

Prompting To Improve AI Writing

Custom Prompting Tips To Improve AI Writing Output
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Introduction

Over the years I've collected a bunch of custom prompting tips to help improve the quality of output you get when using AI tools for writing.

I've had these stored in a simple text file, so I took some time to clean it up a little to make everything a little easier for you to understand - most of what made sense to include you'll find in this document.

The most important thing to note is that this isn't a "guide to custom prompting". It's just to help give you some ideas as to the various ways you can modify the output.

The best way to use these tips is to try them one by one and see how the output changes until you get something you like. You can also combine the prompt tags and techniques to create more advanced custom prompts (but again test the output at each change).

Enjoy,

Duncan Carver

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General Prompting Tips

When it comes to writing prompts or Prompt Tags, LLMs don't need to know why you're asking for something, just the what. You don't need a because - it won't affect the outcome.

The purpose of prompt tags is to make communication simple. However, we've developed a habit of over-explaining why we want the AI to do something. Unlike humans, LLMs don't need to be convinced; they only need clear instructions on what to do or what not to do.

Remember, they're not human, even though we sometimes treat them as if they are. Think of it like straight talking and getting to the point. Do this, and you'll save time and improve your communication with the AI.

Prompt Tag Delimiters

Prompt tag delimiters are special characters or symbols used to define the beginning and end of a prompt tag. They help to clearly separate instructions, keywords, or specific parameters within a prompt, making it easier to parse and understand.

Using delimiters, you can ensure that each part of the prompt is distinctly recognized and executed correctly. This is particularly useful when constructing complex prompts, as it helps maintain clarity and organization, preventing any confusion or misinterpretation. Essentially, delimiters act as markers that enhance the precision and effectiveness of your prompts.

Standard practice is to **use Brackets []**

Here are some examples of prompt tag delimiters in action:

Brackets []

Example: [Translate this text to French] Bonjour, comment ça va?

Curly Braces { }

Example: {Summarize this article} The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Parentheses ()

Example: (Explain like I'm 5) What is photosynthesis?

Pipes | |

Example: |Generate a catchy headline| New breakthrough in renewable energy!

Colons : :

Example: :Define: Quantum mechanics

These delimiters help clearly define the start and end of your instructions, ensuring that the prompt is executed as intended.

Ask The AI To Help Create Prompts

When creating custom prompts, you can simply paste the prompt you create into the AI and ask it to help you improve it. i.e.

“Act as a prompt engineer. Review the following prompt for me. Optimize it for me to make it better. Ask any questions before proceeding.”

Humanizing & Simplifying AI Output

The following are a list of ways in which you can simplify and humanize content.

[Use simple English]

Ensures the language is easy to understand, avoiding complex vocabulary and jargon.

[Speak conversationally throughout]

Maintains a friendly, informal tone, as if chatting with a friend.

###[Use extremely conversational grammar between paragraphs and sentences]

Keep the flow natural and easy, with smooth transitions and informal grammar.

[craft uniquely conversational content throughout]

Create content that feels like a personal, engaging conversation, rather than formal writing.

[Speak in plain English]

Use clear, straightforward language to make the content accessible to everyone. Use clear, straightforward language to make the content accessible to everyone.

[Use Hemingway's Rules]

Follow Hemingway's guidelines for writing simply and clearly, using short sentences and avoiding unnecessary words.

Well Written SEO Article

This prompt tag combination helps create SEO articles that are well-rounded, valuable, and favoured by search engines.

Write an article about: "Do Hamsters Eat Insects?"

[Ensure there is Semantic Accuracy]

[Ensure there is Semantic Completeness]

[Ensure there is Semantic Consistency]

[Ensure there is Semantic Conciseness]

[Ensure there is Semantic Relevance]

[Ensure there is Semantic Interoperability]

[Ensure there is Semantic Trustworthiness]

Using these tags in your prompt to write an article on "Do Hamsters Eat Insects?" would ensure a high-quality, well-rounded piece. Here's how each tag contributes:

Semantic Accuracy: The information provided in the article would be correct and factually precise. Any statements about hamsters and their diet would be accurate.

Semantic Completeness: The article would cover all necessary aspects of the topic, providing a thorough explanation. You wouldn't miss out on any important details about hamsters eating insects.

Semantic Consistency: The content would be logically consistent throughout, avoiding any contradictions. The article would maintain a uniform tone and structure.

Semantic Conciseness: The writing would be clear and to the point, avoiding unnecessary fluff. Each sentence would contribute directly to the overall understanding of the topic.

Semantic Relevance: All the information included would be directly related to the topic of hamsters eating insects. There would be no off-topic digressions.

