

HOW AI AGENTS *actually* WORK

A chat writes the first draft. Everything after that is second opinions from things that didn't write the code.

THE ONE RULE FOR WHEN TO SEND AN AGENT

Send an agent when the *reading* is bigger than the *answer*.

FOUR WORDS WORTH KEEPING STRAIGHT

COMMAND

A shortcut you type.

Typing /build skips a paragraph of instructions I'd otherwise retype every time.

SKILL

Rules that load into the chat you're in.

Same chat, now carrying your instructions for one kind of job. I never explain my report format twice.

AGENT

A second chat you can't see.

Its own memory. It does one job and comes back with one answer. Everything it read stays with it, so your chat never fills up with the 40 files it went through.

this is the one to learn first

WORKFLOW

A script that runs agents in an order you set.

You decide what happens first and what waits. The AI doesn't get to improvise it.

THE 6 STEPS, AND WHO RUNS EACH ONE

1

PLAN architect

Read the plan before anything gets built. Saying "no, not like that" costs 30 seconds. Finding out after the build costs an hour.

2

BUILD developer

The step people mean when they say vibe coding. It is **one of six**.

3

CHECK TWICE review:simplify+e2e review:adversarial

One looks for what's broken, the other for what's repeated. A third joins on frontend work to screenshot every screen.

4

SORT THE RESULTS arbiter

Checkers over-report. A separate agent takes each complaint and tries to prove it wrong.

5

FIX NARROWLY fixer

Name the exact problems and nothing else. Left alone, a fixer rewrites the whole app while it's in there.

6

CONFIRM verifier

Something that didn't do the fixing has to say it worked. Nothing counts as done until then.

WHY ANY OF THIS WORKS

The one that wrote the code already decided. Everything after that is a defense. You need a second one that didn't write it.