Prof. Aviv Zohar

Semester A, 2026–7

Claude Code: Talking to the Agent

The keys and commands worth knowing



Three keys you have already used

Esc

Interrupt

stop the current step

Shift + **Tab**

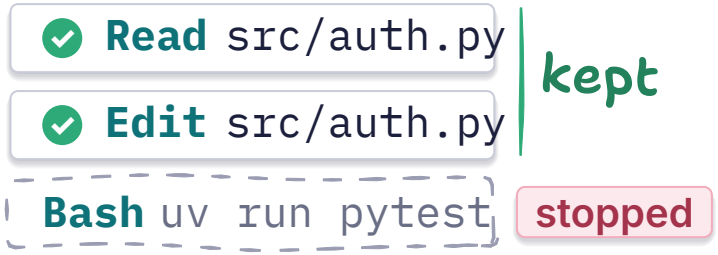
Cycle the modes

how much it may do unasked

Esc **Esc**

Rewind

on an empty prompt



you typed by you

> Use the test database.

Three keys you have already used

Esc

Interrupt

stop the current step

Shift + **Tab**

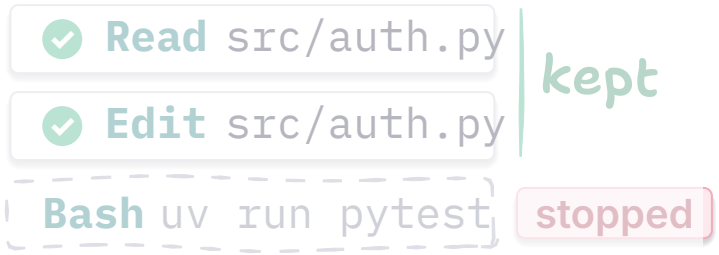
Cycle the modes

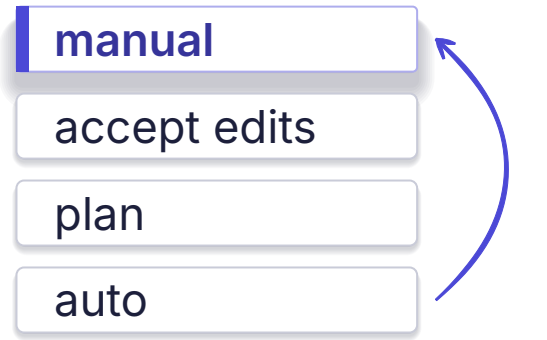
how much it may do unasked

Esc **Esc**

Rewind

on an empty prompt





you typed by you

Use the test database.

which modes appear depends on your setup

Three keys you have already used

Esc

Interrupt

stop the current step

Read src/auth.py

Edit src/auth.py

kept

Bash uv run pytest

stopped

you typed by you

Use the test database.

Shift + Tab

Cycle the modes

how much it may do unasked

manual

accept edits

plan

auto

which modes appear depends on your setup

Esc Esc

Rewind

on an empty prompt

Rewind to

❯ add a test for login

❯ fix the token check

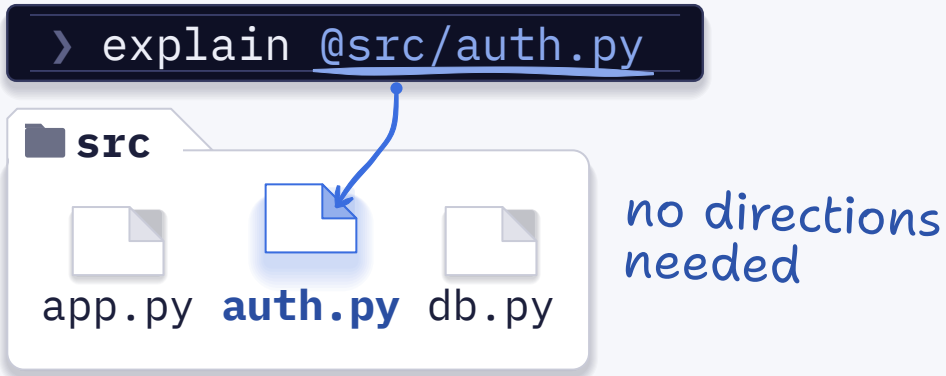
restore

conversation | file edits | both

Check what you restore. A shell command's effects are not all undone.