Semantic Interoperability: The language and terminology used would be easily understandable and accessible, ensuring that the article could be easily integrated or used alongside other related content.

Semantic Trustworthiness: The content would be reliable and based on credible sources, instilling confidence in the reader that the information is dependable.

Using all these tags together would result in an article that is accurate, complete, consistent, concise, relevant, understandable, and trustworthy.

Semantic Entities for SEO

[Add semantic entities]

Semantic entities are specific, meaningful elements within a text that represent distinct concepts, objects, or things. These can include names of people, places, organizations, dates, numerical values, and more. In the context of natural language processing (NLP) and search engine optimization (SEO), identifying and utilizing semantic entities can help improve the relevance and accuracy of content.

Here are some key points about semantic entities:

Types of Semantic Entities:

Persons: Names of individuals (e.g., "Albert Einstein").

Organizations: Names of companies or institutions (e.g., "Google").

Locations: Geographical places (e.g., "Paris", "Mount Everest").

Dates: Specific times or periods (e.g., "July 26, 2024").

Events: Notable happenings (e.g., "World War II").

Products: Items or brands (e.g., "iPhone", "Coca-Cola").

Importance in SEO:

Relevance: Using semantic entities helps search engines understand the specific topics covered in your content, making it more relevant to user queries.

Rich Snippets: Properly marked semantic entities can lead to enhanced search results, such as rich snippets, which can improve click-through rates.

Context: They provide context that helps disambiguate meanings, improving the accuracy of search results.

Authority: Mentioning well-known entities can add authority and trustworthiness to your content.

Use in Content Creation:

Keyword Optimization: Incorporating relevant semantic entities can improve keyword targeting and overall content relevance.

Structured Data: Using schema markup to tag semantic entities helps search engines better understand and categorize your content.

User Engagement: Well-defined entities make content more informative and engaging for readers.

For example, in an article about "Do Hamsters Eat Insects?", it might include semantic entities like "hamsters", "mealworms", "protein", and "pet store". These entities provide clear and specific information that helps both readers and search engines understand the main points of your article.

Apply Conceptual Diversity

[Apply Conceptual Diversity]

The tag [apply conceptual diversity] ensures that the content includes a wide range of perspectives, ideas, and concepts related to the topic. Here's what it can achieve:

Broad Coverage: It would expand the article to cover various aspects and angles of the topic, making it more comprehensive.

Multiple Viewpoints: Different perspectives and opinions would be included, providing a balanced view of the topic.

Rich Examples: The article would feature diverse examples and cases to illustrate the points more effectively.

Interdisciplinary Approach: Incorporating insights from different fields or disciplines related to the topic, enriching the content.

In the context of the article "Do Hamsters Eat Insects?", applying conceptual diversity might include:

Scientific Viewpoint: Discussing the nutritional benefits and scientific reasons why hamsters might eat insects.

Pet Care Perspective: Considering the advice of veterinarians and pet care experts on feeding hamsters insects.

Wild vs. Domestic: Comparing the diet of wild hamsters to that of pet hamsters.

Cultural Practices: Mentioning how different cultures or regions might approach feeding insects to hamsters.

Personal Anecdotes: Including stories or experiences from hamster owners about their pets eating insects.

By applying conceptual diversity, the content becomes richer and more engaging, offering readers a well-rounded and informative view of the topic..

Various Instructions for Writing

Here is a list of various instructions you can use for rewriting content. You can also use these as in a prompt to instruct the AI to follow the same style before creating the content.

###[Employ a Persuasive and Relaxed Writing Style]

Instructions

Reflect current events and common language.

Simplify Language: Use clear, straightforward language.

Avoid Overused Phrases: Steer clear of clichés and overused words.

Provide Context: Explain why something is important instead of merely stating it.

Use Transitions Thoughtfully: Create a natural flow based on context.

Prefer Active Voice: Choose active voice over passive for clarity.

Minimize Hyperbole: Stick to facts and support claims with evidence.

Include Specific Examples and Product Recommendations as Needed.

Rewrite in Your Own Words, Avoid Copy-Pasting.

Correct Spelling and Grammar Errors.

Check for Plagiarism to Ensure Unique Content.

Use a Conversational Style, Mimicking Human Writing.

Bold Necessary Words as Required.

Employ a Persuasive and Relaxed Writing Style.

Avoid Words Disliked by Google for Better Indexing.

Write Comprehensive Paragraphs with Rich Details.

Utilize Subheadings with Keyword-Rich Titles for Clarity.

Include a Custom Quote in the Article.

Archetypes

Archetypes are a powerful way of adding emotive perspectives to your content.

