

AI • CLAUDE CODE

5 Free Claude Skills That Make Your AI Actually Good

Skills teach Claude how to think about a task, not just answer it. Five worth installing today, plus two live-data add-ons. Copy, paste, done.

A **skill** is a folder of instructions Claude loads only when it needs it, so it acts like an expert instead of a generalist guessing. All free. Paste each command into your terminal where Claude Code runs.

1 grill-me

Stops Claude from building your bad idea perfectly. It interrogates your plan first, one sharp question at a time, until the architecture actually holds up. Turns the AI from a yes-man into a systems architect.

```
claude plugin marketplace add mattpocock/skills
```

Want it to log every decision? The **grill-me-store-decisions** fork records chosen paths, rejected options and cost trade-offs to a file:
raw.githubusercontent.com/vbalasu/grill-me-store-decisions/main/SKILL.md

2 karpathy-guidelines

Kills over-engineering. Forces simple, surgical edits and real tests instead of 200 lines where 50 would do. No invented abstractions, no noisy diffs, no "done" until it actually works.

```
github.com/multica-ai/andrej-karpathy-skills
```

Install: download **SKILL.md** into your local skills directory (skills/karpathy-guidelines/).

3 frontend-design

OFFICIAL

Gets Claude out of generic "AI slop" defaults, centered text, sterile cards, safe gradients, and into bold type, opinionated color and real layout. Anthropic's own design skill.

```
claude plugin marketplace add anthropics/skills
```

4 paper-search

No more fake citations. Pulls real academic papers from OpenAlex, 250M+ works, no API key needed, so Claude retrieves genuine authors and DOIs instead of inventing them.

```
claude plugin marketplace add ykdojo/paper-search
```

```
claude plugin install paper-search@paper-search
```

5 docx & pdf core

OFFICIAL

Turns Claude into a real document engine, proper Word and PDF files with correct margins, tables and headers, not markdown with a renamed extension. Same Anthropic bundle as frontend-design.

```
claude plugin marketplace add anthropics/skills
```

Then install the **document-skills bundle** from the marketplace list.

+ BONUS • GIVE CLAUDE LIVE DATA

6 Context7

MCP

Feeds Claude up-to-date, version-correct library docs so it stops writing code against deprecated APIs it half-remembers.

```
claude mcp add context7 -- npx -y @upstash/context7-mcp
```

7 Firecrawl

MCP

^{361°} Gives Claude the live web, search, scrape and crawl, so it can research and pull real data instead of guessing. ^{361°}tech.tech/resources

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