Claude Code — Every Question Answered (Complete FAQ 2026)

Edition of November 13, 2026 — facts verified November 13, 2026. Current edition always at https://tygartmedia.com/claude-code-faq-complete-2026/.

Direct Answer (November 13, 2026): Claude Code is included in **Pro ($20/mo or $17 annual)**, **Max ($100/mo, 5× Pro + $100 API credits)**, **Ultra ($200/mo, formerly Max 20x — 10× Pro weekly, no 5-hour limit for verified accounts + $200 API credits)**, **Team Standard ($20/$25/seat) & Team Premium ($100/$125/seat, 5× Standard)**, and **Enterprise ($20/seat/mo annual, 20-seat min + API usage)**, or via direct pay-as-you-go API keys (claude.com/pricing).

Last refreshed: November 13, 2026 · Sources: claude.com/pricing, API pricing & Ultra plan docs.

Tygart Media · Claude Code Reference

Updated November 13, 2026 · Verified against Anthropic docs

No preamble. If you're here, you're trying to install Claude Code, figure out pricing, or understand what changed. Here are the actual answers.

This page covers installation, pricing by plan, what's new in 2026, and the questions that don't have clean homes in Anthropic's documentation. Updates as Claude Code ships new versions — currently tracking weekly releases.

Pricing Questions

Pricing questions.

How much does Claude Code cost?

Claude Code has no separate subscription fee. Access is included in these Claude plans:

Plan	Monthly Cost	Claude Code	Rate Limits
Free	$0	■ Not included	—
Pro	$20/mo ($17 annual)	■ Included	≥5× Free per 5h + weekly cap ($0 API credits)
Max	$100/mo	■ Included	5× Pro (5h & weekly) + $100/mo API credits + 50% Fable weekly
Ultra *(formerly Max 20×)*	$200/mo	■ Included	10× Pro weekly, no 5h limit (verified) + $200/mo API credits
Team Standard	$20 annual / $25 monthly	■ Included	2–150 seats; up to $500/mo pooled API credits
Team Premium	$100 annual / $125 monthly	■ Included	5× Standard seat usage + Fable up to 50% weekly
Enterprise	$20/seat/mo annual + usage	■ Included	20-seat minimum + org controls & API usage billing

Interactive Claude Code sessions use your seat plan allowance directly; separate API keys or overflowing usage credits bill at standard token rates (API pricing).

Is there a Claude Code student discount or Amazon Prime bundle?

No. As of May 2026, there is no Claude Code-specific student discount and no Amazon Prime Student bundle that includes Claude Code. Pro at $20/month is the cheapest plan that includes Claude Code access. See the full student discount guide for what legitimate options exist for reducing cost.

How do Claude Code rate limits and plan multipliers work right now?

November 13, 2026 Rules

All subscriptions draw from a shared 5-hour rolling session pool plus a weekly cap (except verified Ultra accounts, which have no 5-hour session cap).

Anthropic's published tiers compare cleanly on claude.com/pricing: **Pro** provides at least 5× Free 5-hour usage, **Max ($100)** provides 5× Pro, **Ultra ($200)** provides 10× Pro weekly usage with no 5-hour cap for verified accounts, and **Team Premium** provides 5× Team Standard seat usage. When you hit a limit, turn on pay-as-you-go usage credits or check Settings → Usage.

Installation Questions

Installation questions.

What are the system requirements for Claude Code?

- **Node.js 18+** required (Node.js 20+ recommended)
- **macOS, Linux, or Windows** (Windows support GA as of April 2026 — PowerShell is now the default shell, Git Bash no longer required)
- **Active Anthropic account** on a plan that includes Claude Code (Pro, Max, Ultra, Team Standard or Premium, or Enterprise)

How do I install Claude Code?

One command:

```
npm install -g @anthropic-ai/claude-code
```

Then authenticate:

```
claude
```

Full installation walkthrough with troubleshooting: How to Install Claude Code

How do I update Claude Code to the latest version?

```
npm update -g @anthropic-ai/claude-code
```

Current version as of May 9, 2026: **v2.1.133** (released May 7, 23:49 UTC). Check your version with `claude --version`.

