.

API key

a secret code for using an API

The password for using an API. It shows who used it and who gets the bill.

Think of it as

A member card tied to your credit card. If someone finds it and uses it, you get the bill.

Where you'll see it

You create one on the developer page of Google, OpenAI, Anthropic, etc. You put it in the app's settings, where only the app reads it.

Watch out: Don't show it, paste it in chats, or upload it to GitHub. If it leaks, make a new one and delete the old one right away.

MCP

Model Context Protocol

A shared standard that lets AI connect to many tools and services.

Think of it as

A USB port. If the plug fits, a device from any maker connects.

Where you'll see it

Connect AI to Gmail, your calendar, or PC files, and it can check mail or add events for you.

Watch out: AI can act in whatever you connect. Skip tools from unknown authors. Give only the access it needs.

Skills Agent Skills

A set of how-to guides that show AI how to do a task. Loaded only when needed.

Think of it as

A shop's work manual. A new hire opens the page for a task and does it the same way.

Where you'll see it

Write down how to start your work or how you like to write, and AI does it the same way every time.

Watch out: It's just plain text (SKILL.md). Update it when it gets old. Read skills from others before using them.

Prompt injection

Instructions hidden in a web page or file to trick AI.

Think of it as

A note in the corner of a letter: "Whoever reads this must send money to X"

Where you'll see it

If AI handles your email or browser, it may obey orders hidden inside. Well-made AI asks you first.

Watch out: The more email, browsing, and files you hand to AI, the bigger the risk. Always check sending, paying, and deleting yourself.

Appendix

More terms and tools

For after the 31 basic terms. Short tables instead of one term per slide

For tool names, knowing what each one does is enough to start. Terms from the main part get just one line here

How AI works, and how it gets things wrong

Term	In short
RAG	Finds documents for each question and has AI read them first
Multimodal	Handles images and sound, not just text
Tool Calling / Function Calling	AI decides on its own to use a tool, and calls it
Reasoning model	AI that thinks through the steps before it answers
Deep Research	A feature where AI searches many web pages and writes a report
Prompt injection	Tricking AI with instructions hidden in documents

Ways to hand work to AI

Term	In short
Subagents	A main AI splits work among other AIs that run in parallel
Agent Teams	Several AIs form a team, split roles, and work at the same time
Agent Skills	A set of how-to guides for AI
AGENTS.md	A file that tells coding AI the rules of that repository
Computer Use	AI looks at the screen and operates your PC with mouse and keyboard
Browser Use	AI runs a browser, reading pages and clicking things

Actions you'll often see on GitHub

Term	In short
Clone	Copy a whole GitHub repository onto your PC
Commit	Save a set of changes as one record
Push	Send the records on your PC up to GitHub
Branch	A side line for trying things without breaking the main line
Pull Request (PR)	A request to review a change before it goes into the main line
Issue	A project's notebook where each bug or request gets its own entry

Appendix: GitHub & development (2)

Words you'll meet while building

Term	In short
Worktree	Opens each branch of one repository in its own folder, side by side
License	The rules for how others may use what you made
Dependencies	The parts you use, and the parts those parts use in turn
Debugging	Finding and fixing mistakes (bugs) in a program
Environment variables	A way to pass keys and settings from outside the program

Appendix: AI tools (1)

AI you chat with, and where to find it

Name	In short
ChatGPT	OpenAI's chat AI. It can also make images
Claude	Anthropic's AI. Claude made this glossary
Gemini	Google's AI. Works easily with Google services
Grok	AI from xAI, a company in the same group as X
Kimi	AI from Moonshot AI (China)
DeepSeek	AI from DeepSeek (China). Some models are openly released
Qwen	AI from Alibaba (China). Many models are openly released
Google AI Studio	Google's place to try Gemini and make API keys
Hugging Face	Like GitHub for AI. Openly released AI models and datasets are shared here

