What is a Bot?
Bots are tiny programs that live in your apps and respond to your commands to look up facts, send notifications, and more automatically for you.

What Do You Need to Build a Bot?
You only need 3 things to build a bot:

1. Connection to an app that has something you need
2. A way to interact with the app
3. A way to format your response

What Types of Bots Can I Build?
There are three main types of bots you can build:

- **Chat apps**, like Slack, are the perfect place for bots. They include both a text box to type commands into and a conversation view to see what the bot replies.

- **Notification bots** watch another app for an update and send it to Slack. They'll show up every so often when there's something new—a news update, new document, or trending hashtag, perhaps—and post it to your Slack channels.

- **Slash command bots** wait for your signal, then perform some task based on context that you provide. You trigger them by typing a ‘/’ followed by their name ('/giphy', say, for the Giphy bot), and then type in a command. The bot will then find what you're looking for and post it back to Slack in a reply.

How to Build a Reply Bot in Slack with Zapier
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Pre-built integrations from Zapier help you connect your apps and pass data between them. Using Zaps, or integrations inside Zapier, you can connect Slack to hundreds of other apps just by clicking through a simple wizard.

The simplest bots come built into your Slack settings. You add a phrase for the Slackbot to watch for, and then tell it how to respond.

For example, tell Slackbot to watch for messages that say 'office security code', then have it automatically respond with the number whenever that phrase is typed in.

To make a Slackbot Reply, go to slack.com/customize/slackbot and add the phrase and response you want. These will automatically work in any channel other than your personal Slackbot channel.

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**TIP** Slash command bots wait for your signal, then perform some task based on context that you provide. You trigger them by typing a ‘/’ followed by their name ('/giphy', say, for the Giphy bot), and then type in a command. The bot will then find what you're looking for and post it back to Slack in a reply.

Go build your own bots with your Zapier account and your favorite chat-like tool, including Twitter, HipChat, Telegram, and SMS.