Show the agent what you mean

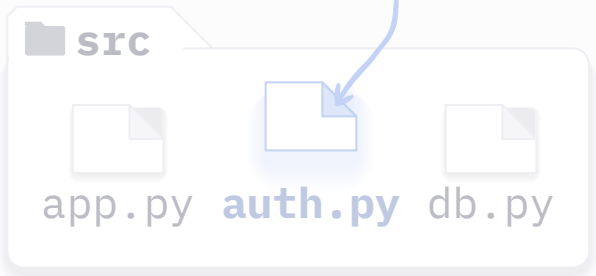
@path point at a file or folder



Show the agent what you mean

@path point at a file or folder

```
❯ explain @src/auth.py
```



no directions needed

! command run it yourself

```
! ls src
app.py  auth.py  db.py
```

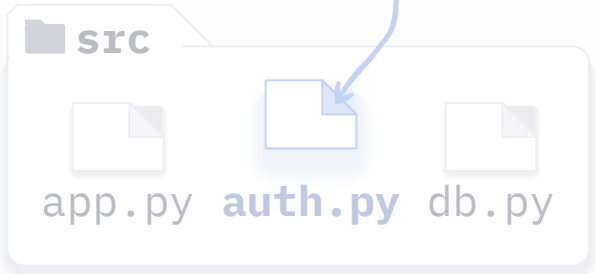
you run it, not the agent

a quick check, without leaving the session

Show the agent what you mean

@path point at a file or folder

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! command run it yourself

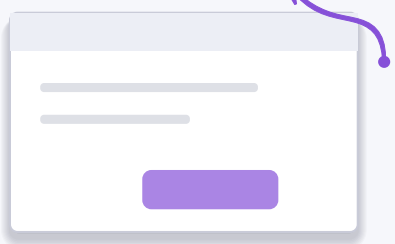
```
! ls src
app.py  auth.py  db.py
```

you run it, not the agent

a quick check, without leaving the session

An image paste or drag it in

```
❯ [Image #1] fix this
```

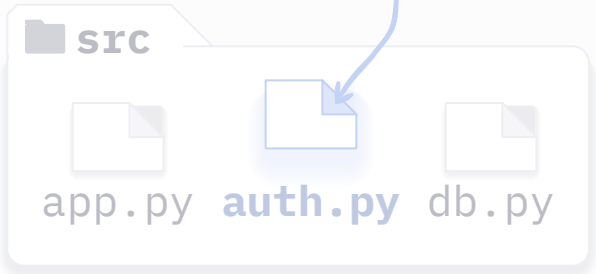


a screenshot or a mock-up

Show the agent what you mean

@path point at a file or folder

```
❯ explain @src/auth.py
```



no directions needed

! command run it yourself

```
! ls src
app.py  auth.py  db.py
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you run it, not the agent

a quick check, without leaving the session

An image paste or drag it in

```
❯ [Image #1] fix this
```


a screenshot or a mock-up

The error text pasted whole, not described

```
❯ Traceback (most recent call last):
    File "src/auth.py", line 42, in login
      token = session["token"]
  KeyError: 'token'
```

ⓐ ⓑ ⓒ

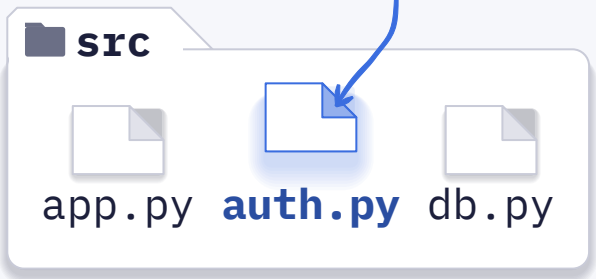
ⓐ file name ⓑ line number ⓒ stack trace

Show the agent what you mean

One task: giving the agent the right context.

@path point at a file or folder

