

# AI Prompt of the Day



## Week 1 Companion Files

### Welcome

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has rapidly transformed how we interact with technology, making it an essential part of our daily lives. At the heart of this transformation is a field known as "prompt engineering." This involves crafting specific instructions or questions—known as prompts—that guide AI systems in generating useful and relevant responses. Think of it as giving the AI a detailed recipe to follow to get the best results.

When engaging with an "AI Prompt of the Day," you'll encounter various prompts designed to explore the AI's capabilities and understand its responses better. Each prompt is an opportunity to see how the AI interprets and processes information, and how it can be fine-tuned to meet specific needs or solve particular problems.

By experimenting with different prompts, you'll learn how to communicate effectively with AI and harness its potential more efficiently. Whether you're looking to improve your writing, solve complex problems, or simply understand how AI thinks, mastering prompt engineering is a valuable skill in today's tech-driven world.

### Elements of a Great Prompt

There are six (or more) elements of a great prompt. Not every element is required in every prompt, so feel free to get creative. We'll explore each in further posts.

Elements of a Great Prompt	Instruction	Tell me about this or do that
	Role	an identity that the AI is expected to emulate, act like, or duplicate in it's reply – "act like a..."
	Context	show the AI more info about where/what it is – could be data, examples, previous articles, etc. "What are video codecs?" vs. "Can you create an outline for a 20 minute tutorial to teach support engineers about video codecs?"
	Tone/Style Information	tone of writing – serious, academic, empathetic, inspiring, can be "write like this examples"
	Formatting Information	table, markup language, code, etc.
	An Example or Examples	give it data to show what you want – the more the better – above 20 not helpful

## Instruction

In prompt engineering, an "instruction" is like giving a clear set of directions or a detailed question to an AI to get the information or help you need. Imagine you have a friend who's really good at answering questions or giving advice, but you need to be specific about what you want to know.

For example, if you ask your imaginary friend, "Tell me about science," you might get a broad answer. But if you say, "Explain how photosynthesis works in plants," that's a more specific instruction. It helps your friend (or in this case, the AI) understand exactly what you're interested in and give you a more precise answer.

So, in prompt engineering, creating a good instruction means being clear and specific about what you want from the AI. This way, the AI can provide the most relevant and helpful response.

Here are ten examples of instructions you might give to ChatGPT:

1. **Creative Writing:** "Write a short story about a dragon who discovers a hidden magical land."
2. **Historical Information:** "Explain the causes and effects of the French Revolution in simple terms."
3. **Math Help:** "Solve this algebra problem:  $3x + 5 = 20$ . What is  $x$ ?"
4. **Travel Advice:** "What are the top five things to do in Tokyo for a first-time visitor?"
5. **Cooking Tips:** "Give me a recipe for a vegetarian lasagna that serves four people."
6. **Career Guidance:** "What skills are important for a career in digital marketing?"
7. **Technical Explanation:** "Describe how a solar panel converts sunlight into electricity."
8. **Language Learning:** "Teach me five basic phrases in French that I can use while traveling."
9. **Health and Fitness:** "What are some effective exercises for improving core strength?"
10. **Entertainment Recommendations:** "Recommend three science fiction books for someone who enjoyed 'Dune' by Frank Herbert."

Each of these instructions focuses on a different area, from creative tasks to practical advice, showcasing the range of ways you can interact with an AI.

## Role

When you give AI a "role" in prompt engineering, it's like assigning it a specific job or responsibility. This helps guide the AI to focus on the right kind of task and produce answers that match what you need. Here's why it's important:

1. **Focuses the AI's Responses:** If you give the AI a clear role, like "act as a science teacher" or "explain this like a doctor," the AI knows exactly what kind of answers to give. Without a role, the AI might give responses that are too general or not quite what you're looking for.
2. **Helps AI Understand Context:** By assigning a role, you're telling the AI how to understand and interpret your question. For example, if you ask it to act like a football coach, it'll focus on sports-related advice, but if you ask it to act like a friend, it might give more casual and friendly advice.
3. **Improves the Quality of Responses:** When the AI knows its role, it can give you more accurate and helpful information. For example, if you tell the AI to act as a math tutor, it'll explain math concepts step-by-step, which is different from how it might answer a general knowledge question.

