

CLAUDE CODE DESKTOP QUICK REFERENCE

Keyboard shortcuts & parallel-session features (macOS) — for the Code tab. Windows: use Ctrl in place of Cmd throughout.

Source: code.claude.com/docs/en/desktop — press Cmd+/ in-app for the live list.

VIEWING MULTIPLE SESSIONS AT ONCE

Cmd + click a sidebar session	Open it in a second pane, side by side with the one you have open
Cmd + \	Close the focused pane, return to a single session
Ctrl + Tab	Jump to the next session in the sidebar
Ctrl + Shift + Tab	Jump to the previous session in the sidebar
Cmd + Shift +] / [	Next / previous session (alternate shortcut)
Ask Claude directly	“Check on ops-3 and ops-6 — what are they doing right now?” Claude reads those sessions' transcripts and reports back. Also: “tell the <session> the schema changed.” Only sees local / SSH / WSL sessions — not cloud or terminal-CLI sessions.
Sidebar filter / group controls	Filter sessions by status, project, or environment; group by project
Click session title in toolbar	Rename the active session — do this for anything you'll hand off or revisit

SESSION & NAVIGATION SHORTCUTS

Cmd + N	New session
Cmd + W	Close session
Cmd + /	Show all keyboard shortcuts
Esc	Stop Claude's current response
Cmd + ;	Open a side chat (ask a question without derailing the main session)
Ctrl + O	Cycle transcript view mode: Normal → Verbose → Summary

MODE & MODEL MENUS

Cmd + Shift + M	Open permission-mode menu (Manual / Accept edits / Plan / Auto / Bypass)
Cmd + Shift + I	Open model menu
Cmd + Shift + E	Open effort/thinking-level menu
1–9	Select a numbered item in an open menu

PANES & VIEWS

Cmd + Shift + D	Toggle Diff pane — review file changes before committing
Cmd + Shift + B	Toggle Browser pane — live preview / external sites
Cmd + Shift + S	Select an element in the Browser pane
Ctrl + `	Toggle integrated Terminal pane (local sessions only)
Views menu	Open additional panes: file editor, plan, tasks, subagent, iOS Simulator
Drag pane header / edge	Reposition or resize any pane in your layout

PERMISSION MODES — WHAT EACH ONE DOES

Manual	Claude asks before every file edit or command; review each diff
Accept edits	Auto-accepts file edits & simple filesystem commands (mkdir, mv); still asks before other commands
Plan	Claude explores and proposes a plan — no source edits until you approve
Auto	Executes with background safety checks; fewer prompts, still supervised
Bypass permissions	No prompts at all except a few hard-coded exceptions — sandboxed use only

WORKTREES — GOOD HABITS

- Every new session gets its own git worktree automatically — edits in one session never touch another until committed.
- Name sessions for what they're doing, not just the worktree — prevents exactly the channel mix-ups from today.
- Ask Claude to confirm a session is actually free before handing it a task — idle timestamps can be misleading.
- Hover a session and click the archive icon to remove its worktree when you're done with it.