



n8n Term Cheat Sheet

Ten words that get you node-level answers instead of vague ones.

THE TEN TERMS, AND HOW TO SAY THEM OUT LOUD

TERM	WHAT IT MEANS	HOW TO USE IT IN A PROMPT
Workflow	The whole automation, start to finish	"Build me a workflow that..."
Node	One single step inside the workflow	"What node should I use to..."
Trigger	The node that starts everything, always first	"I want the trigger to be..."
Action	Anything that happens after the trigger fires	"The action should send, create, or update..."
Webhook	A URL that other apps send data to	"Set up a webhook trigger that receives..."
Credentials	How the tool connects to your other apps	"What credentials do I need to connect..."
Expression	A reference to data from an earlier node	"Use an expression to pull the email from..."
Execution	One single run of the workflow	"My execution failed at the second node..."
Data mapping	Wiring one node's output into the next node's input	"Help me map the output from... into..."
Error workflow	A separate workflow that runs when the main one fails	"Add an error workflow to notify me if..."

THE SHAPE OF A PROMPT THAT WORKS

When [trigger], do [action], using an expression to map [data].

"When a webhook trigger receives a Typeform submission, create an Airtable record, using an expression to map the email field."
Name the pieces and you get steps back. Describe the vibe and you get a paragraph you still have to translate.

WHAT TO SAY WHEN IT BREAKS

Nothing ran at all

"My trigger is not firing. Here is the trigger type and its settings. What would stop an execution from starting?"

It ran but the data is wrong

"My execution succeeded but the wrong value landed. Here is the output of the previous node. Help me fix the data mapping."

It stopped partway

"My execution failed at this node with this error. Here is the input it received. What is the expression supposed to be?"

THREE THINGS WORTH KNOWING EARLY

One trigger, many actions

Every workflow has exactly one trigger and nothing runs until it fires. Actions chain after it as long as you need.

Executions are your debugger

The log shows the data at every node and exactly where it broke. Look there before you ask anyone, human or AI.

AI invents node names

Better words get you a closer first draft, not a finished build. Check every node name against the panel before you trust it.

Keep this open while you build. The full guide, plus a prompt builder that assembles these for you, lives at jen8n.com/n8n-vocabulary-guide

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LET AI HANDLE THE BUSYWORK