In short, giving AI a role is like telling it what hat to wear. It helps the AI focus and give answers that match what you need, making it more useful and effective.

Here's what you might type for each of these roles in a prompt:

1. **Teacher** – "Explain the concept of gravity as if you're a high school science teacher."
2. **Journalist** – Act like a news journalist. "Write a brief report on the environmental impacts of plastic waste."
3. **Coach** – "Motivate me to stick to my workout routine, as if you are a sports coach."
4. **Therapist** – You are a therapist. "Help me work through feelings of stress and anxiety."
5. **Historian** – "Describe the causes of World War I in detail, as if you are a historian."
6. **Chef** – You are a professional chef. "Give me a step-by-step recipe for lasagna."
7. **Lawyer** – "Explain the rights I have when being pulled over by the police, as if you are a lawyer."
8. **Comedian** – "Tell me a funny joke about school, as if you are a stand-up comedian."

9. **Personal Trainer** – "Create a daily exercise routine for building upper body strength, as if you are a personal trainer."
10. **Fictional Character (e.g., Detective)** – Act as if you are a detective in a mystery novel."Solve the mystery of the missing cake."

By specifying these roles, the AI will tailor its answers to match the tone and style of each one!

## Context

Giving context to a generative AI model is like giving it directions before asking a question. Context means providing background information or details that help the AI understand what you're asking for. For example, if you want help with a math problem, you might explain which class you're in or what topic you're studying. This helps the AI give a more accurate, relevant answer.

Context is important because without it, the AI might give you a response that's too broad or off-topic. The more specific the context, the better the AI can tailor its answer to your needs.

Here are 12 brief examples of prompts with added context:

1. "Explain the water cycle for a 10th-grade science project."
2. "Summarize the plot of *Romeo and Juliet* as if I've never read it."
3. "Help me solve this algebra problem. I'm currently learning quadratic equations."
4. "Give me study tips. I have a history exam on ancient civilizations next week."
5. "Suggest exercises to improve my soccer performance. I'm a midfielder."
6. "Write a professional email declining a job offer for an entry-level marketing position."
7. "Explain the Big Bang theory, keeping in mind I've just started studying physics."
8. "Give me advice on managing time. I have two part-time jobs and school."
9. "Suggest healthy dinner ideas. I'm a vegetarian and new to cooking."
10. "Break down how to write an argumentative essay. I'm writing about climate change."
11. "Teach me how to meditate. I'm a beginner looking to reduce stress."

12. "Help me understand Shakespeare's language. I'm studying *Macbeth* in English class."

## Tone/Style

When you ask an AI for help, how you word your request can change the kind of answer you get. You can guide the AI to respond in different ways by giving it clues about the tone or style you want. Tone refers to the mood or feeling of the response, like formal or casual, while style is how the AI delivers the information, such as using humor or being very detailed. Understanding how to ask for different tones and styles lets you get answers that fit exactly what you need—whether you're writing an email, a story, or something else.

Important note: If you don't like what you get, ask for more "Make it more professional" or "make it funnier"

How to prompt AI with tone and style suggestions:

1. **Formal Tone:** When you want a response in a formal tone, you might say: "Write a professional email to my manager requesting time off." This tells the AI to maintain a respectful and polished style. It avoids casual language, focusing on clear and polite wording, such as "I kindly request" or "I would appreciate." This is useful for business or academic writing, where a professional tone is needed. A formal tone shows seriousness, respect, and ensures the message is taken appropriately, especially in professional or official communications.
2. **Casual Tone:** To get a more relaxed and friendly response, you might prompt: "Write a message to a friend inviting them to hang out this weekend." This tells the AI to use casual language, including contractions, slang, or conversational phrases. It gives the AI the freedom to write in a more laid-back style, like "Hey, wanna hang out this weekend?" This tone is best for everyday conversations, texts, or informal settings, where you want to sound approachable and friendly.
3. **Persuasive Style:** For a persuasive tone, try: "Write a paragraph convincing someone to adopt a healthy lifestyle." This prompts the AI to use motivational language, persuasive techniques like emotional appeal, facts, or a call to action. The AI might use phrases like "By making small changes today, you can improve your quality of life" or "A healthier lifestyle leads to more energy and happiness." This style is great for speeches, advertisements, or essays where you want to convince or influence someone's opinion or behavior.