```
❯ explain @src/auth.py
```



no directions needed

! command run it yourself

```
! ls src
```

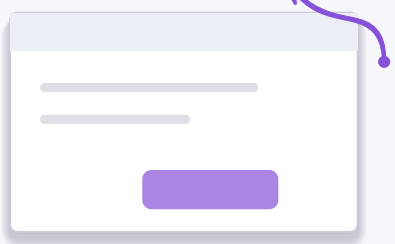
```
app.py  auth.py  db.py
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you run it, not the agent

a quick check, without leaving the session

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❯ Traceback (most recent call last):
    File "src/auth.py", line 42, in login
      token = session["token"]
  KeyError: 'token'
```

ⓐ ⓑ ⓒ

ⓐ file name ⓑ line number ⓒ stack trace

Everyday keys at the prompt

↑ ↓ previous prompts

earlier prompts

```
explain @src/auth.py
add a test for login
run the tests
```

back in the prompt

```
❯ add a test for logout
```

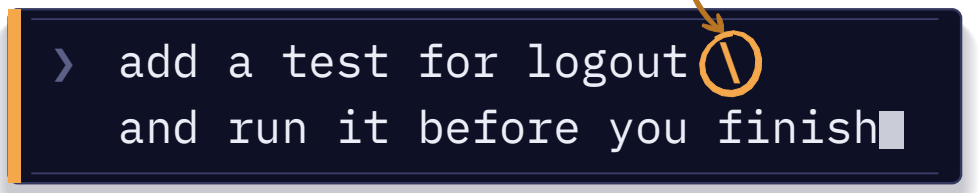
reuse it, or change a word

Everyday keys at the prompt

↑ ↓ previous prompts

\ then Enter a new line

a new line, nothing sent



or Shift + Enter

in supported terminals; some need setup first

Everyday keys at the prompt

