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Claude Code asks for a claude-sonnet model: which model answers and what you pay

Claude Code

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Claude Code asks for a claude-sonnet model: which model answers and what you pay

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Sometimes Claude Code asks for a model by its own name, such as `claude-sonnet-...`, instead of the catalogue id. It happens when `ANTHROPIC_MODEL` is not set, and also when a function or a subagent uses one of the Claude Code short names. This article explains what our API does then.

Which model answers

A name that is not in the catalogue gives no error. We use our default coding model, `moonshotai/kimi-k2.7-code`, and Claude Code keeps working. The answer shows the name that was asked for. So Claude Code may say `claude-sonnet-...` when Kimi K2.7 Code was the one answering.

Agents are the exception: if the model is `agent/` followed by an id that does not exist or belongs to another account, the answer is `404 model_not_found`.

What you pay

You pay for `moonshotai/kimi-k2.7-code`, at its price. The price is in the **Models tab** and in `pricing`, in `GET /v1/models`. With the Coding Plan, it spends points, because this model is part of the plan.

Choosing the model for each function

Variable	What it chooses
`ANTHROPIC_MODEL`	The main model of the session. Always set it.
`ANTHROPIC_DEFAULT_SONNET_MODEL`	The model for the `sonnet` short name.
`ANTHROPIC_DEFAULT_OPUS_MODEL`	The model for the `opus` short name.
`ANTHROPIC_DEFAULT_HAIKU_MODEL`	The model for the `haiku` short name and for background tasks.
`CLAUDE_CODE_SUBAGENT_MODEL`	The model for subagents that have no other model set.

The values are catalogue ids, with the slash. The last four come from the Claude Code documentation. An example:

```
export ANTHROPIC_MODEL="moonshotai/kimi-k2.7-code"
export ANTHROPIC_DEFAULT_SONNET_MODEL="moonshotai/kimi-k2.7-code"
export ANTHROPIC_DEFAULT_OPUS_MODEL="deepseek-ai/deepseek-v4-pro"
export ANTHROPIC_DEFAULT_HAIKU_MODEL="deepseek-ai/deepseek-v4-flash"
```

Checking

`/status` shows the session model. If it shows a Claude Code name instead of the catalogue id, `ANTHROPIC_MODEL` is missing or the terminal did not read it. Open a new terminal and start Claude Code again.

Want to see the price first? `GET /v1/models?type=text&q=kimi` returns the model with its `pricing`. Listing the models spends no credits.

RECOMMENDED

Want to code with AI in Claude Code? Visit the Coding with AI page.

See Coding with AI →

SEE ALSO

- **Using Claude Code with All in One AI: the variables, the model and common errors**
- **The model for background tasks in Claude Code: ANTHROPIC_DEFAULT_HAIKU_MODEL**
- **Changing the model during a Claude Code session with /model**
- **Coding Plan: which plan to choose, what it costs and how to subscribe**
- **Coding with AI in All in One AI**

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TAX ID (NIF)	500 260 5724
COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION NO.	26464-25/250724
REGISTERED OFFICE	Rua Direita do Patriota, Bairro Dangereux Belas, Luanda, Angola
CONTACT	info@interweb.ao · +244 942 011 191 · www.interweb.ao
OPENING HOURS	Monday to Friday - 08 AM to 04 PM Saturday & Sunday - Closed

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