



Keys &  
Quills

# Vibe Coding Checklist

Use this when pairing with AI

## Layer 1: Clarity & Comprehension

*Do I understand this?*

- ☐ I can explain what every function does
- ☐ I know why each line exists or I've removed it
- ☐ No "black-box" chunks left in just because they worked

## Layer 2: Fit & Alignment

*Does it belong here?*

- ☐ Matches architectural patterns or breaks them on purpose
- ☐ Uses the right abstraction. Not too vague. Not too rigid
- ☐ Performance, security, and error handling are accounted for

## Layer 3: Style & Structure

*Did I refactor with intention?*

- ☐ Names are clear and meaningful
- ☐ Structure is readable (no deep nesting, no magic numbers)
- ☐ Formatting and conventions are consistent

## Layer 4: Behaviors & Boundaries

*Do I test the edges?*

- ☐ Happy path is confirmed
- ☐ Unexpected inputs are handled
- ☐ Meaningful tests exists: automated ones pass, manual ones documented

## Layer 5: Communication & Context

*Did I explain my choices?*

- ☐ Commit/PR message explains **why**, not just what
- ☐ Comments clarify intent and background. They do not restate code
- ☐ Any uncertainty or assumptions are clearly noted

## Going the distance: Self-Check

*Did I learn anything from this code?*

If not, you may be vibe-coding too hard.

Pause. Interrogate the logic. Let learning catch up with speed