WORKFLOWVAULT

Free template | n8n + AI | ~10 min setup

Gmail AI Reply Drafts

New emails from real people get a reply drafted by AI, in your tone, using only your business info. It never sends anything: you review and press Send.

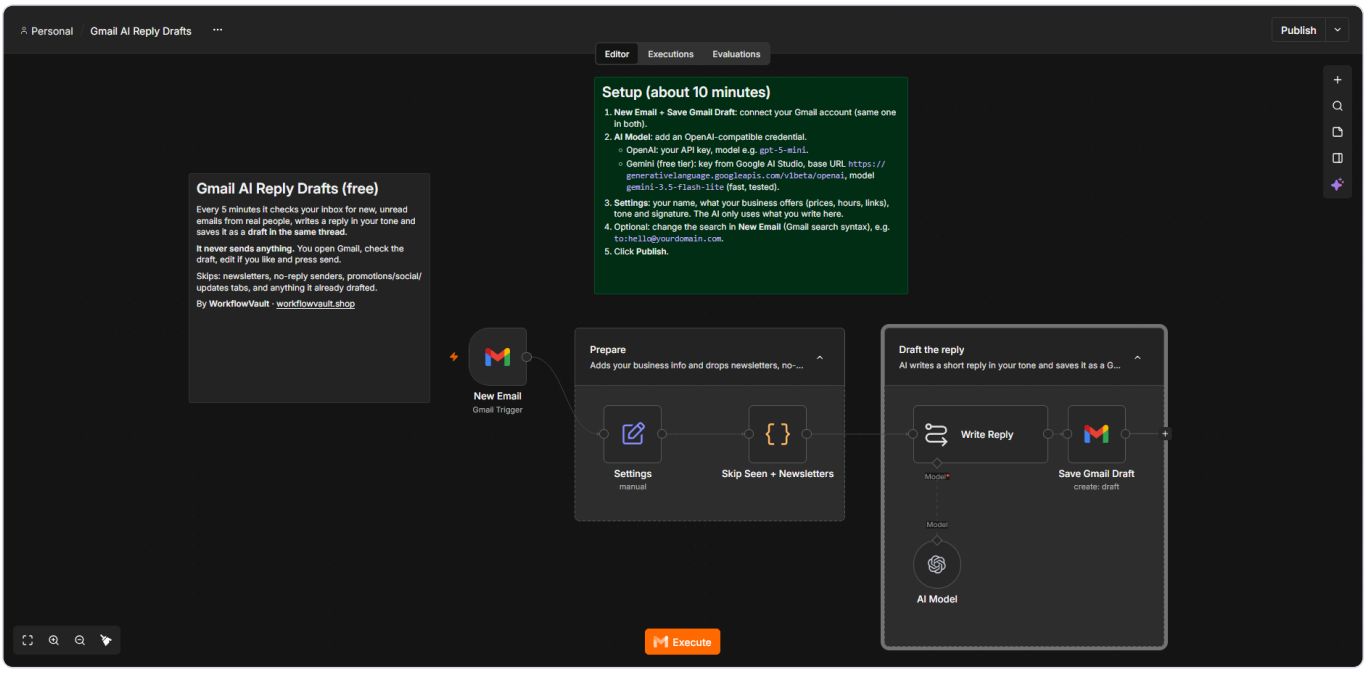
WHAT IT DOES

- Checks your inbox every 5 minutes
- Skips newsletters, no-reply senders and promo tabs
- Writes a short reply in your voice
- Saves it as a draft in the same thread

YOU NEED

- n8n (Cloud or self-hosted)
- A Gmail / Google Workspace account
- Any OpenAI-compatible AI key (Gemini free tier works)
- About 10 minutes

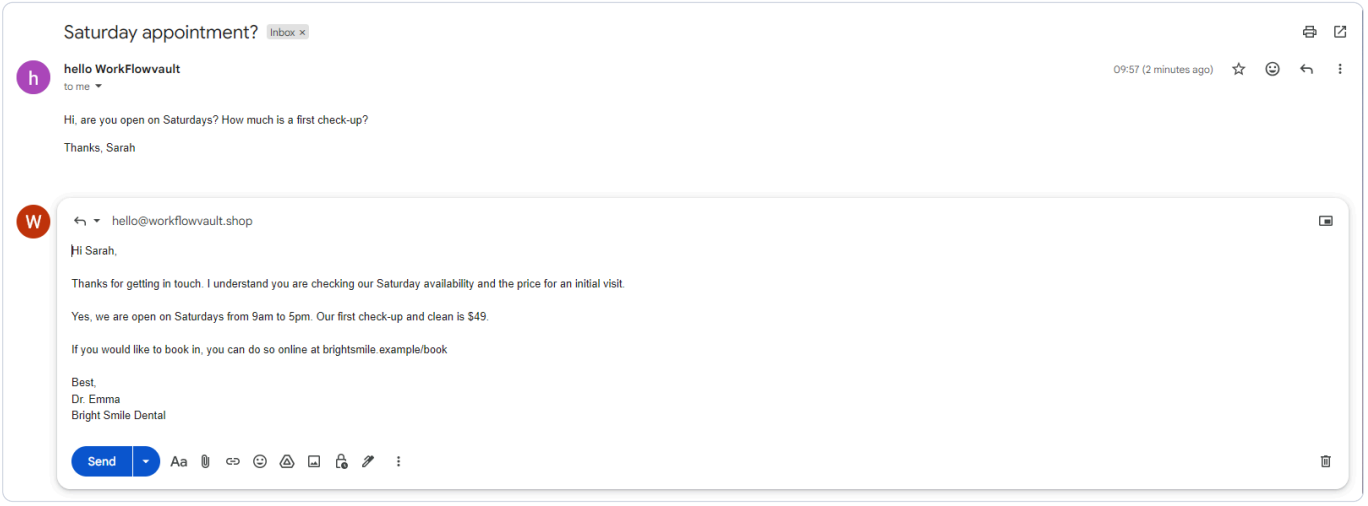
How it works



The workflow with both groups expanded.

