

Chain-of-Thought Variants Comparison (2024-2025 Research)

Variant	Key Feature	Best For	Example Prompt
Standard CoT	"Let's think step-by-step"	General reasoning All summaries	"Identify main points, then summarize"
Contrastive CoT	Show wrong example too	Avoiding specific errors	"Good: factual summary Bad: hallucinated facts Now summarize correctly"
Thread-of-Thought	Multi-part processing	Long RAG contexts	"Walk through document in parts, summarizing as we go"
Faithful CoT	Verify each step	Critical accuracy (medical/legal)	"Extract claim. Verify in source. Then summarize."

Note: These variants emerged from recent research on improving LLM reasoning