

AI Starter Prompt Pack

Twelve practical prompts to get real work out of a general AI assistant.

How to use this pack

Copy a prompt, replace the bracketed [parts] with your specifics, and paste into ChatGPT, Claude, or Gemini. Always read the output critically — AI is a fast first draft, not a final answer.

Thinking and planning

- 1. Sharpen a fuzzy idea.** "I'm trying to [goal]. Ask me 5 clarifying questions one at a time, then summarize what you actually heard back to me."
- 2. Pressure-test a plan.** "Here is my plan to [goal]: [plan]. What are the 3 biggest risks, and what's one cheap test for each?"
- 3. Find what I'm missing.** "Act as a skeptical mentor for someone trying to [goal]. What am I probably underestimating?"

Writing and drafting

- 4. First draft, my voice.** "Write a [email/post/page] about [topic]. Audience: [who]. Tone: clear, direct, no marketing fluff. Keep it under [N] words."
- 5. Tighten my writing.** "Edit this for clarity. Keep my voice. Cut filler. Don't add new ideas. Text: [paste]."
- 6. Explain it back to me.** "Read this and tell me what it's actually saying in 3 bullets a smart 14-year-old would understand: [paste]."

Operating and admin

- 7. Turn notes into a checklist.** "Here are my messy notes about [topic]. Turn them into a clean step-by-step checklist I can follow."
- 8. Draft a polite follow-up.** "Write a short, warm follow-up email about [topic]. Context: [details]. Don't be pushy."
- 9. Summarize a long thing.** "Summarize this in 5 bullets, then list the 3 questions I should ask next: [paste]."

Learning and research

- 10. Teach me the basics.** "I know nothing about [topic]. Give me a 1-page primer: what it is, why it matters, the 5 terms I need to know, and 3 common mistakes beginners make."
- 11. Compare options.** "Compare [option A] vs [option B] for someone who needs [use case]. Trade-offs, not marketing."

12. Make me a study plan. "Build me a 4-week learning plan to get usefully competent at [skill]. ~3 hours/week. Concrete weekly outputs."

Honest limits

AI gets dates, names, numbers, and citations wrong. Treat anything specific as a draft to verify, not a fact to trust.