# Dev Vocabulary Cheat Sheet

*The Secret Language Nobody Bothered to Explain*

Back when I first started coding, I felt like everyone was speaking a secret language. Meetings were full of words like "Agile," "SEO," "Tech Debt," and I'd just nod like 😀 "Yep, totally get it..." (Spoiler: I didn't.) Here's **my no-bs cheat sheet** for dev vocabulary that nobody bothered to explain.

## 👷 "We Work in Agile"

*(Translation: "We pretend to be organized, but chaos reigns.")*

- **Agile** = A way to manage projects by breaking them into tiny chunks (called sprints), so you can panic every 2 weeks instead of all at once.
- **Scrum** = A subtype of Agile where you stand in daily meetings (stand-ups) and say what you did yesterday (aka "I Googled errors for 4 hours").
- **Kanban** = Fancy word for a to-do list with columns like "Doing," "Done," and "Why Is This Still Here?"

(Fun fact: My first sprint felt like running a marathon... backwards.)

## 🔍 "The SEO Needs Work"

*(Translation: "Google hates our website.")*

- **SEO (Search Engine Optimization)** = The dark art of making your site show up on Google. Involves witchcraft (meta tags, keywords, and backlinks).
- **Semantic HTML** = Using `<article>` instead of `<div id="thingy">` so screen readers and Google don't get confused.

(Pro tip: If your site looks like a 1999 GeoCities page, SEO won't save you.)

## 💸 "Let's Avoid Tech Debt"

*(Translation: "We cut corners, and now we're paying for it.")*

- **Tech Debt** = When you write janky code to hit a deadline, and future-you hates past-you for it. Like taking a loan... but the interest is bugs.
- **Refactoring** = Rewriting code so it doesn't look like a toddler's finger-painting.
- **Legacy Code** = Ancient code nobody understands, but it somehow still runs. ("Don't touch it—it might explode.")

## 🎨 "The Design System is Broken"

*(Translation: "The CSS is a war zone.")*

- **Design System** = A set of reusable UI components (buttons, cards, etc.) so your app doesn't look like 5 different devs styled it.
- **BEM** = A CSS naming convention like `.block__element--modifier` Sounds weird, but it keeps your sanity intact.

## 🐢 "Our CDN Is Slow"

*(Translation: "The internet is buffering like it's 2005.")*

- **CDN (Content Delivery Network)** = Servers around the world that cache your site's files so Australians don't wait 10 seconds for your CSS.
- **Cache** = Temporary storage (like your browser remembering a site so it loads faster next time).
- **Cache Invalidation** = The art of clearing cached stuff when it's outdated. (Often done by smashing keyboards.)

## 💧 "Just Polyfill It"

*(Translation: "Make this work in IE, even if it kills us.")*

- **Polyfill** = Code that fakes modern features for older browsers. Like giving IE11 a fake mustache to sneak into the club.
- **Transpiler** = Converts modern code (ES6) into older JS so grandpa browsers understand it. Babel is the OG here.
- **Ponyfill** = A polyfill that doesn't pollute global scope. (Yes, this is a real term.)

## 🦶 "That's a Footgun"

*(Translation: "This code lets you shoot yourself in the foot... easily.")*

- **Footgun** = A feature/tool that's dangerously easy to misuse. (Example: JavaScript's `==` vs `===` .)
- **Yak Shaving** = Doing 10 pointless tasks to fix one tiny thing. (Example: Updating npm to fix a bug... but now Webpack won't compile... and suddenly it's 3 AM.)
- **Bikeshedding** = Arguing endlessly about trivial stuff ("Should the button be #FF0000 or #CC0033?") while ignoring big problems.

## 🚀 "We're Going Headless"

*(Translation: "We're fancy now.")*

- **Headless CMS** = A backend for content (like blog posts) that doesn't care how the frontend looks. Popular ones: Sanity, Contentful.
- **Headless Browser** = A browser without a UI (used for testing/scraping). **Puppeteer** is the celeb here.
- **JAMstack** = Building sites with JavaScript, APIs, and Markup. (Basically, "let's make static sites dynamic.")

## 🍝 "It's Just Spaghetti Code"

*(Translation: "The previous dev was a chaos gremlin.")*

- **Spaghetti Code** = A tangled mess where changing one line breaks 12 unrelated things.
- **Lasagna Code** = Over-engineered layers of abstraction (the opposite problem).
- **Rubber Duck Debugging** = Explaining your code to a rubber duck (or a patient coworker) to find the bug yourself. (Works scarily well.)
- **DRY** = (Don't Repeat Yourself) A coding mantra to avoid writing the same thing twice.
- **Tree-Shaking** = The build process shakes out unused code.

