DAY 24 · Part 3 · What It Can Do

If code comes out when you describe it, why doesn't it end there? — Coding

Five-Minute AI Lessons · Sep 30, 2026

Getting the code is just the start; coding begins the moment you run it.

In a nutshell

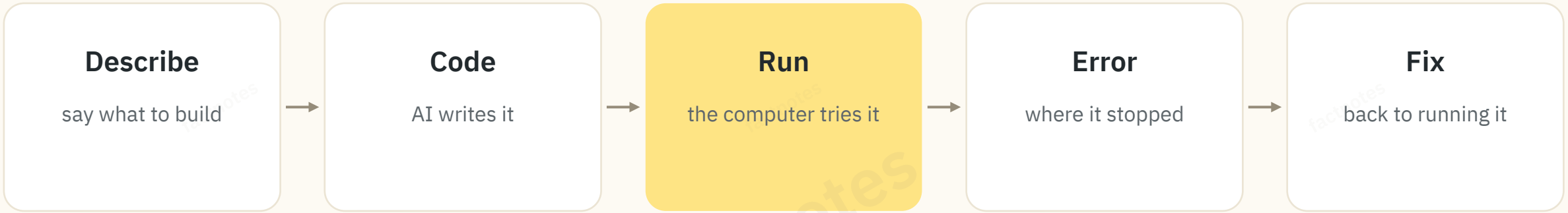
1. It's true that if you describe it in words, code comes out. But **the real half of coding happens after the code comes out** — running it, reading the errors, fixing it.

2. With AI-written code, **nobody knows if it's right until it runs**. What decides isn't whether it looks believable, but whether running it gives the result you wanted.

3. So a red error message isn't you getting scolded — it's **a note telling you what went wrong**. Showing the whole thing to AI is the fastest way to fix it.

In one picture

Coding isn't one line, it's a loop



The orange box is the referee. Whether code is right isn't decided by a person or by AI — the result of running it decides.

Key idea: it isn't working code until you've run it

Experiment · Put it in order

The order it takes to get code running

Start to finish

1. Describe what to build
2. Code comes out
3. Run it
4. An error pops up
5. Fix it and run again

There are three more boxes after the code comes out. The last two usually go ar...

When you hit an error

1. Copy the error message
2. See which line it is
3. Give it to AI as is
4. Run the fixed code
5. Watch it actually work

The error message says where it stopped. Don't summarize it — giving the whole...

When you want to build big

1. Ask in small pieces
2. Run one piece at a time
3. Check it works, then next
4. Run it all at the end

Check each piece, and you see the broken spot right away. Ask for it all at onc...

Tap the mixed-up pieces in order. Whether you're building a game or organizing a homework spreadsheet, this ord...

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Quick check

Just three questions

Q1

AI wrote you some code. Who decides whether it's right?

① The result you get when you run it
② If AI says it confidently, it's right
③ If the code is long, it's right
④ No errors means it's definitely right

Q2

When an error pops up, how should you ask AI about it?

① Just write 'it doesn't work'
② Show it the whole error message
③ Delete the code and ask again
④ Pass on a summary of the error

Q3

What's the trick for building something big?

① Ask for it all at once
② Write long code
③ Small pieces, one at a time
④ Ignore the errors

Know the why, too

Q1

① Code that looks believable and code that runs are two different things. Whether the computer runs it and gives the result you wanted is the only referee.

Q2

② The error message says which line it stopped on and why. Shorten it, and those clues disappear.

Q3

③ Run and check each piece, and you see the broken spot right away. Ask for it all at once, and the cause hides inside long code.

Getting the code is just the start; coding begins the moment you run it.



Tomorrow: Making pictures — the more detail you describe, does the picture really look more like what's in your head?