↑ ↓ previous prompts

\ then Enter a new line

Enter **send while it works**

agent written by the model

✳ Running the tests...

you type while it works

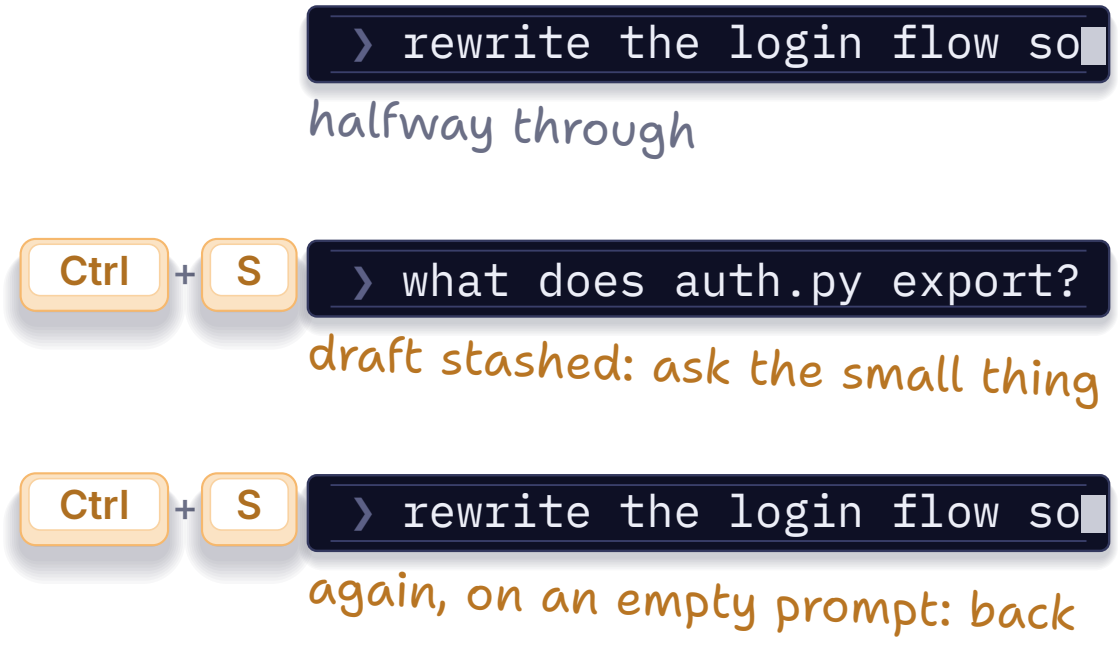
Then update the README. queued 1

And commit the change. queued 2

it takes them in turn, when it is ready

Everyday keys at the prompt

↑ ↓	previous prompts
\ then Enter	a new line
Enter	send while it works
Ctrl + S	**stash the draft**



Everyday keys at the prompt

↑ ↓	previous prompts
\ then Enter	a new line
Enter	send while it works
Ctrl + S	stash the draft
Ctrl + C	**cancel what you typed**
Ctrl + D	**quit the session**

Ctrl + C



the line is cleared; the session goes on

Ctrl + D



the session ends; back in the shell

Everyday keys at the prompt

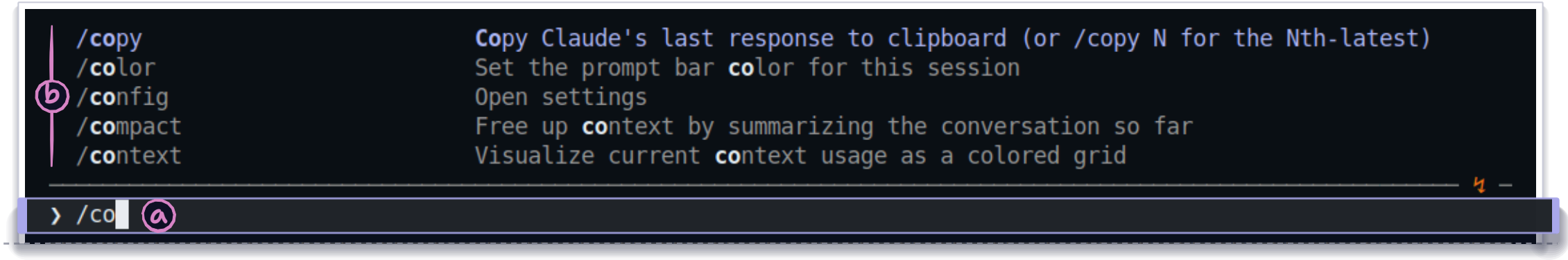
↑ ↓	previous prompts
\ then Enter	a new line
Enter	send while it works
Ctrl + S	stash the draft
Ctrl + C	cancel what you typed
Ctrl + D	quit the session
?	**all the shortcuts**

