Vite Frontend build tool

index.html entry point → `vite` **Dev server** localhost:5173, HMR → `vite build` **dist/** bundled assets → `vite preview` **Local check** not for production

CONCEPTS

Dev serves your source as native ES modules with no bundling; build bundles for production. Use preview only to check the build locally, not to host it.

Only variables prefixed VITE_ reach client code, and their values are baked into the bundle. Never put secrets in them.

DEV SERVER

vite
Start the dev server (aliases: dev, serve)

vite --port *<port>*
Set the port (default 5173)

vite --strictPort
Fail instead of picking another port

vite --host [host]
Listen on all addresses or a given host

vite --open [path]
Open the browser on start

vite --force
Ignore the optimizer cache

vite --mode *<mode>*
Set the env mode (default development)

DEV SERVER (cont.)

vite --config *<file>*
Use a specific config file

BUILD

vite build
Production build into dist/

vite build --outDir *<dir>*
Change the output directory

vite build --sourcemap [output]
Emit source maps (true, inline, hidden)

vite build --mode *<mode>*
Build with another env mode

vite build --watch
Rebuild when files change

vite build --base *<path>*
Build for a sub-path deployment

PREVIEW

vite preview
Serve the built dist/ locally

vite preview --port *<port>*
Set the preview port

vite preview --outDir *<dir>*
Serve a non-default build folder

DEV SERVER KEYS

Type the key in the terminal running the dev server, then press Enter.

h
Show the shortcut list

r
Restart the server

u
Print the server URL

o
Open in the browser

c
Clear the console

q
Quit the server

SCAFFOLDING

npm create vite@latest *<name>*
Create a project interactively

npm create vite@latest *<name>* **-- --template** *<tpl>*
Scaffold a template (npm 7+ needs --)

pnpm create vite *<name>* **--template** *<tpl>*
Same with pnpm (no extra --)

SCAFFOLDING (cont.)

npm create vite@latest . -- --template *<tpl>*
Scaffold in the current directory

Template names

Framework	Plain JS	TypeScript
vanilla	vanilla	vanilla-ts
vue	vue	vue-ts
react	react	react-ts
react (compiler)	react-compiler	react-compiler-ts
preact	preact	preact-ts
svelte	svelte	svelte-ts
solid	solid	solid-ts
lit	lit	lit-ts
qwik	qwik	qwik-ts

ENV AND DEBUGGING

Env files (later rows win)

File	Loaded	Git
.env	always	commit
.env.local	always	ignored
.env.<mode>	that mode only	commit
.env.<mode>.local	that mode only	ignored

ENV AND DEBUGGING (cont.)

Read values with import.meta.env.VITE_NAME. Built-ins: MODE, BASE_URL, PROD, DEV, SSR. Shell variables beat env files; restart after editing them.

vite --debug [feat]
Show debug logs (e.g. vite:*)

vite --version
Print the Vite version

RECIPES

New React + TypeScript app

```
npm create vite@latest my-app -- --template react-ts
cd my-app
npm install
npm run dev
```

Staging build with its own env

```
# loads .env and .env.staging
npx vite build --mode staging
npx vite preview --outDir dist
```

Test the build on a phone

```
npx vite build
npx vite preview --host --port 4173
```