Defining archetypes when using AI for writing provides a structured framework that guides the AI in creating consistent, coherent characters and narratives that align with established patterns or types, enhancing the relatability and depth of the content.

[Employ archetype: THE HERO without mentioning it directly]

Archetype List

The Hero: A brave and noble protagonist who goes on a journey to save the day.

The Mentor: A wise and experienced guide who helps the hero on their journey.

The Innovator: A character who is ahead of their time coming up with ideas that revolutionise their market.

The Magician: A character with supernatural powers or knowledge who uses their abilities for good or evil.

The Early Adopter: A character who is the first to embrace new technology or trends and is often seen as a trendsetter.

The Skeptic: A character who is hesitant to embrace change and needs to be convinced of the benefits before making a purchase.

The Budget-Conscious: A character who is cost-conscious and wants to get the best value for their money.

The Quality Seeker: A character who values quality and is willing to pay a premium for products or services that meet their standards.

The Connoisseur: A character who has refined taste and is an expert in a specific field or product.

The Busy Professional: A character who is always on the go and values efficiency and convenience in their purchases.

The Practical: A character who values functionality and practicality in their purchases.

The Thinker: A character who considers all of their options before making a quality decision

The Impulsive: A character who makes purchases based on emotions and desires, rather than practical considerations

The Jester: A comic character who uses humour to diffuse tense situations and bring joy to others.

The Sage: A wise and knowledgeable character who offers guidance and insight.

The Warrior: A strong and brave fighter who battles for a cause.

The Explorer: A curious and adventurous character who sets out to discover new lands or knowledge.

The Innocent Child: A pure and unspoiled character who represents innocence and hope.

The Heroine: A female hero who embarks on a journey and saves the day.

The Princess: A young female character who is royalty and is often the object of a quest.

The Nurturer: A character who provides comfort and care to those in need.

The Father/Mother Figure: A strong, protective, and paternal or maternal character who provides guidance and support.

The Outlaw: A character who operates outside the law and defies authority.

The Rebel: A character who challenges authority and fights against the status quo.

The Seeker: A character on a quest to find something, whether it be knowledge, treasure, or spiritual fulfilment.

The Tyrant: A cruel and oppressive ruler who uses their power to control and subjugate others.

The Explorer: A character who sets out to discover new lands or knowledge, often with a sense of adventure and curiosity.

The Martyr: A character who sacrifices themselves for a greater cause or for the benefit of others.

The Saviour: A character who rescues others from danger or harm.

The Detective: A character who solves mysteries and solves crimes, often with a sense of logic and reasoning.

The Avenger: A character who seeks revenge for a wrong that was done to them or to someone they care about.

The Mystic: A character with spiritual or supernatural abilities, often portrayed as wise and powerful.

The Bystander: A character who is caught up in events beyond their control and is affected by them.

The Enchanter: A character who uses magic or enchantment to control or manipulate others.

The Master: A spiritual teacher or mentor who offers wisdom and guidance to others.

The Visionary: A character with a unique perspective, who can see beyond the present and into the future.

The Prodigy: A young character who possesses exceptional talent or abilities, often in a specific field.

The Maverick: A character who operates outside the norm and resists following conventional norms and rules.

The Transformed: A character who undergoes significant change either through a personal epiphany or supernatural experience.

The Wanderer: A character who travels from place to place often in search of adventure or purpose.

The Anti-Hero: A character who possesses some qualities typically associated with a hero, but also has negative or morally ambiguous traits.

The Enigma: A character who is mysterious, difficult to understand, and often surrounded by secrets.

The Prodigal: A character who has left their family or community and must return and face the consequences of their actions.

The Ruler: A character who holds power and authority over a kingdom, society, or organization.

Random Command Tag Ideas

This is a list of random commands you can use (mix and match) to get all sorts of different output. Example instruction to AI:

Write an article about “Do Hamsters Eat Insects?”

###[Explain Like I’m 5]

###[Informal]

###[Short]

###[Bullet Points]

Commands

[Explain Like I'm 5] - Asks for an explanation in simple terms, as if explaining to a 5-year-old.

[Technical] - Signifies that a detailed, technical explanation is desired.

[Short] - Requests a brief response.

[Long] - Indicates that a longer, more detailed answer is preferred.

[Poetic] - Asks for a response in a poetic format.

[Bullet Points] - Requests information to be presented in bullet points.

[No Math] - Indicates to avoid mathematical explanations.

[Story Mode] - Requests a narrative or storytelling approach.

[Simplified] - Asks for a simplified explanation or response.

[Creative] - Requests a creative or unconventional approach to the response.