```
❯ ?
```

the shortcuts for your setup

no need to memorize them

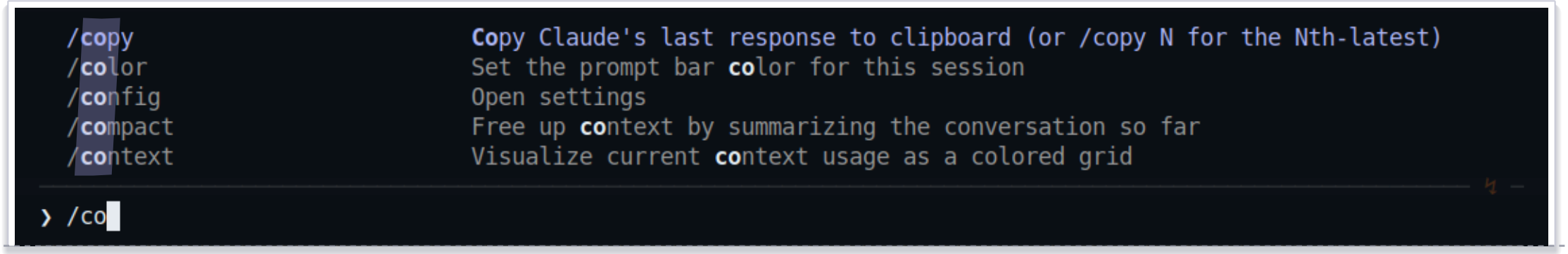
Type / to open the command menu



screenshot · Claude Code, after typing `/co`

ⓐ type / at the prompt ⓑ a menu of commands appears above it

Type / to open the command menu



screenshot · Claude Code, after typing `/co`

you typed /co, so only the commands with **co** are left

↑ ↓ pick one, then Enter

Type / to open the command menu