Tools for AI that writes code

Name	In short
Claude Code	Anthropic's AI that writes and runs code. Works in the terminal
Codex	OpenAI's AI that writes and runs code. Similar to Claude Code
Cursor	A code-writing app (editor) with AI built in
Antigravity	Google's code-writing app built around AI agents
OpenCode	An open-source coding AI that runs in the terminal
Gemini CLI	Google's Gemini, running in the terminal
GitHub Copilot	GitHub's AI that helps you write code
Cline	A coding AI extension that runs inside VS Code
Ollama	A tool to run openly released AI models on your own PC

AI that makes images and music

Name	In short
GPT Image	OpenAI's image AI (the images in ChatGPT)
FLUX	Image AI from Black Forest Labs. Has an open version too
Nano Banana	Nickname for Google's AI that makes and edits images (in Gemini)
Midjourney	A paid image service, good at moody, artistic pictures
ComfyUI	A tool to build image-making steps by linking blocks with lines
Suno	Write lyrics or a mood, and it makes a song with vocals
Udio	Like Suno, an AI that makes songs

AI that makes video, and editing tools

Name	In short
Veo	Google's AI that makes videos
Sora	OpenAI's AI that makes videos
Kling	AI from Kuaishou (China) that makes videos
Runway	A service with AI tools to make and edit videos
Wan	Alibaba's openly released AI that makes videos
Blender	A free app for 3D modeling and animation (not AI)
DaVinci Resolve	A video editing app with a free version (not AI)
Remotion	A tool to build videos with code (JavaScript)
FFmpeg	A terminal tool to convert and cut video and audio

Tools to build, host, and run things

Name	In short
VS Code	A free code-writing app. Add features with extensions
GitHub Desktop	An app to use Git and GitHub with buttons
Figma	A tool to design screens and icons
Framer	Build and publish a website the way you make a design
Vercel	A place to host and publish websites you made
Cloudflare	A service to host websites and deliver them fast and safely
Supabase	A service that lends you a database and login system
Firebase	Google's service that lends you a database and login
Docker	Packs an app with all it needs to run, so it works anywhere
Google Colab	Google's place to run Python in your browser

Appendix: Web & automation terms (1)

Words for writing programs

Term	In short
HTML	The language for a web page's content and structure
CSS	The language for a web page's look (color, size, layout)
JavaScript	The language that makes web pages and extensions work
TypeScript	JavaScript plus "type" rules, to cut down on mistakes
Python	An easy-to-read language, often used for AI and data
API	A counter where two pieces of software talk to each other

Appendix: Web & automation terms (2)

Connect, store, and run on autopilot

Term	In short
Webhook	When something happens, the other side sends you a notice
OAuth	Lets you "Sign in with Google" without handing over your password
Database	A storeroom that keeps lots of data organized
SQL	A language to ask a database for the items that match
Deploy	Putting what you made out for real use
CI/CD	Runs tests and publishing automatically on every change
Local / Cloud	Your own PC, and computers out on the internet

Appendix 2

Words added later

November 2026. Words that came up while using AI, and in the news

Making things AI-readable · Previz · Blockout
Security news Vulnerability · Zero-day · CVE · CVSS · Patch
Claude models Haiku · Sonnet · Opus · Mythos · Fable · Switching models

AI-readable

easy for AI to read

Text written so AI can read it correctly. It makes sense on its own, and facts are kept apart from decisions.

Think of it as

A handover note. Even if the last person is gone, you can pick up the work by reading it.

Where you'll see it

Briefs and specs you hand to AI. Text that holds the whole story in one piece, like a good email, is easy for AI to read.

Watch out: AI doesn't know what “that thing we talked about” means. Write the actual name or location.

Previz previsualization

A rough draft video made before the real one, to decide camera positions, framing, and movement.

Think of it as

A model of a house before it's built. No furniture, but you can see the room sizes and the light.

Where you'll see it

Before shooting a film or an ad. Also used as a layout draft when making video with AI.

Watch out: It's a draft, so it looks rough. Hand it to AI as is, and the roughness may get copied too.

Blockout stand-in shapes

In a previz or a game level, the stand-in shapes: buildings and ground placed as plain boxes and boards.

