

Prompt Patterns

Prompt Pattern #1: Meta Language Creation

Intent:

Define a custom language for interacting with the LLM.

Key Idea:

Describe the semantics of the alternative language (e.g., “X means Y”).

Example:

“Whenever I type a phrase in brackets, interpret it as a task. For example, [buy groceries] means create a shopping list.”

Prompt Pattern #2: Role Assignment

Intent:

Control how the LLM behaves by assigning it a specific role.

Key Idea:

Explicitly define who the model is acting as.

Example:

“Act as a senior NLP engineer and answer with production-ready solutions.”

Prompt Pattern #3: Output Format Control

Intent:

Ensure the LLM output follows a strict structure.

Key Idea:

Specify an exact response format or schema.

Example:

“Answer using this format: Definition, Key Points, Example, Conclusion.”

Prompt Pattern #4: Step-by-Step Reasoning

Intent:

Obtain clear and logical explanations.

Key Idea:

Instruct the model to break the solution into ordered steps.

Example:

“Explain the solution step by step before giving the final answer.”

Prompt Pattern #5: Few-Shot Learning

Intent:

Teach the LLM how to respond using examples.

Key Idea:

Provide sample inputs and outputs to guide behavior.

Example:

“Input: Bug → Output: Fix required
Input: Feature → Output: New functionality
Input: Improve UI → Output: ??”

Prompt Pattern #6: Constraint-Based Prompting

Intent:

Limit or guide the model’s response.

Key Idea:

Define rules, boundaries, or restrictions.

Example:

“Explain this concept in under 100 words without using technical jargon.”

Prompt Pattern #7: Instruction + Context Pattern

Intent:

Improve response accuracy using background information.

Key Idea:

Provide context before giving the instruction.

Example:

“Context: This is for a beginner Python class.
Instruction: Explain decorators.”

Prompt Pattern #8: Self-Critique / Reflection

Intent:

Improve the quality of the response.

Key Idea:

Ask the model to review and refine its own output.

Example:

“Generate the answer, then critique it and provide an improved version.”

Prompt Pattern #9: Decomposition

Intent:

Handle complex problems effectively.

Key Idea:

Break a large task into smaller sub-tasks.

Example:

“Break this project into requirements, design, implementation, and testing.”

Prompt Pattern #10: Persona Switching

Intent:

View a problem from multiple perspectives.

Key Idea:

Ask the model to answer as different personas.

Example:

“Answer this once as a developer and once as a product manager.”

Prompt Pattern #11: Verification Pattern

Intent:

Reduce errors and hallucinations.

Key Idea:

Ask the model to verify correctness.

Example:

“Provide the solution and then verify it for logical or factual errors.”

Prompt Pattern #12: Explain Like I'm Five (ELI5)

Intent:

Simplify complex concepts.

Key Idea:

Force explanation using simple language and analogies.

Example:

“Explain transformers like I’m five years old.”