

# AI email responder: draft Gmail replies automatically with n8n

Customers ask the same questions all day. This agent writes each reply as a Gmail draft under the customer's email, and you keep the final say.

## Trigger and agent

1. **Create workflow, Add first step**, search **gmail**. Under **Triggers**, pick **On message received**.
2. Connect the business inbox with **Sign in with Google**. Keep **Every Minute** and click **Fetch Test Event**.
3. Add **AI Agent**. Set **Source for Prompt** to **Define below** and paste the prompt below.
4. **Chat Model**: **OpenAI Chat Model** with your **OpenAI account** credential.

## The prompt

Write a reply to this email, then save it as a draft in the same thread.

```
<email>
From: {{ $json.From }}
Subject: {{ $json.Subject }}
Message: {{ $json.snippet }}
</email>
```

The {{ }} parts pull in each email's sender, subject and message.

## Gmail Tool: drafts only

### Resource

Change Message to **Draft**. Operation switches to **Create**.

### Subject

Re: {{ \$json.Subject }}

### Message

Click ✦ so the model writes it.

### Thread ID

{{ \$json.threadId }} , so the draft sits under the customer's email.

### To Email

{{ \$json.From }} , so you can just hit send.

## Facts, then the fix

- Add **Simple Memory**, then a **System Message** in four parts: who you are, what you know, rules, how to write.
- Rules: only create drafts. If it doesn't know, say someone from the team will follow up. Never make up prices, dates or services.
- **No session ID found** in Simple Memory? Set **Session ID** to **Define below** and paste {{ \$json.threadId }} .
- All green? Read the draft in Gmail, then click **Publish**.

**Remember:** Set the Gmail Tool to Draft. Then the worst the agent can do is write a draft you never send.

Practice it free: AI Email Responder: Draft Gmail Replies Automatically with n8n at [learn.ynteractive.com/modules/email-responder](https://learn.ynteractive.com/modules/email-responder). This sheet: [learn.ynteractive.com/content/cheat-sheets/ai-email-responder-n8n](https://learn.ynteractive.com/content/cheat-sheets/ai-email-responder-n8n). Greenline Pest Control is a made-up business from the lesson. By Robert Breen, October 1, 2026.