

Managed Agents

Anthropic's primitive for running production agents without owning the harness.



The four primitives

- **Agent** — the persona and instructions
- **Environment** — what tools, MCP servers, and credentials the agent has access to
- **Session** — one run of the agent against a task
- **Event** — the structured outcome (interrupts, confirmations, multi-agent handoffs, spans)

When to use Managed Agents

- You want production deployment without running your own harness infra
- The agent needs to coordinate with other agents and emit standard event types
- You need audit, retention, and rate limits handled for you

When to roll your own

- You need very custom tool access or non-MCP backends
- Cost per session matters more than infrastructure simplicity
- Your team has the engineering muscle to maintain the harness over time

From "Claude Code, Definitive Guide for 2026" — Chapter 6. Source: Build a production-ready agent with Claude Managed Agents.