**Guiding Principles for Building Agentic Solutions**

* **1. Prioritize Robustness over Cleverness**
  + Agents should consistently solve problems, not just succeed with clever hacks.
  + Robust agents generalize better to new scenarios.
* **2. Minimize Hidden Dependencies**
  + Build agents that don’t heavily rely on invisible context or assumptions.
  + Hidden dependencies make agents fragile and unpredictable.
* **3. Use Modular, Composable Skills**
  + Break down agent capabilities into small, composable skills (reasoning, memory retrieval, tool use).
  + Make skills reusable and independently testable.
* **4. Teach Agents to Ask for Help**
  + Agents should recognize when they are stuck or unsure and escalate or seek assistance.
  + Reduces catastrophic failures.
* **5. Tight Feedback Loops**
  + Shorten the cycle between agent action and feedback.
  + Frequent feedback helps quickly correct errors and reinforces good behaviors.
* **6. Interpretability by Design**
  + Build agents whose decision-making process can be understood by humans.
  + This makes them safer and easier to debug.
* **7. Optimize for Recovery, not Perfection**
  + Assume agents will make mistakes.
  + Design for graceful recovery instead of assuming perfect behavior.
* **8. Start with Narrow, High-Value Tasks**
  + Initially deploy agents on tightly scoped, high-value problems.
  + Expand gradually as reliability improves.
* **9. Invest Early in Monitoring and Evaluation**
  + Track agent performance systematically.
  + Use structured evaluations (e.g., benchmarks, adversarial testing).
* **10. Focus on Alignment with Human Intent**
  + Always prioritize aligning the agent’s actions with what users actually want.
  + Avoid agents “going off-script” by grounding them carefully.