

# WEEK 3: KEY TAKEAWAYS

The 12 Takeaways from Widgets Week

## 01. YOUR TOKENS ARE FUEL -- PICK THE RIGHT GRADE

Opus = rocket fuel (complex builds). Sonnet = premium (daily work, 75-80% of the time). Haiku = regular unleaded (brainstorming, planning). Before every session: "What fuel grade does THIS task actually need?"

## 02. SHORTER THREADS, MORE MILEAGE

Claude re-reads the ENTIRE conversation every exchange. 93% of tokens in long threads are repeated context. Finish one idea, stop. Ask for a handoff document.

## 03. THREE OPTIONS, NOT THIRTY

"Give me three options" keeps Claude focused and tokens low. 3 = focused. 30 = chaos.

## 04. THE THREE QUESTIONS

Before you build: (1) What problem does this solve? (2) Who is it for? (3) What does done look like? The blueprint IS the shortcut.

## 05. MUST-DOS ARE YOUR SAFETY NET

"This thing MUST be able to \_\_\_\_." Test all old must-dos when adding new features. This is regression testing.

## 06. SCREENSHOTS ARE THE BOMB

When Claude's instructions don't match your screen, screenshot it and dump it in. Way faster than describing a thousand options.

## 07. DEMAND INTERFACE TESTING

Tell Claude to test the interface before giving it back. Use Puppeteer. Always click through your own stuff on desktop AND mobile.

## 08. MCPs ARE YOUR SUPERPOWERS

Without MCPs: copy, paste, cry. With MCPs: the tube does it, you drink tea. Free. Start with Airtable. One at a time.

## 09. YOU DON'T NEED TO LEARN EVERY PROGRAM

MCPs let Claude reach into systems for you. Let the computers talk to each other.

## 10. MARKDOWN IS FOR THE MACHINE

You don't read it -- the computer does. "Hey Claude, give this to me in markdown."

## 11. CLOUDFLARE IS FREE AND EASY

Free hosting, free SSL. With the MCP, Claude deploys for you automatically.

## 12. TRUST BUT VERIFY (ACTUALLY, JUST VERIFY)

Watch your billing settings. The Extra Usage toggle has turned itself on. Check Settings > Usage. Set a spend limit.

## HOMEWORK FOR WEEK 4

- If your widget isn't deployed yet, get it on Cloudflare

- Test it — click every button, fill every form, try to break it
- Connect your first MCP (Airtable recommended)
- Update your specs + changelog
- Bring your wins AND your breaks to lab week