[Role Play] - Indicates that the user and the AI should assume specific roles in the conversation.

[First Person] - Requests that the response be in the first-person perspective.

[Third Person] - Asks for the response to be in the third-person perspective.

[Formal]: Refers to a style that is professional, respectful, and adheres to conventional standards of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, typically used in business or academic contexts.

[Informal]: Indicates a casual, relaxed approach in communication, often featuring colloquial language, slang, and a personal tone, suitable for friendly or familiar interactions.

[Technical]: Pertains to language or content that is specific to a particular field of expertise, including jargon and detailed explanations that assume a level of subject matter knowledge.

[Creative]: Signifies an approach that encourages originality and expressiveness, often in artistic or literary contexts, where standard conventions may be bent or broken for effect.

[Polite]: Used to ensure communication is courteous and shows consideration for the recipient, often including phrases like "please" and "thank you".

[Urgent]: Indicates a need for quick attention or response, often found in business or emergency contexts where time is of the essence.

[Question]: Used when seeking information, clarification, or an answer from the recipient.

[Instruction]: Specifies a directive or a set of actions to be followed, commonly used in manuals, guides, and recipes.

[Emotional]: Used to express or evoke specific emotions such as happiness, sadness, anger, or empathy.

[Persuasive]: Aimed at convincing or influencing the reader's opinion or actions through logical reasoning, emotional appeal, or ethical argument.

[Instructional]: Provides step-by-step guidance or directions on how to perform a task or solve a problem.

[Reflective]: Encourages introspection, allowing the writer or speaker to explore their thoughts, feelings, and reactions to certain experiences.

[Analytical]: Focuses on breaking down a complex topic or issue into smaller parts to understand its structure and meaning better.

[Descriptive]: Aims to provide a detailed description of characters, settings, events, or objects, using sensory details to paint a vivid picture for the reader.

[Narrative]: Tells a story or recounts events, often with a clear beginning, middle, and end, and includes elements like characters, plot, and setting.

[Expository]: Used to explain, describe, or inform about a topic in a straightforward, logical manner, often with the intention of educating the reader.

[Explanatory]: Offers a detailed explanation or clarification of a concept or process.

[Summary]: Provides a concise overview of a topic, article, or document.

[Instructional]: Delivers step-by-step guidance or how-to information.

[Analytical]: Engages in the examination and breakdown of a topic or data.

[Descriptive]: Paints a vivid picture of a scene, object, or concept through detailed descriptions.

[Reflective]: Encourages introspection and personal reflection on a given subject.

[Narrative]: Tells a story or recounts events in a structured manner.

[Critique]: Offers a critical analysis or evaluation of a work, idea, or performance.

[Comparative]: Draws comparisons between two or more items or concepts.

[Predictive]: Forecasts future trends, events, or behaviors based on current data or trends.

[Historical]: Provides insight or information about past events or contexts.

[Philosophical]: Explores philosophical ideas, theories, or questions.

[Humorous]: Introduces humor to engage or entertain the reader.

[Inspirational]: Motivates or inspires the reader with uplifting messages or stories.

[Technical Detail]: Offers in-depth technical information, often including code or specialized knowledge.

[Factual]: Presents straightforward facts or information without embellishment.

[Debate]: Presents arguments for and against a particular issue or topic.

[Tutorial]: Guides the reader through learning a new skill or concept.

[Review]: Provides an assessment or opinion on a product, service, or experience.

[Summarize]: For condensing information into a concise summary.

[Explain]: To provide detailed explanations or clarifications.

[Generate]: For creating content, code, or ideas.

[Translate]: To convert text from one language to another.

[Analyze]: For breaking down or critically examining information.

[Predict]: To forecast or make predictions based on data or trends.

[Advise]: For offering suggestions or guidance.

[Compare]: To evaluate the differences or similarities between subjects.

[Instruct]: For providing step-by-step instructions.

[Optimize]: To improve efficiency or performance.

[Calculate]: For mathematical computations or financial analyses.

[Research]: To gather information on a specific topic.

[Edit]: For revising or improving written content.

[Design]: To create plans or layouts.

[Debug]: For identifying and fixing errors in code.

[Visualize]: To create visual representations of data or concepts.

[Narrate]: For telling stories or describing events.

[Categorize]: To organize information into categories.

[Evaluate]: For assessing or judging the quality or value of something.

[Simplify]: To make something easier to understand or use.

Prompt Tag Combos

Similar to the above, here are some example combinations.

These combos are super focused, incredibly concise, and save on token costs.

The magic lies in the construction: these power prompts are built entirely out of prompt tags, condensing instructions uniquely and effectively. Using these instead of traditional conversational methods is not only more efficient but also structurally comprehensive.