```
  /copy                    Copy Claude's last response to clipboard (or /copy N for the Nth-latest)
  /color                   Set the prompt bar color for this session
  /config                  Open settings
  /compact                 Free up context by summarizing the conversation so far
  /context                 Visualize current context usage as a colored grid
──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────── ↯ ─
❯ /co
```

screenshot · Claude Code, after typing `/co`

Built-in commands

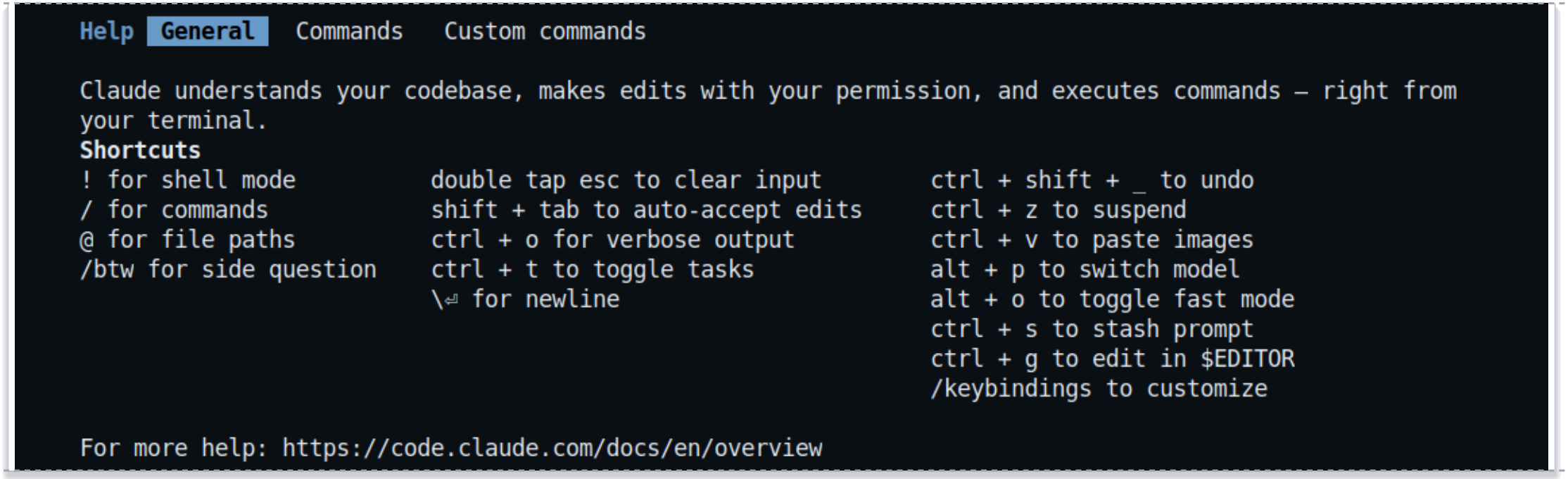
control Claude Code itself, like `/config` or `/context`

Other commands

send instructions to the model

Other agent tools have similar menus, with their own commands.

/help lists what your version offers

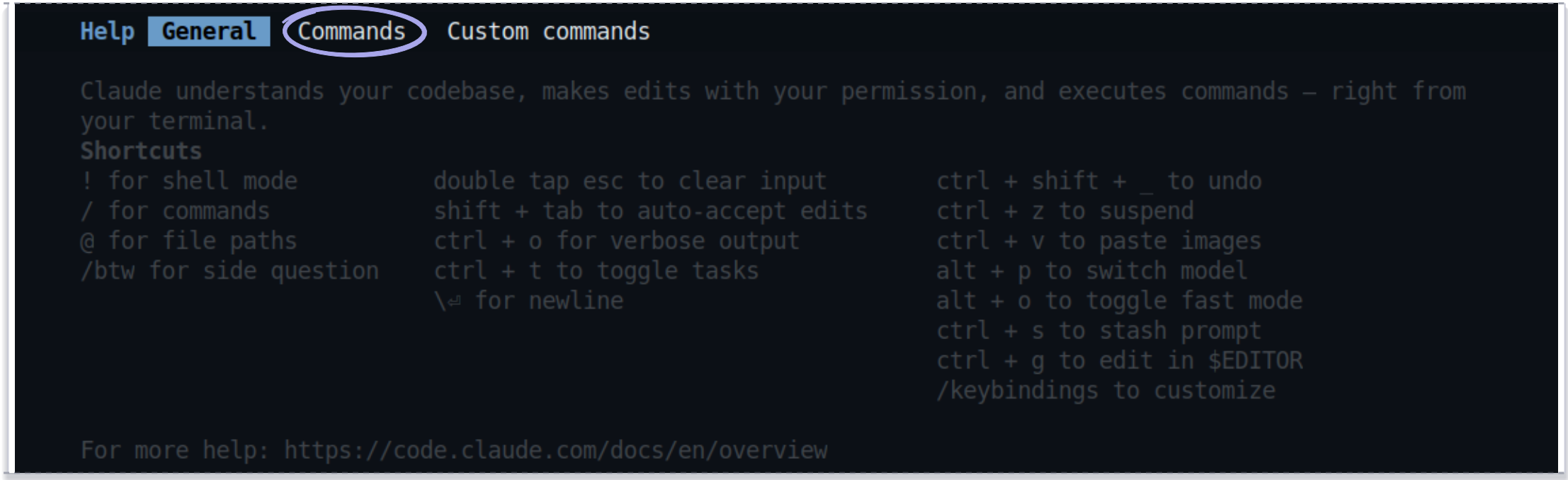


screenshot · Claude Code's help panel

opens this panel

