

Sidebar

Programming · VS Code Extensions Worth Knowing Cheat Sheet

62 extensions grouped by what they help with, each with its Marketplace ID so you can search for it or install it with code `--install-extension <id>`. A starting point for discovery, not a recommendation to install everything. Every ID, name and description was checked against the Visual Studio Marketplace on 5 October 2026. Sheet 24 in the VS Code series; extensions you already have are marked.

GEMS TO TRY FIRST (MY PICKS)

- Error Lens** Shows each error or warning at the end of its line, so you stop hunting through the Problems panel. `usernamehw.errorlens`
- Peacock** Gives each VS Code window its own colour: useful when the site, a course and a tool are all open at once. `johnpapa.vscode-peacock`
- Rainbow CSV** Colours CSV columns and lets you query a CSV with SQL-like commands. `mechatroner.rainbow-csv`
- Draw.io Integration** Edit Draw.io diagrams (`.drawio` files) inside VS Code: handy for course diagrams. `hediet.vscode-drawio`
- SQLite Viewer** Open a SQLite database file and browse its tables without leaving the editor. `qwtel.sqlite-viewer`
- Hex Editor** View and edit any file as raw bytes: good for checking encodings. `ms-vscode.hexeditor`
- Todo Tree** Collects every TODO and FIXME in the project into a tree. Last updated 2023 on the Marketplace. `Gruntfuggly.todo-tree`
- Remote Explorer** A panel of your SSH and tunnel machines: pairs with Remote - SSH for the Debian server. `ms-vscode.remote-explorer`

GIT & GITHUB

- GitLens – Git supercharged** Who changed each line and when, file and line history, branch and commit exploring. `eamodio.gitlens`
- Git Graph** Draws the commit graph and lets you run Git actions from it. Last updated 2021 on the Marketplace. `mhutchie.git-graph`
- GitHub Pull Requests** Review and manage GitHub pull requests and issues. **Already installed.** `GitHub.vscode-pull-request-github`
- GitHub Actions** See workflows and runs of GitHub Actions. `GitHub.vscode-github-actions`

WEB DEVELOPMENT

- Live Preview** Microsoft's local preview server for web pages (an alternative to Live Server). `ms-vscode.live-server`
- Live Server** Local development server with live reload. **Already installed.** `ritwickdey.LiveServer`
- Auto Rename Tag** Renames the paired HTML tag as you edit one. Last updated 2022 on the Marketplace. VS Code can also do this itself with `editor.linkedEditing`; try that first. `formulahendry.auto-rename-tag`
- HTML CSS Support** CSS class and id completion in HTML. `ecmel.vscode-html-css`
- SVG** SVG coding, minify, prettify and preview. `jock.svg`

SPOT MISTAKES EARLY

- Code Spell Checker** Spell-checks code, comments and strings (understands camel case). `streetsidesoftware.code-spell-checker`
- British English - Code Spell Checker** Adds British spellings to the spell checker. `streetsidesoftware.code-spell-checker`
- SonarQube for IDE** Deeper linting for JavaScript/TypeScript, Python, Java, C#, C/C++. `SonarSource.sonarlint-vscode`
- EditorConfig** Applies a project's `.editorconfig` indent and line-ending rules. `EditorConfig.EditorConfig`
- ShellCheck** Finds bugs in shell scripts as you type. `timonwong.shellcheck`
- markdownlint** Style and mistake checking for Markdown. `DavidAnson.vscode-markdownlint`

EVERYDAY HELPERS

- Path Intellisense** Autocompletes file names when you type a path. `christian-kohler.path-intellisense`
- Project Manager** Save projects and switch between them quickly. `alefragnani.project-manager`
- Better Comments** Colour-codes comments starting with `!`, `?`, `TODO` and so on. `aaron-bond.better-comments`
- Code Runner** Run a snippet or file in dozens of languages with one keystroke. `formulahendry.code-runner`

PYTHON & DATA

- Ruff** Fast Python linter and formatter. `charliermarsh.ruff`
- Jupyter** Jupyter notebooks inside VS Code. `ms-toolsai.jupyter`
- autoDocstring - Python Docstring Generator** Generates Python docstring skeletons. Last updated 2022 on the Marketplace. `njpwerner.auditor`
- Pylance** Python language server (covered on its own cheat sheet). **Already installed.** `ms-python.vscode-pylance`

PHP ALTERNATIVES (USE ONE AT A TIME)

- PHP Intelephense** A popular PHP language server; an alternative to the DEVSENSE extensions. Do not run it together with PHP Tools. `bmwburn.vscode-intelephense-client`
- PHP Debug** Xdebug debugging for PHP; an alternative to DEVSENSE's debugger. `xdebug.php-debug`