4. **Empathetic Tone:** If you want the AI to be compassionate and understanding, you could say: "Write a message comforting a friend who is feeling down." This prompt tells the AI to use sensitive and warm language, focusing on emotional support. It might include phrases like "I'm here for you" or "Take all the time you need." Empathetic tones are important in conversations about feelings or challenges, where the goal is to show care and understanding, making the person feel heard and supported.
5. **Humorous Style:** For a lighthearted or funny response, you might prompt: "Write a funny message to cheer up a friend who had a bad day." This tells the AI to use humor, puns, or playful language. It might say something like, "Why don't skeletons fight each other? They don't have the guts!" Humor lightens the mood and can make interactions more engaging or comforting, especially when trying to cheer someone up or break the ice.
6. **Narrative Style:** If you're asking the AI for a story, you might prompt: "Tell me a short story about a hero who saves a village." This suggests a narrative style, where the AI focuses on storytelling elements like characters, setting, conflict, and resolution. It might say, "Once upon a time, a brave hero set out to save their village from a mighty dragon..." This style is ideal when you want the AI to tell stories or when crafting creative writing.
7. **Technical Tone:** To receive a detailed and precise response, you might prompt: "Explain how a computer's CPU processes data in a technical manner." This suggests a technical tone, where the AI uses specific terminology and avoids emotional or casual language. The AI might provide details like, "The CPU retrieves instructions from memory, decodes them, and then executes them in sequential order." This tone is best for explaining complex ideas, especially in science, engineering, or technology, where accuracy and precision are key.
8. **Inspirational Style:** To evoke motivation and positivity, you could say: "Write a paragraph inspiring someone to pursue their dreams." This prompts the AI to use uplifting and empowering language. It might include phrases like "The future belongs to those who believe in their dreams" or "No goal is too big if you work hard and stay focused." Inspirational tones are used in speeches, motivational talks, or whenever you want to encourage someone to believe in themselves and take action.
9. **Analytical Tone:** For a logical and critical response, you might prompt: "Analyze the pros and cons of social media usage." This suggests an analytical tone, where the AI breaks down the topic, comparing different perspectives logically. It might use

phrases like "On one hand, social media connects people globally, but on the other, it can lead to privacy issues." This tone is suited for essays, reports, or debates where you need to evaluate both sides of an argument in a balanced, thoughtful way.

10. **Descriptive Style:** When you want vivid imagery, you could say: "Describe a sunset over the ocean." This tells the AI to use descriptive language, focusing on sensory details. It might say, "The sun dipped below the horizon, casting a warm orange glow across the water, while soft waves lapped against the shore." Descriptive writing paints a picture in the reader's mind, making it ideal for creative writing, poetry, or setting scenes in stories.
11. **Concise Tone:** For a brief, straightforward response, you could prompt: "Summarize the plot of *The Great Gatsby* in two sentences." This suggests a concise tone, where the AI cuts out unnecessary details and focuses on delivering the essential information. It might respond with, "Gatsby, a wealthy man, throws lavish parties to win back his love, Daisy. His pursuit of the American Dream leads to his downfall." A concise tone is useful when time or space is limited, such as in summaries or short explanations.
12. **Reflective Style:** For thoughtful, introspective responses, try: "Reflect on the importance of failure in personal growth." This tells the AI to adopt a reflective style, focusing on deeper meaning and personal insights. It might say, "Failure teaches us valuable lessons, helping us grow stronger and more resilient. By reflecting on our mistakes, we learn to overcome challenges and improve ourselves." Reflective tones are great for essays, journals, or self-development content where the focus is on learning and personal growth.

These are just a few of many possible examples that show how to guide AI responses with tone and style for specific needs.

## Formatting

Prompt engineering techniques are super useful when you want to guide an AI on how to **format** its response. Formatting means arranging the information in a specific way, like using bullet points, lists, tables, or different sections to make it easier to understand.

