



GitHub for Beginners

From "what's a commit?" to confident contributor. Three weeks of daily use is all it takes.

6

DAILY COMMANDS

7

CORE CONCEPTS

3

WEEKS TO FLUENT

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CAREER ROI

● **Daily workflow (95% of usage)**

The 6 commands

`git pull` — get the latest
`git status` — see what changed
`git add file.ext` — stage specific files
`git commit -m "msg"` — save snapshot
`git push` — send to GitHub
`git checkout -b feat/x` — new branch

The 7 concepts

Repository — folder + full history
Commit — saved snapshot
Branch — parallel line of work
Remote — the copy on GitHub
Clone / Fork — download / personal copy
Pull Request — proposal to merge
Issue — tracked discussion item

● **Commit messages that don't make you look like an amateur**

BAD

"stuff"
"fixes"
"updates"
"wip"
"final final v2"

GOOD

"feat: add freemium gate after 4 AI questions"
"fix: prevent crash when no network"
"refactor: extract ClaudeService"

PRO TIP

Use a branch + PR for every feature, even solo. The 30 seconds of "review my own diff" catches more bugs than you'd guess.

NEVER COMMIT

API keys. .env files. Passwords. SSH keys. Git history is forever — once a secret is pushed, rotate it immediately.

EVALUATING A REPO (BEFORE YOU DEPEND)

- 1 **Check the LICENSE**
MIT / Apache OK. GPL = viral. No license = no use.
- 2 **Last commit date**
> 18 months stale = yellow flag
- 3 **Open issues tone**
Stale + unanswered = red flag
- 4 **Audit transitive deps**
Each dep is supply-chain risk

FIRST MONTH PLAYBOOK

- 1 **Make your first repo**
Any folder. Personal notes work.
- 2 **Branch + PR a feature**
Even solo. Practice the flow.
- 3 **Read 3 popular repos**
See how issues are written
- 4 **Make a typo fix PR**
You're an open-source contributor

Read the full guide: djenterprises.ai/blog/github-for-beginners → Daily flow → Branches → PRs → Contribute.