What's in the latest Claude Code release?

v2.1.133 (May 7, 2026) key changes:

- **Subagent skill discovery fix** — subagents now correctly find project, user, and plugin skills via the Skill tool. Previously a silent failure that broke multi-agent pipelines without obvious error.
- `worktree.baseRef` setting (`fresh` | `head`) — controls whether EnterWorktree branches from `origin/<default>` or local HEAD. Default is `fresh` — this changes prior behavior if you relied on EnterWorktree inheriting unpushed commits.
- Hooks now receive active effort level via `effort.level` JSON field and `$CLAUDE_EFFORT` env var
- Memory improvement: warm-spare background workers release under memory pressure
- Fixed parallel sessions hitting 401 from a refresh-token race

Full release notes: github.com/anthropics/claude-code/releases

Model Questions

Model questions.

Which Claude model does Claude Code use?

Claude Code defaults to Anthropic's current Sonnet/Opus coding models and lets you switch tiers via `/model`. Current model strings verified November 13, 2026 (models overview — all 1M context / 128K max output):

- `claude-fable-5-2` — current flagship ($8/$40 per MTok; legacy Fable 5.1 is $10/$50)
- `claude-opus-5-5` — current Opus daily driver ($4/$20 per MTok)
- `claude-sonnet-5-5` — fast everyday workhorse ($2/$10 per MTok)
- `claude-haiku-5-5` — fastest, lowest cost ($0.10/$0.50 ≤100K; legacy Haiku 4.5 is 200K context at $1/$5)

What happened when Claude Sonnet 4 and Opus 4 retired June 15, 2026?

If you have any Claude Code configuration or scripts pinning the `20250514` date-string model IDs, those will break. Claude Code's default model routing will update automatically — but custom configurations pointing to specific deprecated strings won't. Search your config files for `20250514` now and update to current IDs like `claude-sonnet-5-5` or `claude-opus-5-5` (note: Sonnet 4.5 also retires Nov 30, 2026).

Capability Questions

What is Claude Code actually good at vs. not good at?

Strong: Multi-file refactors, understanding existing codebases, writing tests against real code, debugging with full context, long-horizon tasks that require holding many files in mind simultaneously, architectural reasoning across a full project.

Less strong: Tasks requiring real-time external data without a tool, highly specialized domain knowledge that isn't well-represented in training, generating correct code for very niche frameworks with limited documentation.

Can Claude Code run terminal commands on my machine?

Yes — with your permission. Claude Code operates in a permission model where it asks before running commands, editing files, or taking actions outside the current working directory. You configure which operations auto-approve and which require confirmation. The `claude` CLI runs with your local user permissions, not elevated ones.

What is computer use in Claude Code?

Computer use (research preview as of April 2026) lets Claude Code open native apps, navigate desktop UI, click through interfaces, and verify results from the terminal — without needing an API or automation script. Available on macOS and Windows within the Claude Desktop app (where Cowork workflows are now integrated directly into core Claude). Useful for tools with no accessible API; slower than direct API integrations when those exist.

What's the difference between Claude Code CLI and Claude Code in the IDE?

The CLI (`claude` command) is the core product — works in any terminal, any OS, any project. IDE extensions (VS Code, JetBrains) provide UI integration on top of the same underlying capability. Both use the same authentication and the same model. The CLI is the authoritative version for anything involving automation, scripts, or multi-step agentic workflows.

Related on Tygart Media: how to use Claude · Anthropic API key.

■ Recommended Reading in Claude Code Insider ■ Pillar Guide: Claude Code + GitHub in 2026: What Rakuten, TELUS, and a 100K-Star Config File Actually Reveal ■ Next Topic: We Published Hundreds of Articles About Claude — And Some of Them Were Wrong. Here's Everything We're Doing About It.

Primary & Reference Links Cited on This Page

- claude.com/pricing — `https://claude.com/pricing`
- API pricing — `https://platform.claude.com/docs/en/about-claude/pricing`
- Ultra plan docs — `https://support.claude.com/en/articles/17728952-what-is-the-ultra-plan`
- github.com/anthropics/claude-code/releases — `https://github.com/anthropics/claude-code/releases`
- models overview — `https://platform.claude.com/docs/en/about-claude/models/overview`
- Tygart Media: full student discount guide
- Tygart Media: How to Install Claude Code
- Tygart Media: how to use Claude
- Tygart Media: Anthropic API key
- Tygart Media: Claude Code + GitHub in 2026: What Rakuten, TELUS, and a 100K-Star Config File Actually Reveal

- Tygart Media: We Published Hundreds of Articles About Claude — And Some of Them Were Wrong. Here’s Everything We’re Doing About It.