Combos

###

[theme: Professional]

[topic: ""insert""]

[tone: formal, authoritative, respectful]

[purpose: provide information, establish expertise, influence decision-making]

[audience: business professionals, corporate executives, stakeholders]

[format: report, article, memo, presentation]

[length: 500-1000 words]

[structure: introduction, main points with subheadings, conclusion]

###

###

[theme: Educational]

[topic: ""insert""]

[tone: informative, clear, engaging]

[purpose: teach a concept, explain step-by-step, enhance understanding]

[audience: students, lifelong learners, educators]

[format: tutorial, lesson plan, study guide, e-learning module]

[length: 800-1200 words]

[structure: introduction, detailed steps or sections, summary, quiz or exercises]

###

###

[theme: Inspirational]

[topic: ""insert""]

[tone: motivational, uplifting, positive]

[purpose: inspire action, boost morale, encourage personal growth]

[audience: general, self-improvement enthusiasts, teams]

[format: speech, quote, blog post, social media post]

[length: 200-500 words]

[structure: compelling opening, motivational content, call to action]

###

###

[theme: Casual]

[topic: ""insert""]

[tone: conversational, friendly, informal]

[purpose: engage in light discussion, build rapport, entertain]

[audience: friends, social media followers, general public]

[format: social media post, chat, informal email, blog entry]

[length: 100-300 words]

[structure: casual opening, main message, light conclusion or question]

###

###

[theme: Technical]

[topic: ""insert""]

[tone: detailed, precise, technical]

[purpose: explain a complex topic, provide technical guidance, ensure accuracy]

[audience: specialists, engineers, IT professionals, developers]

[format: technical manual, whitepaper, guide, documentation]

[length: 1000-2000 words]

[structure: abstract or summary, detailed sections with subheadings, conclusion or recommendations]

###

###

[theme: Promotional]

[topic: ""insert""]

[tone: persuasive, enthusiastic, compelling]

[purpose: promote a product, drive sales, generate interest]

[audience: potential customers, target market, clients]

[format: advertisement, sales pitch, promotional email, landing page]

[length: 300-600 words]

[structure: attention-grabbing headline, key benefits, persuasive details, call to action]

###

###

[theme: Creative]

[topic: ""insert""]

[tone: imaginative, innovative, expressive]

[purpose: generate ideas, inspire creativity, explore possibilities]

[audience: artists, creators, designers, innovators]

[format: brainstorming session, creative brief, idea list, concept outline]

[length: 400-800 words]

[structure: creative prompt or scenario, idea generation, potential applications]

###

###

[theme: Narrative]

[title: ""insert""]

[topic: ""insert""]

[tone: storytelling, engaging, immersive]

[purpose: tell a story, captivate audience, convey a message through narrative]

[audience: general readers, fiction lovers, children]

[format: short story, novel excerpt, narrative essay, bedtime story]

[length: 1000-3000 words]

[structure: compelling opening, rising action, climax, resolution]

###

Word / Term Exclusion

AI content can be easily spotted due to certain words or phrases being used more often than would when compared to a human writer. This is largely due to the data they were trained on. For example, overuse of the phrases: “Lets dive into...”, “Lets delve into...”

Below is a list of common terms. You can add to it or modify it as necessary.

###[EXCLUDE THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND TERMS: insert terms here]

List of common AI output words / phrases to exclude:

Additionally, As an ai, As of my last knowledge, in September 2021, As well as, Beacon, Bombastic, Boost, Buckle up, By the same token, Comparatively, Competitive digital world, Conclusion, Correspondingly, Delve, Demystified, Demystifying, Discover, Dive, Elevate, Embark, Embrace, Enhance, Equally, Equally important, Ever-evolving, Explore, Finally, First, Firstly, Furthermore, Generated by AI, Get ready, Gone are the days, Hitherto, Identically, In addition, In conclusion, In light of, In the sea of, In this digital landscape, It can be a daunting task, Key Takeaways, Let's delve in, Leverage, Likewise, Look no further, Maximize, Moreover, Navigating, Nested, Not to mention, Now let's move on, Overall, Overuse of 'that', Picture this, Plethora, Realm, Remember that, Secondly, Shed light, Similarly, Solace, Starting a sentence with 'By', Switching gears, The ultimate guide, This innovative solution, To say nothing of, Today's digital world, Together with, Top-notch, Treasure box, Treasure trove, Unleash, Unlock, Various, We've got you covered, When it comes to, Whilst, Whimsical.

Get The Best Desktop Based “All Round” AI Writing Tool On The Market Here...

ZimmWriter