New Email (Gmail) → Settings → Skip Seen + Newsletters → Write Reply (AI) → Save Gmail Draft

Skip Seen + Newsletters drafts each email only once and ignores automated mail (anything with an unsubscribe header, no-reply or notification senders). The AI is told to answer only from the business info you give it, never to invent prices or promises, and to keep replies under 140 words.



A real test: the customer asks about Saturday hours and price; the draft answers from the business info, with the booking link. Nothing is sent until you press Send.

Setup

1 Import the workflow

In n8n, open **Overview → Create Workflow**, then the ··· menu (top right) → **Import from File** and pick the `.json` file you downloaded. The workflow opens with sticky notes that repeat the key setup steps.

2 Connect Gmail

Open **New Email** → **Credential** → **Create new** → **Sign in with Google**. Use the same credential in **Save Gmail Draft**.

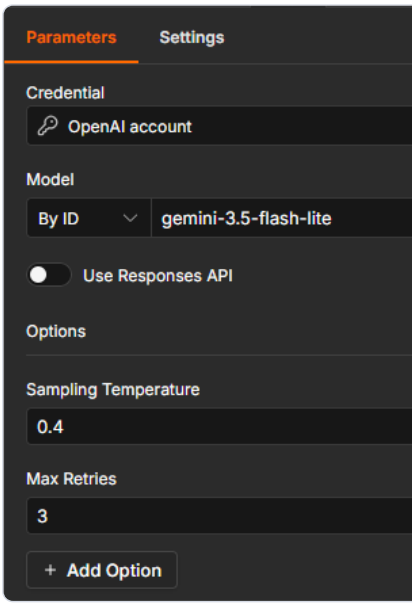
> Self-hosted n8n? Google sign-in needs your own OAuth app. In Google Cloud Console create a project, enable the **Gmail API**, set up the consent screen (add yourself as a test user) and create a **Web application** OAuth client with redirect URI `https://YOUR-N8N-URL/rest/oauth2-credential/callback`. Paste the Client ID and Secret into the n8n credential.

3 Connect the AI

Open **AI Model** → **Create new** credential of type **OpenAI**.

	Gemini (free tier)	OpenAI
API key	from **aistudio.google.com/apikey**	from platform.openai.com
Base URL	`https://generativelanguage.googleapis.com/v1beta/openai`	leave default
Model (By ID)	`gemini-3.5-flash-lite`	`gpt-5-mini`

> For Gemini keep **Use Responses API** switched **off**. Older model names such as `gemini-2.5-flash` are no longer available to new keys and return a 404.

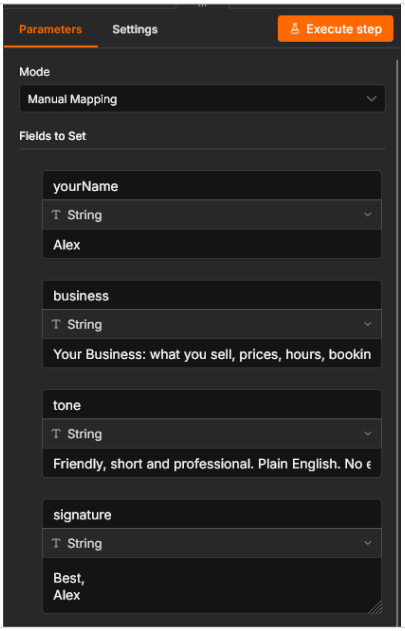


AI Model node set up for Gemini.

4 Tell the AI about your business

Open the **Prepare** group → **Settings**. The AI uses only what you write here, so be specific:

- **yourName**: who the replies are from.
- **business**: what you sell, prices, opening hours, booking or payment links, policies.
- **tone**: e.g. “Friendly, short and professional. No emojis.”
- **signature**: how replies end.



Settings: the only place you need to type your business details.

5 Optional: narrow the inbox search

In **New Email** the search is `in:inbox -category:promotions -category:social -category:updates -from:me`. Add anything in Gmail search syntax, e.g. `to:hello@yourdomain.com` to draft only for one address.

6 Publish

Click **Publish**. From now on, every 5 minutes new unread emails get a draft. Send yourself an email from another account to try it.

Troubleshooting

No draft appears

The email must be **unread**, in the inbox (Primary), and not from your own address. Emails from no-reply senders or newsletters are skipped on purpose.

AI Model error: 404 / model not found

Check the model ID and Base URL above. Use `gemini-3.5-flash-lite` or another model your key can access.

Replies are too vague

Add more detail to **business** in Settings: prices, hours, links, what you do not offer.

Google sign-in stops working after 7 days

Your OAuth app is in “Testing” mode. In Google Cloud → OAuth consent screen, click **Publish app**.

Can it send replies automatically?

It is built to draft only, so nothing goes out without you. If you want auto-send for some emails, ask us about a custom version.

Need help?

Stuck on a step? Email **hello@workflowvault.shop** with a screenshot of the node and the error message. We usually reply within one business day.

Want it installed for you, or changed for your business? Ask about a **Template install** or a **Custom workflow** at **workflowvault.shop**.

> Your credentials (passwords, API keys) stay inside your own n8n. This template never sends them anywhere else, and they are not included when a workflow is exported.