

# CORE NODES IN N8N

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## What this lesson is about:

This lesson introduces the most important core nodes used in nearly every n8n automation. These nodes help you clean, structure, combine, filter, delay, and route your data effectively.

## 1. Edit Fields (Set Node)

Used to clean and structure your data early in the workflow.

- Rename fields - make names more readable
- Format text - e.g. capitalize names
- Remove extra fields - keep only what's needed
- Add new fields - calculate or create values

 Best practice: Use it at the beginning of your automation to keep everything organized and avoid messy data later.

## 2. Aggregate Node

Perfect for combining or summarizing data from multiple items.

- Group data - like all signups from one company
- Remove duplicates - only unique items stay
- Summarize numbers - totals, averages, etc.
- Merge values - combine rows into one list

 Use when: You want to simplify large datasets before sending them elsewhere (like Slack, Sheets, or email).

## 3. If Node

Adds logic to your workflow by splitting it into two paths.

- Yes path - if condition is true
- No path - if condition is false
- Examples: route refund requests to support, high-value leads to sales

 Use when: You need simple decision-making based on one condition.


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## 4. Switch Node

Like an advanced version of the If Node, but with multiple possible outcomes.


- Set different branches for different values
- Keeps things cleaner than stacking multiple If nodes
- Example: Handle 'Pending', 'Shipped', and 'Cancelled' orders differently

 Use when: You have more than two outcomes based on one field (e.g. status, type, category).

## 5. Merge Node

Joins two different data sources together.


- Match by common field (e.g. email, ID)
- Example: Combine CRM data with Stripe payments or LinkedIn profiles

 Use when: You have data from two places and want to combine it into one full picture.

## 6. Wait Node

Pauses your workflow before the next action.

- Delay actions by minutes, hours, days
- Wait for events (e.g. payment confirmation)
- Use for follow-ups, reminders, rate limits

 Use when: You want to space things out or avoid overwhelming services with too many actions at once.

## 7. Code Node

Use JavaScript to transform or generate custom data.

- Clean or parse API responses
- Do calculations or formatting not supported by built-in nodes

 Use when: You need full flexibility or advanced logic.


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## 8. HTTP Request Node

Connects to any external API.

- Supports GET, POST, PUT, etc.
- Handles authentication (API keys, OAuth)
- Example: Fetch CRM data, send updates to Airtable

 Use when: You want to work with an app that doesn't have a built-in node in n8n.

## 9. Webhook Node

Receives real-time data from external apps.

- Generates a unique URL
- Triggers instantly when data is sent
- Examples: Stripe payment received, form submitted

 Use when: You want to trigger workflows in real-time from outside tools.