Here's why and how you might use these techniques:

1. **Clarity:** If you're studying for a test and need information quickly, asking the AI to "list" something can help. For example, "List the key events of World War II in bullet points" gives you a clear, organized answer that's easy to read.
2. **Step-by-step Instructions:** When learning something new, you might ask the AI to format the response in a specific order, like steps. For example, "Explain how to solve a quadratic equation step-by-step" gives you the answer broken down, making it easier to follow.
3. **Table Formatting:** If you need to compare two things, like pros and cons, you can ask the AI to organize the information in a table. You could say, "Create a table comparing renewable and non-renewable energy sources."
4. **Headings and Subheadings:** For bigger projects or essays, you might want the AI to organize information under headings. For example, "Explain climate change and use headings for causes, effects, and solutions." This makes long responses easier to navigate.

Using prompt engineering to control how information is presented can make the response more helpful, organized, and easier to understand!

Here are 10 brief examples of how to prompt AI with formatting instructions:

1. **Bullet Points:** "List the benefits of exercise in bullet points."
2. **Numbered List:** "Give me a 5-step guide to writing an essay, using a numbered list."
3. **Table:** "Create a table comparing the planets in our solar system by size and distance from the sun."
4. **Paragraphs:** "Write a short essay on the impact of technology on education in three paragraphs."
5. **Sections:** "Explain the causes of the Civil War using headings for 'Economic Causes,' 'Social Causes,' and 'Political Causes.'"
6. **Timeline:** "Provide a timeline of key events in the American Revolution."
7. **Quotes:** "Give me a paragraph explaining photosynthesis and include a quote from a biology textbook."
8. **Steps:** "Explain how to bake a cake with step-by-step instructions."
9. **Code Block:** "Write a simple Python program that prints 'Hello, World!' and format it in a code block."



10. **Bold and Italics:** "Write a short summary of *The Great Gatsby* and emphasize the main character's name in bold."

## Example(s)

Including examples when prompting a generative AI model is like giving it a clear map of what you want. Examples guide the AI on how to respond, making it more likely to give you the answer you're looking for. When you show the AI what kind of response you expect, you're using "prompt engineering" to shape its answer.

For example, if you ask the AI to "write a summary of *Romeo and Juliet*," the response might be too long or not detailed enough. But if you say, "Write a summary of *Romeo and Juliet* in two sentences like this: '[Insert a short summary example],'" the AI will follow that style. Providing an example makes the instructions clearer.

Examples also help control the tone, length, and format of the response. If you want a persuasive argument, showing an example of how to structure it can make the AI respond more effectively.

Using examples and engineering your prompts is powerful because it teaches the AI how to meet your needs. The clearer and more specific your examples, the better the response. It's like telling the AI, "Here's what I'm thinking—now follow this idea!" This makes the interaction more efficient and useful.

Here are 10 types of examples you might use when prompting a generative AI model:

1. **Length Example:** "Summarize *To Kill a Mockingbird* in two sentences like this: '[Insert example summary here].'"
2. **Tone Example:** "Write a funny joke like this: 'Why did the chicken cross the road? To get to the other side!'"
3. **Format Example:** "List the causes of climate change in bullet points, like this: '[Example of bullet points].'"
4. **Structure Example:** "Write a persuasive paragraph like this: '[Insert example of a persuasive paragraph].'"
5. **Detail Level Example:** "Describe a sunset in one sentence, like this: '[Example of a brief description].'"
6. **Step-by-Step Example:** "Explain how to bake a cake in steps like this: '[Step 1, Step 2, etc.].'"

7. **Comparison Example:** "Compare two smartphones like this: '[Insert example comparison with pros and cons].'"
8. **Creative Example:** "Write a short story beginning with 'Once upon a time,' like this: '[Insert story opening].'"
9. **Dialogue Example:** "Write a conversation between two friends like this: '[Example of casual dialogue].'"
10. **Data/Chart Example:** "Create a table comparing car models like this: '[Insert example table with columns for price, speed, etc].'"

Using these example types helps the AI tailor its response to your exact needs!