

Let an agent choose a small tool.

Watch a tool-using agent calculate a fictional supplies total.

Build one thing

Check it works

Choose an extension

Before you start.

01

You already know

Modules 07–08. Prepared n8n and a supported tool-calling chat model.

02

Open these tools

AI Agent, supported Chat Model and Calculator sub-node.

03

Check the requirement

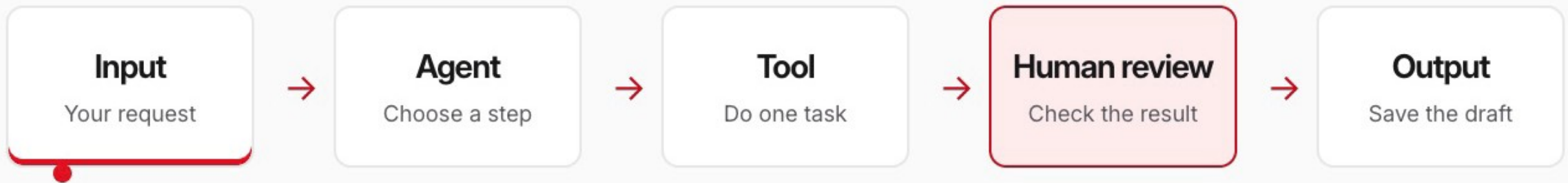
The chosen hosted model may need API billing. A chat subscription is not an API credential.

Your first small win.

Work out the fictional supplies total: 12 notebooks at 3 units each, plus 8 pens at 2 units each. Show the arithmetic and state the total. This is a workshop calculation, not a real purchase.

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What happens between input and output?



The agent receives a goal and tool descriptions.

The model chooses a permitted tool when needed.

You inspect tool calls and the final answer.

Step 01. Confirm a supported model.

- 1 Use the facilitator-approved tool-calling model and credentials.
- 2 Check current n8n supported-model documentation.
- 3 Do not assume every Ollama/chat model supports this agent.

Step 02. Create the input.

- 1 Add Manual Trigger and Edit Fields.
- 2 Create a String question with the supplies calculation.
- 3 Execute the input node and check its value.

Step 03. Add AI Agent.

- 1 Connect AI Agent and set the prompt from question.
- 2 Attach the supported Chat Model.
- 3 Do not use an obsolete agent-type selector.

Step 04. Give it one tool.

- 1 Attach Calculator to the agent tool connector.
- 2 Set the system instruction to the scoped agent prompt.
- 3 Set Max Iterations to 3 for this small test.

Step 05. Inspect execution.

- 1 Run once and inspect the tool call in execution details.
- 2 Confirm $12*3 + 8*2$ gives 52.
- 3 Do not assume a plausible final answer proves the tool ran.

Step 06. Test a boundary.

- 1 Ask it to place the order.
- 2 It should say no purchasing tool is available.
- 3 Keep the tool list read-only for this lesson.

Make the working version.

You are a workshop supplies assistant. Use Calculator for arithmetic when appropriate. Show the expression and result. Use only supplied quantities. No purchasing, messaging or booking tools are available. Ask for missing quantities; never claim actions were completed.

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Ask for a review. Then check it.

Inspect this recorded agent output and tool trace. Did a calculator call occur? Does the result match $12*3+8*2=52$? Flag unsupported claims. Do not assume execution from answer text alone. Trace: [paste redacted trace].

[Open copyable prompt](#)

Prove your result works.

- 1 A real Calculator call is visible.
- 2 The result is 52 for the fictional example.
- 3 The agent does not claim to buy anything.

When it does not work yet.

01

Tool-call error

Choose a currently supported tool-calling model.

02

Only an answer, no call

Inspect trace and tool connection; adjust the instruction then rerun.

Choose your next challenge.

01

Core complete

Show one checked output to a partner.

02

Extension 1

Add one bounded read-only lookup tool.

03

Extension 2

Compare agent tool choice with a fixed workflow call.

Keep the result. Keep the evidence.

Watch a tool-using agent calculate a fictional supplies total.

Save your files

Save your prompt

Name the next change

Sources you can check.

01

n8n

AI Agent

02

n8n

Supported tool-calling
models

03

n8n

Calculator tool