## ❤️ "We Use Open Source"

*(Translation: "We didn't build this, but thanks, strangers on GitHub!")*

- **Open Source** = Code that's free to use/modify. Like React, VS Code, or that random npm package you definitely checked for malware.
- **npm/yarn** = Tool to install JavaScript packages. Also where `node_modules` goes to eat your hard drive.
- **MIT License** = "Do whatever, just don't sue us."

## 🚨 "It's a P0 Bug!"

*(Translation: "Drop your coffee—the site's on fire.")*

- **P0/P1/P2 Bugs** = Priority levels. P0 means "fix this or we all lose our jobs." P2 means "maybe next year... or never."
- **Hotfix** = Emergency code fix deployed straight to production while praying nothing breaks.
- **Regression** = When you fix a bug but accidentally resurrect an older bug like a zombie apocalypse.

## 🐳 "We Need to Dockerize This"

*(Translation: "Let's wrap our app in a digital burrito so it runs anywhere.")*

- **Docker** = Tool to package apps with all their dependencies (so they work the same on your laptop and a server).
- **Kubernetes (k8s)** = Docker's overachieving cousin—manages containers at scale. (Also, a great way to make your resume sound fancy.)
- **Microservices** = When you break an app into tiny, independent pieces so one crash doesn't doom everything. (In theory.)

## 💀 "The API Is Down"

*(Translation: "Our app is now a brick.")*

- **API** = A way for apps to talk to each other. Like a waiter taking orders between the kitchen (server) and your table (frontend).
- **REST** = A common API design style. GET, POST, PUT...
- **GraphQL** = REST's hipster cousin. Only wants the data it needs, with zero extra calories.
- **Endpoint** = A URL where an API "listens" (e.g., `https://api.cats.com/v1/meow` ).
- **Rate Limiting** = When an API says "slow down, buddy" after you spam it too much.
- **DDoS** = When so many requests hit your server that it collapses. Sometimes intentional. Always bad.
- **Websockets** = Real-time communication between browser and server. Used for chat apps, games...

## 🏋️ "Let's A/B Test This"

*(Translation: "We'll guilt-trip users into clicking the red button.")*

- **A/B Testing** = Showing 50% of users Version A and 50% Version B to see which one doesn't flop.
- **CTA (Call to Action)** = The button you really want users to click ("Sign Up!", "Buy Now!", "Please, just click something!").
- **Bounce Rate** = When users visit your site and leave faster than a bad date.

## ☁️ "The Cloud Isn't Magic"

*(Translation: "It's just someone else's computer.")*

- **AWS/GCP/Azure** = Cloud providers that rent you servers (and charge you $5,000 if you forget to turn them off).
- **Serverless** = A lie—there are still servers, but you don't manage them. Like AWS Lambda ("run code without crying over Linux updates").
- **Load Balancer** = Traffic cop for your servers, so one doesn't get crushed while others nap.

## 📊 "Big O, Big Problems"

*(Translation: "Your code is slow. Here's why.")*

- **Big O Notation** = Measures how slow your algorithm gets as data grows.
  - **O(1)** = Lightning fast ("lookup by key in a dictionary").
  - **O(n)** = "Eh, not terrible" (looping through an array once).
  - **O(n²)** = "Why is my laptop smoking?" (nested loops).
  - **O(n!)** = "Burn it with fire" (traveling salesman brute force).
- **Optimization** = The art of making $O(n^2)$ into $O(n \log n)$ so your app doesn't crash.
- **Premature Optimization** = Obsessing over speed before your code even works. (Don't be this person.)

## 🤖 Bonus: Acronyms That Sound Like Sci-Fi

- **CRUD** = Create, Read, Update, Delete (basic app functions). Pronounced "krud"
- **CORS** = Browser security rule that loves to ruin your day. Pronounced "kors"
- **SSR** = Server-Side Rendering (HTML built on the server), **CSR** = Client-Side Rendering (HTML built in the browser). Pronounced "S-S-R" / "C_S_R"
- **TTFB** = Time To First Byte (how long your site takes to start loading). Pronounced "T-T-F-B"
- **WYSIWYG** = "What You See Is What You Get" (like WordPress's editor). Pronounced "wizzy-wig"