

# Agent vs Workflow

## What, When & How to Use

Stop using agents for everything.  
Build the **right AI architecture** for the job.

### WORKFLOW

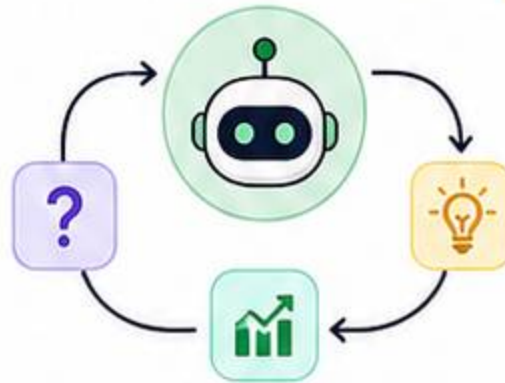
Predictable process.  
Follow the steps.



- ✓ Clear steps
- ✓ Reliable outputs
- ✓ Easy to test & scale

### AGENT

Unpredictable problems.  
Make smart decisions.



- ✓ Adapts to change
- ✓ Handles ambiguity
- ✓ Learns & reasons



**Save it.** Share it with your team.



# What is a Workflow?

**Fixed steps. Known path.**

A workflow is a fixed sequence of steps.  
The path is already known before the task starts.



- ✓ Predictable sequence
- ✓ Repeatable tasks
- ✓ Easy to test, debug & scale



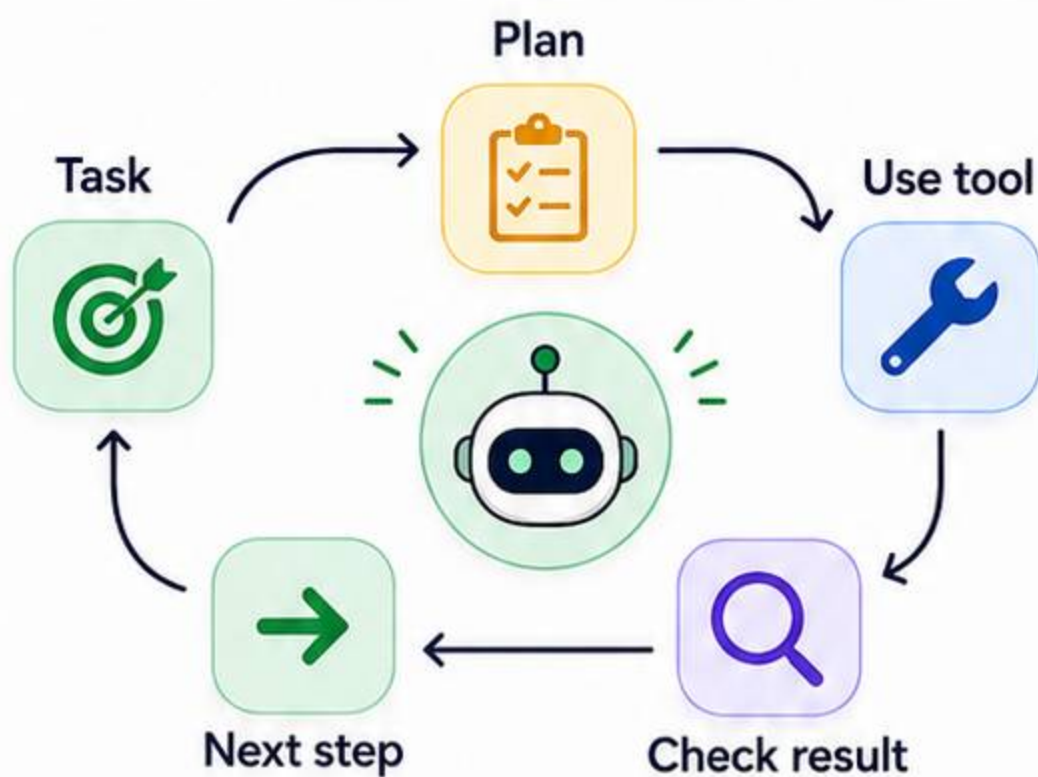
**Simple rule:** If the steps are always the same, use a workflow.



# What is an Agent?

**Dynamic steps. Smart decisions.**

An agent **decides what to do next**.  
It can choose tools, inspect results,  
and change direction.



- ✓ Chooses the next action
- ✓ Uses tools dynamically
- ✓ Handles ambiguity



**Simple rule:** If the model must decide the next step, **use an agent.**



# When to Use What?

Choose by task, not by hype.

## WORKFLOW

- ✓ Steps are predictable
- ✓ Speed matters
- ✓ Cost matters
- ✓ Output must be consistent
- ✓ Business rules are fixed

VS

## AGENT

- ✓ Many possible paths
- ✓ Tool selection is needed
- ✓ Research / exploration is required
- ✓ Results change the next step
- ✓ Flexibility matters more than predictability



Start with workflow. **Move to agent** only when workflow breaks.



# How to Decide

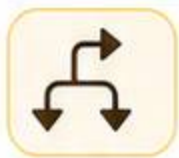
## A simple decision framework



1 Can fixed steps solve it?



2 Does the model need to choose tools?



3 Will results change the next action?



4 Do you need reliability or flexibility?



5 Can you tolerate higher latency and cost?



6 Can you debug the system easily?



### Choose Workflow



- ✓ Clear steps
- ✓ Reliable output
- ✓ Lower cost & latency

VS

### Choose Agent



- ✓ Dynamic path
- ✓ Tool use
- ✓ Adaptive reasoning



**Agents are powerful.**

**Workflows are easier to test, debug, scale & trust.**



**Save this** before building your next AI app.





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Thanks a ton! ❤️