Think of it as

Marking where the furniture goes with tape on the floor before you move in.

Where you'll see it

Building game levels, and the first stage of a previz.

Watch out: Colors and shapes are placeholders. Say “these are stand-ins” before you show it to anyone.

Vulnerability

a weak spot in software

A weak spot in software. If abused, someone may run their own program on your PC or see what's inside.

Think of it as

A window in your house with a broken lock. A burglar who notices can get in.

Where you'll see it

News like “Chrome fixes a serious vulnerability.”

Watch out: Finding it doesn't fix it. The weak spot stays until you install the update.

Zero-day

zero-day vulnerability

A weak spot found before the maker has fixed it. Sometimes it's already being abused.

Think of it as

The burglar noticed the broken window before the people who live there did.

Where you'll see it

Headlines like “Zero-day exploited in the wild.”

Watch out: Until a fix is out, even antivirus software may not stop it. When the update comes, don't put it off.

CVE

Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures

A worldwide ID number given to each weak spot that's found.

Think of it as

A car recall number. The number tells you which defect people are talking about.

Where you'll see it

Written in news and update notices, like “CVE-2026-108186.”

Watch out: The number alone doesn't tell you if it affects you. Check which product and which version.

CVSS

Common Vulnerability Scoring System

A 0–10 score for how serious a weak spot is. 9.0 or higher is “Critical.”

Think of it as

Typhoon strength categories. The higher the number, the faster you prepare.

Where you'll see it

Written in news and vendor notices, like “CVSS 9.6.”

Watch out: Even with a low score, fix it fast if it's already being abused (a zero-day).

Patch update

An update that fixes weak spots or mistakes in software. People say they “apply a patch.”

Think of it as

A patch sewn over a tear in your clothes.

Where you'll see it

Chrome's “Relaunch” button, Windows Update, app updates.

Watch out: Some updates don't take effect just by installing. With Chrome, relaunch Chrome afterward.

Haiku

Claude model

The fast, light one among Claude's models.

Think of it as

A small, nimble city car.

Where you'll see it

Rewording short text, or sorting lots of text quickly.

Watch out: For tangled decisions or long tasks, a higher model is a better fit.

Sonnet

Claude model

The middle one among Claude's models, with a good balance of speed and thinking.

Think of it as

A regular car. From daily shopping to road trips, it's usually enough.

Where you'll see it

Everyday writing drafts and looking things up.

Watch out: For hard calls or long-running work, switching to a higher model can be better.

Opus

Claude model

The one among Claude's models that is strongest at thinking.

Think of it as

A powerful big truck. It carries heavy loads, but burns a lot of fuel.

Where you'll see it

Hard decisions and long-running tasks.

Watch out: It uses up your limit fast. Don't use Opus for easy tasks too.

Mythos

the tier above Opus

The name of the tier above Opus among Claude's models.

Think of it as

A new model that isn't in regular stores yet, used only in a few places.

Where you'll see it

The first one, Claude Mythos Preview, is used only by a small number of organizations.

Watch out: Names and who can use what may change. Check Anthropic's official pages for the latest.

Fable

Claude model

The same model as Mythos, with extra safety measures added for biology and cybersecurity.

Think of it as

The same engine, with safety gear added so it can be sold to everyone.

Where you'll see it

You pick it as the model in the Claude apps or Claude Code.

Watch out: It's pronounced like the English word “fable” (FAY-bul).

Switching models

Changing which AI model you use in the middle of a conversation.

Think of it as

Shifting gears before a steep hill.

Where you'll see it

/model in Claude Code, or the model picker in the chat.

Watch out: Higher models use up your limit faster. Don't leave it on the top one.

Closing

You don't have to learn it all at once

1. Learn as you go

Tokens, MCP, Skills, and commits show up as soon as you build with AI. Look back here when they do.

2. Ask right away

When a word is new, ask AI: "Explain it with the task I'm doing now." An example makes it stick.

3. Safety terms first

Hallucination, API keys, and prompt injection. Not knowing these can cost you.