

THE FUNDAMENTALS

# The 7 n8n Nodes You Need to Master

Skip the other 400. These seven build almost any business automation.

A free guide from Berzaf | AI Automation

n8n has hundreds of nodes. You do not need most of them. After building dozens of production workflows, these seven appear in nearly every one.

## 1. Webhook

The front door of an event-driven workflow. It catches data from forms, other apps, or any service that can send an HTTP request. Pair it with a Respond to Webhook node so the caller gets a clean response.

## 2. HTTP Request

The universal connector. When no dedicated node exists for a service, this talks to any API, including Claude.

```
POST https://api.anthropic.com/v1/messages
Headers: x-api-key, anthropic-version
Body: { "model": "...", "messages": [...] }
```

## 3. Set / Edit Fields

Reshapes data between steps. Rename fields, build the exact JSON the next node expects, or strip out what you do not need. Clean data prevents most bugs.

## 4. IF

Simple two-way branching. Is this lead hot? Is this invoice's math correct? One condition, two paths.

## 5. Switch

Multi-way branching. Route a lead by tier, a ticket by category, a file by type. This is what makes routing workflows feel intelligent.

## 6. Code

Your escape hatch. A few lines of JavaScript handle anything no node covers. Most often used to parse a model's JSON response:

```
const data = JSON.parse($input.first().json.content[0].text);
return [{ json: data }];
```

## 7. Merge

Brings parallel branches back together. When you fan out to do several things at once and then need to combine results, Merge waits and joins them.

## **The pattern behind every workflow**

trigger (Webhook), fetch (HTTP Request), shape (Set), decide (IF / Switch), transform (Code), recombine (Merge). That sequence is the skeleton of almost every business automation.