```
❯ /help
```

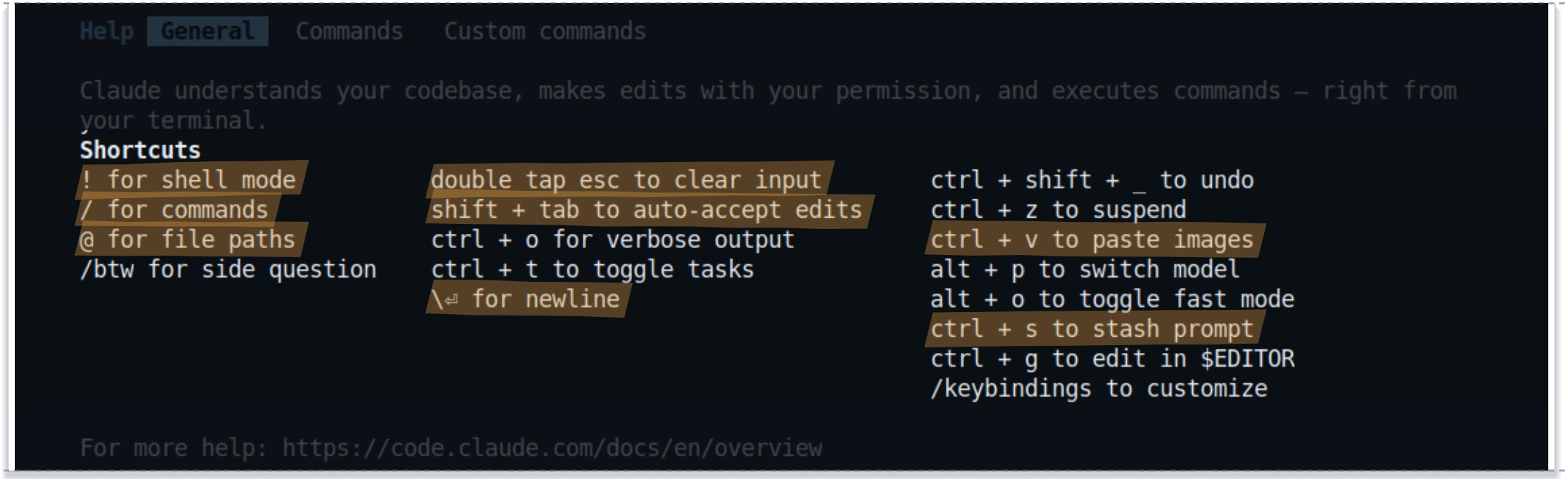
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screenshot · Claude Code's help panel

the Commands tab: every command, with one line on what it does

/help lists what your version offers



screenshot · Claude Code's help panel

marked: keys from this video. The rest: worth a try.

Three commands worth knowing early

`/model`

switch the model

choose one for the session

- **a more capable model**
  for a difficult task
- **a faster model**
  for a simpler job

Three commands worth knowing early

`/model`

switch the model

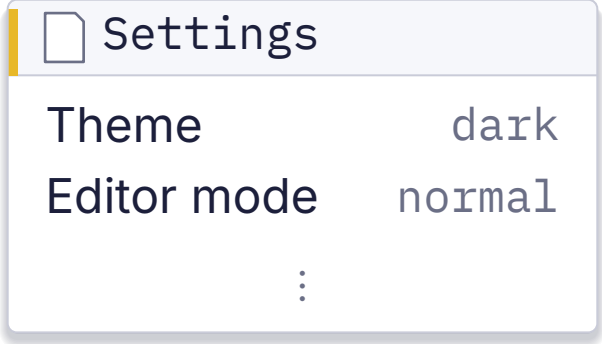
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a more capable model
for a difficult task

a faster model
for a simpler job

`/config`

open the settings



open it once, to see what you can adjust

Three commands worth knowing early

`/model`

switch the model

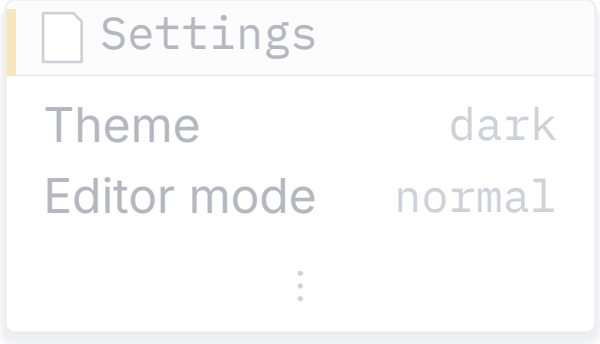
choose one for the session

a more capable model
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`/config`

open the settings



open it once, to see what you can adjust

`/btw`

ask a side question

the conversation

Fix the login bug.

Editing `src/auth.py`...

`/btw what does -q do?`

Less output from pytest.

not added to the conversation

Three commands worth knowing early

`/model`

switch the model

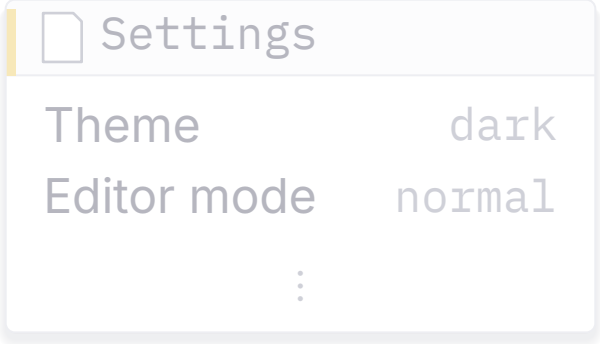
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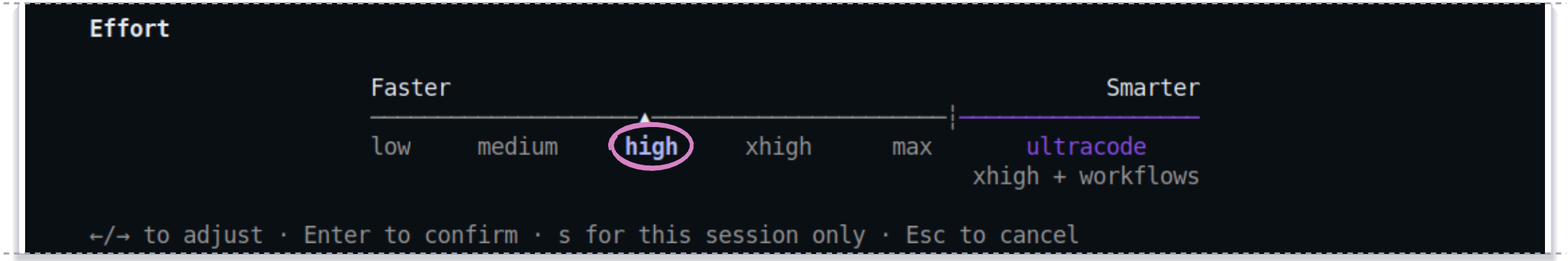
not added to the conversation

`/memory` `/context`
later this week, with context