DATABASES & APIS

- SQLTools** Connect to many databases, run queries, browse tables (drivers are separate). `mtxr.sqltools`
- Database Client** Database management for MySQL/MariaDB, SQLite, PostgreSQL and others. Some features need a paid plan. `cweijan.vscode-database-client2`
- MongoDB** Browse and query MongoDB and Atlas. `mongodb.mongodb-vscode`
- Thunder Client** A lightweight REST client with a graphical interface. **Already installed**. Some features need a paid plan. `rangav.vscode-thunder-client`
- OpenAPI (Swagger) Editor** Edit and preview OpenAPI (Swagger) files; FastAPI generated. `42Crunch.vscode-openapi`

CONFIG FILES, DOCS & DIAGRAMS

- Even Better TOML** Full TOML support (for `pyproject.toml` and similar). `tamasfe.even-better-toml`
- YAML** YAML language support with schema validation. `redhat.vscode-yaml`
- Markdown All in One** Markdown shortcuts, table of contents and preview. `yzhang.markdown-all-in-one`
- Markdown Preview Mermaid Support** Draws Mermaid diagrams in the Markdown preview. `bierner.markdown-mermaid`
- vscode-pdf** Read PDF files inside VS Code. **Already installed.** `tomoki1207.pdf`

SERVERS, REMOTE & DEVOPS

- Remote - SSH** Open a folder on a remote machine over SSH, with full VS Code features. `ms-vscode.remote-ssh`
- Kubernetes** Develop, deploy and debug Kubernetes applications. `ms-kubernetes-tools.vscode-kubernetes-tools`
- PowerShell** PowerShell scripting support. `ms-vscode.PowerShell`

OTHER LANGUAGES (THE ONES THE COURSES COVER)

- Go** Go language support. `golang.Go`
- rust-analyzer** Rust language support. `rust-lang.rust-analyzer`
- C/C++** C/C++ IntelliSense and debugging. `ms-vscode.cpptools`
- Extension Pack for Java** Extension pack for Java. `vscjava.vscode-java-pack`
- Vue (Official)** Official Vue language support. `Vue.volar`

EDITING STYLE, VOICE & COLLABORATION

- Vim** Vim keys inside VS Code (useful after the Vim courses). `vscodevim.vim`
- Live Share** Real-time collaborative editing and debugging. `MS-vsliveshare.vsliveshare`
- VS Code Speech** Speech-to-text and voice features (see the Accessibility sheet). `ms-vscode.speech`

AI ASSISTANTS (BESIDES THE ONES YOU HAVE)

- GitHub Copilot** GitHub's AI pair programmer. Free trial; some features need a paid plan. `GitHub.copilot`
- Continue - open-source AI code agent** Open-source AI code assistant where you choose the model. `Continue.continue`
- Claude Code, ChatGPT, Tongyi Lingma** Already installed here: `anthropic.claude-code`, `openai.chatgpt`, `alibaba-cloud.tongyi-lingma`

LANGUAGE PACKS

- Japanese Language Pack** Japanese interface for VS Code. `MS-CEINTL.vscode-language-pack-ja`
- Hungarian Language Pack** Hungarian interface for VS Code. Last updated 2020 on. `MS-CEINTL.vscode-language-pack-hu`

THEMES & ICONS

Material Icon Theme Material Design file icons.

`PKief.material-icon-theme`

One Dark Pro One Dark Pro, based on Atom's theme.

`zhuangtongfa.Material-theme`

Catppuccin for VSCode Soft pastel theme with four flavours.

`Catppuccin.catppuccin-vsc`

Tokyo Night Tokyo Night theme. `enkia.tokyo-night`

Fonts (not extensions) Install a font on the operating system (for example JetBrains Mono, Fira Code or Cascadia Code), then set `editor.fontFamily` and `editor.fontLigatures` (see the Editor Settings sheet)

HOW TO PICK: A QUICK CHECKLIST

Look at the **publisher** (a verified publisher is a good sign), the **last update** (a tool unchanged for years may still be fine, but check it works with your VS Code), the **install count and reviews**, and whether it asks for permissions or an account. Prefer one extension per job, and check whether VS Code already does the job (for example linked tag editing, bracket pair colouring and sticky scroll are now built in).

TOO MANY EXTENSIONS? HOW TO FIND THE SLOW ONE

Every extension costs a little start-up time and memory. Run *Developer: Show Running Extensions* to see which are active and how long they took to start, and *Help: Start Extension Bisect* to find the one causing a problem by halving the active set. Use *Disable (Workspace)* to keep an extension for one kind of project only, and the `.vscode/extensions.json` recommendations file to suggest the right set to anyone who opens a project.