

Commit Messages

Computing

What belongs in a commit message, and the convention worth adopting.

**Subject in the imperative, under ~50 characters.
Blank line. Body explaining why.**

type(scope): subject

Good subject **fix(auth): reject expired refresh tokens**

Imperative, specific, scoped.

Poor subject

fixed stuff

Unsearchable and unreviewable.

Body content

Why the change, what was rejected

Future-you needs the reasoning.

THE COMMON MISTAKE

✗ **Describing the diff in prose**

✓ **Describing the reason for it**

The diff is already in the commit. What it cannot show is the alternative you tried and abandoned.

Conventional Commits types: feat, fix, docs, refactor, test, chore, perf.
Tooling can derive a changelog from them.