

THE DONE CHECK · A PASTE-IN GATE FOR AI CODING AGENTS

Your agent says it's done. Make it prove it.

Your coding agent just reported the task finished — and you've been burned before. Paste this into Claude Code, Cursor, or any agent the moment it claims "done." It forces the agent to show its own proof instead of a confident summary.

PASTE THIS TO YOUR AGENT

Before you tell me this is done, run this check on your own work. Answer every line. If you can't answer one, the verdict is **NOT DONE** – say so instead of guessing.

- 1 ARTIFACT** – Point to the exact thing that changed: the file path, route, command, or record. The location I can open, not a description of it.
- 2 PROOF** – Run the smallest thing that exercises that artifact and paste the REAL output: the test and its result, the command and what it printed, the page you loaded, the query and its row count. A summary of the output is not the output.
- 3 MATCH** – Restate what I asked for, then what you produced, side by side. If they differ at all, name the difference.
- 4 BOUNDARY** – List anything risky you touched: files deleted or overwritten, credentials or config changed, anything sent to a live system. If none, write "none."
- 5 VERDICT** – Pick one, nothing softer:

DONE

artifact shown, proof pasted, matches the ask, no unreviewed risk.

DONE, WITH RISK

it works, but name the risk and who should check it.

NOT DONE

what's missing, and the single next step to close it.

Rules: no "should work," "looks good," or "I think." Every claim needs an artifact or a real command output beside it. If showing the proof would take longer than the task did, show it anyway.

HOW TO USE IT

1. Copy the block above once; keep it in a snippet or scratch file.
2. Paste it the moment your agent says a task is finished.
3. Read the verdict — and don't merge, publish, or send until it's DONE.

WEAK CLOSE VS. STRONG CLOSE

WEAK

"Done. Build passed. I think the page is fine."

STRONG

"Changed /writing/x/; build + screenshot shown; no secrets or sends; you own the launch."