`/permissions`
Week 3

your own commands
later still

Effort: how much the model reasons



screenshot · the `/effort` dial in Claude Code

this setup: high

~~❯ think step by step before you~~

no need to ask before every task

Effort: how much the model reasons



screenshot · the `/effort` dial in Claude Code

lower

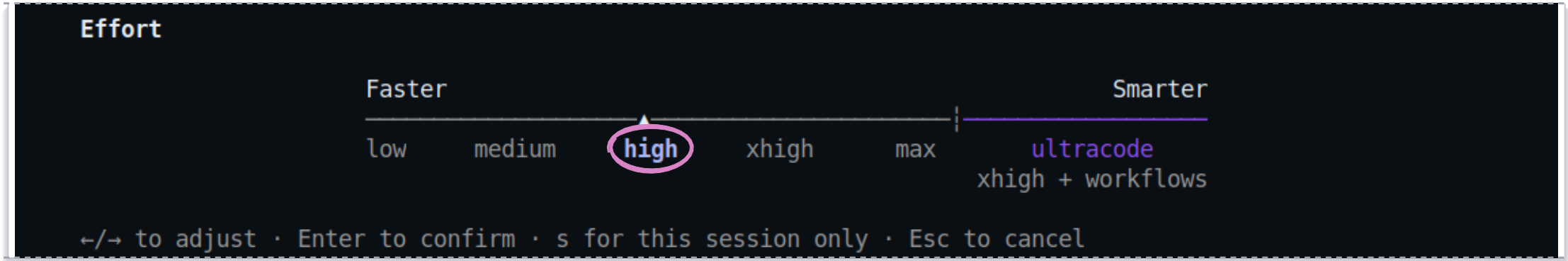
higher

workflows: many agents on one task

```
❯ /effort
```

shows the levels; you choose one

Effort: how much the model reasons



screenshot · the `/effort` dial in Claude Code

the setting stays at high

```
❯ /effort
```

shows the levels; you choose one

```
❯ ultrathink why does login fail?
```

deeper reasoning for this one request

Effort: how much the model reasons



screenshot · the `/effort` dial in Claude Code

more effort can mean a longer wait

```
❯ /effort
```

shows the levels; you choose one

```
❯ ultrathink why does login fail?
```

deeper reasoning for this one request

① Start with the current setting ② Hard problem? Try higher ③ Compare the results

Try them on your own work

Give the agent context

`@path` `!command`

an image the error text

Control the session

Esc Shift + Tab

`/model` `/effort` `/btw`

```
› /
```

open the menu; look up the rest when you need it

Try them on your own work

Give the agent context

`@path` `!command`

an image the error text

Control the session

Esc Shift + Tab

`/model` `/effort` `/btw`

```
› /
```

open the menu; look up the rest when you need it

Later this week: what the agent keeps in view, and what it remembers between sessions.