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Changing the model during a Claude Code session with /model

Claude Code

CODE	VERSION	COUNTRY · LANGUAGE
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Changing the model during a Claude Code session with /model

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Claude Code starts with the model in `ANTHROPIC_MODEL`, but you can switch in the middle of your work: a strong model for a big change, a light one for short questions. You do it with the `/model` command, inside the session.

Switching with /model

Type `/model` followed by the catalogue id, exactly as it is, with the slash:

```
/model zai-org/glm-5.2
```

The switch is immediate. If you type `/model` on its own, the Claude Code list opens. In that list, Enter switches and saves as your default, and the `s` key switches for this session only. The catalogue ids may not show in the list: in that case, type the id after `/model`.

This session only, or the next ones too

How you switch	What happens
`/model zai-org/glm-5.2`	Switches now and saves the model as your default: Claude Code writes it to `model`, in `~/.claude/settings.json`.
`claude --model zai-org/glm-5.2`	Opens a new session with that model, without changing the default. It also lets you run different models in different terminals.

Why the next session goes back to the old model

If you have `ANTHROPIC_MODEL` set, in the terminal or in the `env` of `settings.json`, that variable wins over the model saved by `/model`. That is what the Claude Code documentation says. So every new session goes back to the model in the variable. To change the starting model for good, change the value of `ANTHROPIC_MODEL`.

Before you switch

1. Check the id in the **Models tab** or in `GET /v1/models`. A misspelt name gives no error in Claude Code: we use `moonshotai/kimi-k2.7-code` and charge its price. See **which model answers a name that is not in the catalogue**.

2. Check the context of the new model. Claude Code only reads `CLAUDE_CODE_MAX_CONTEXT_TOKENS` at start. If you move to a model with less context, close it and open it again with the right value. See **context and output in Claude Code**.

3. Use a model that supports tools (function calling): Claude Code needs them to read files and run commands. The models recommended in the docs all support them.

Each model has its own cache. According to the Claude Code documentation, the first request after a switch reads the whole conversation again, without the cache. Switch models between tasks, not on every question.

Checking the model in use

`/status` shows the session model. With the Coding Plan, the models in the plan spend points and the others are paid with credits. The list is in the **Plan tab**.

A mix that works well: `moonshotai/kimi-k2.7-code` for everyday work, `deepseek-ai/deepseek-v4-pro` for big changes and hard bugs, and `deepseek-ai/deepseek-v4-flash` for short questions.

RECOMMENDED

Want to code with AI in Claude Code? Visit the Coding with AI page.

See Coding with AI →

SEE ALSO

- **Using Claude Code with All in One AI: the variables, the model and common errors** →
- **Context and output in Claude Code: CLAUDE_CODE_MAX_CONTEXT_TOKENS and CLAUDE_CODE_MAX_OUTPUT_TOKENS** →
- **Claude Code asks for a claude-sonnet model: which model answers and what you pay** →
- **Coding Plan: which plan to choose, what it costs and how to subscribe** →

Coding with AI in All in One AI

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