

No. 84

AI TRENDS

Vibe Coding

Build apps and tools by describing them to AI, and ship them safely, explained for beginners



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SECTRAININGNOW SERIES · NO. 84

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oJAYo
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CONTENTS

How to use this book 1

PART I · FOUNDATIONS

1 What vibe coding is 5
2 A spectrum of AI help 7
3 The tools 9
4 How apps work, in plain words 11
5 Your first build 13

PART II · BUILDING WELL

6 Writing an app brief 16
7 Building step by step 18
8 Prompting for code 20
9 Debugging without being a coder 22
10 Versions and backups 24
11 Growing your skills 25

PART III · SHIPPING SAFELY

12 The security problem 28
13 Keeping secrets secret 30
14 Databases and access rules 32
15 Logins and users 34
16 Before you share your app 35
17 Costs and maintenance 37

PART IV · PUTTING IT TO WORK

18 When vibe coding is enough 39
19 Project ideas 41
20 Worked examples 43
21 A learning path 45

Checklists 47

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Glossary 48
Further reading 49

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

How to use this book

What this book covers, who it is for, and how to use it.

Vibe coding means building software by **describing what you want** to an AI and letting it write the code. You say "make me a habit tracker with a calendar view", the AI builds it, you try it, and you ask for changes, often without reading the code at all.

The term was coined by AI researcher **Andrej Karpathy** in February 2025 and spread quickly. By 2026 it was one of the most searched technology terms, peaking at around 165,000 US searches a month in March 2026 and, by one count, outranking every individual programming language except Python and JavaScript. Platforms such as Lovable and Replit reported millions of users.

Vibe coding is genuinely empowering: people with no programming background now build useful tools in an afternoon. But security researchers keep finding the same problems in vibe-coded apps: open databases, leaked keys and missing access checks. This book shows you how to get the benefits and avoid the traps.

What this book covers

- The vibe coding approach and the main kinds of tools in 2026.
- How to plan, build, test and improve an app by describing it.
- How web apps work, in plain language, so you can direct the AI well.
- Security basics every vibe coder needs before sharing an app.

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Who this book is for

- **Non-programmers** who want to build tools for themselves, a team or a small business.
- **Students** curious about building software with AI.
- **Managers** whose staff are building apps this way.

How the book is organized

- **Part I — Foundations** (Chapters 1–5): what vibe coding is, the spectrum of AI involvement, the tools, how apps work, and your first build.
- **Part II — Building well** (Chapters 6–11): writing a brief, step-by-step building, prompting for code, debugging, versions and backups, and growing your skills.
- **Part III — Shipping safely** (Chapters 12–17): the security problem, secrets, databases and access, logins, a pre-launch checklist, and costs and maintenance.
- **Part IV — Putting it to work** (Chapters 18–21): when vibe coding is enough, ideas, worked examples and a learning path.
- **Reference**: checklists, glossary and further reading.

Callouts

TIP

Practical advice you can use straight away.

IN PRACTICE

How things look in real tools.

WATCH OUT

Common mistakes and risks.

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KEY IDEA

The one thing to remember from a section.

A note on screens and examples

Screens are **simplified illustrations**, not copies of real tools. App names in examples are invented.

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PART I

Foundations

These chapters explain what vibe coding is, where it sits on the spectrum of AI help, which tools exist, how apps are put together, and how to build your first one.

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CHAPTER 1

What vibe coding is

Vibe coding turns plain-language descriptions into working software.

The idea

In his February 2025 post, Andrej Karpathy described a way of coding where you "fully give in to the vibes": you talk to the AI, accept its changes, and keep going by trying the result and asking for fixes, rather than studying the code.

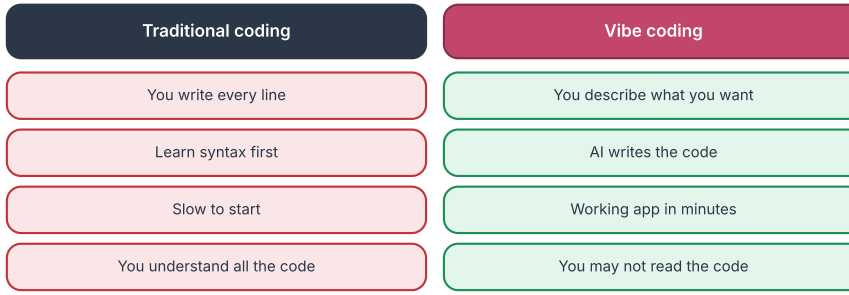


Figure 1.1 How it differs from traditional coding

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The loop

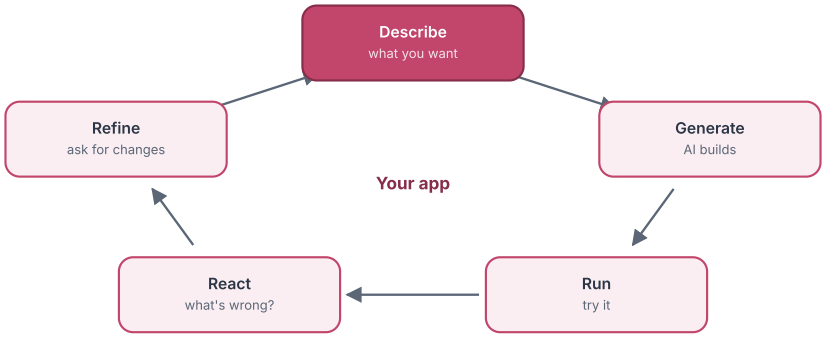


Figure 1.2 Describe, generate, run, react, refine

Why it took off

- **Better models** that write working code most of the time.
- **All-in-one platforms** that handle hosting, databases and logins for you.
- **Instant results**: a working preview in seconds is very motivating.

The term became so widespread that Collins Dictionary named "vibe coding" its Word of the Year for 2025.

What it is good for

- Personal tools: trackers, calculators, small games.
- Prototypes to show an idea before investing.
- Internal helpers for a team.
- Learning how software works.

> **KEY IDEA**
> Vibe coding lowers the barrier to building. It does not remove the responsibility for what you build.

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CHAPTER 2

A spectrum of AI help

There is more than one way to code with AI.



Figure 2.1 From pure vibes to traditional coding

Pure vibe coding

You never read the code. Fine for throwaway toys and personal experiments.

AI-assisted building

You describe, test and skim the code to understand its structure. A good level for most beginners building something they will keep.

AI pair programming

You review every change, like working with a fast junior colleague. This is how many professional developers use AI coding tools.

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