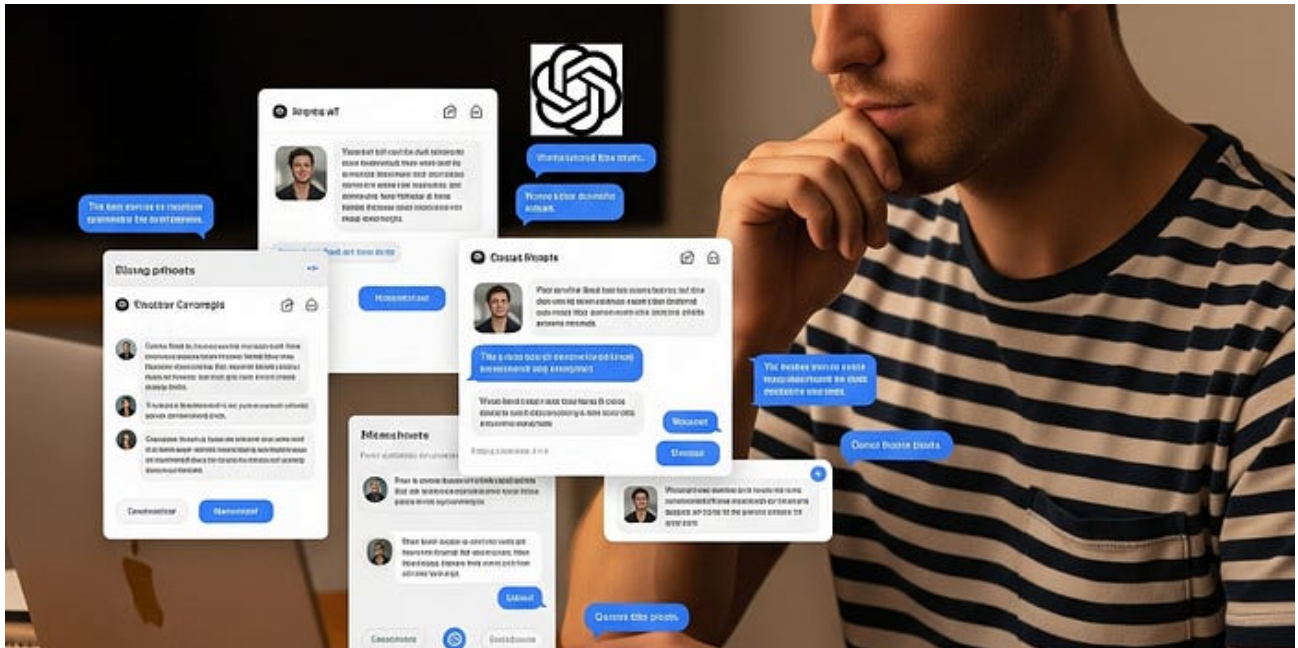


My ChatGPT Prompting was Never Perfect Before I Learned this

PROMPT ENGINEERING

Usman • 3 min read • 2025-06-30

<https://medium.com/all-about-chatgpt/my-chatgpt-prompting-was-never-perfect-before-i-learned-this-ceb945a75d63>



Learn to fix it in 10 seconds.

Image by Author.

Whenever we need to talk to ChatGPT, we believe some secret formula or phrase unlocks ChatGPT's best response. I have been chasing it.

But the truth I've learned after asking hundreds of questions and using it daily for a year now.

The perfect prompt doesn't lie in clever wording. It lies in Clarity.

It is not the clarity of language but the clarity of need.

The Prompt Is Not the First Sentence You Type

Most people start their prompt like this:

Write me a motivational quote.

Give me 10 hooks for my YouTube video.

Summarize this blog post.

Then ask yourself why the results feel boring.

A prompt is not just a request. It's not a magic trick or secret code you need.

A perfect prompt is the result of three things:

1. Knowing what you need
2. Saying why you need it
3. Guiding ChatGPT on how to help you

The real prompt is what comes after your first idea.

Let me show you what I mean:

Not this:

Give me content ideas for my Instagram page.

But this:

I run a small Instagram page for solo freelancers. I want to post more consistently, but I run out of ideas fast. Can you suggest 10 post ideas that are practical, relatable, and quick to make - without using AI-generated images?

Not this:

Fix my email.

But this:

I'm replying to a client who's upset about a delay. I want to be honest, kind, and professional - without sounding defensive. Can you help me rewrite this draft to strike the right tone?

Now, this is a real prompt.

Where Is It Hidden?

After using it almost daily for different needs, I've found the perfect prompt hiding:

● In reflection, not command.

The best prompts come from people who take 10 seconds to think,
What am I trying to solve here?

● In intention, not detail.

You don't need to write an essay as a prompt. You just need to tell what exactly you feel or want.
I mean the truth.

I want this to feel personal.

I'm scared of sounding pushy.

I've never done this before.

● In tone, not trickery.

You don't need to impress the AI. You just need to be real with it.

A Quick Exercise I Do

Before you type a prompt, write this sentence first:

I'm using ChatGPT because...

Finish that sentence honestly. Don't use any filters.

Then shape your prompt from there.

Because that one sentence often reveals everything:

- **Why are you stuck**
- **What you want**
- **What kind of help would make a difference**

A Real Prompt Is Not Just a Question.

Real prompt is like a door. It opens a space for support, not just output. For insight, not just text.

Sometimes you can be unsure or tired. You can even say:

I don't know where to begin. Can you help me figure out what I'm actually trying to say?

Don't worry, that's a perfect prompt, too.

Final Words

The perfect prompt lies in:

- **Honesty.**
- **Problem behind the request.**
- **Your willingness to talk like a human, not like a user.**

Remember:

ChatGPT doesn't respond best to perfect grammar or polished sentences.

It responds best to clarity, intention, and your willingness to slow down and ask for what you truly need.

Begin with this and see how ChatGPT responds.

Other mentions by Author

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