Exercise: Crafting Effective Prompts for AI Models

# 1. Write Clear Instructions

Example:

- Bad Prompt: "Summarize this article."

- Improved Prompt: "Summarize this article in one paragraph, focusing on the key arguments related to climate change. Make sure to mention the proposed solutions."

Your Turn:

- Write a prompt that asks the AI to explain the concept of machine learning in a concise manner suitable for a beginner.

# 2. Include Details

Example:

- Bad Prompt: "How do I create a chart in Excel?"

- Improved Prompt: "How do I create a bar chart in Excel 2019 using the data from column A? The chart should display sales figures over the last six months, with each month labeled clearly."

Your Turn:

- Write a prompt that asks the AI to draft an email to a client, requesting an update on the project timeline. Include details about the project name and expected delivery date.

# 3. Adopt a Persona

Example:

- System Prompt: "You are an expert travel guide with a witty sense of humor. Provide a description of Paris that will entertain and inform the reader."

Your Turn:

- Write a prompt that asks the AI to adopt the persona of a financial advisor giving tips on saving money for retirement. The tone should be encouraging and professional.

# 4. Use Placeholders/Delimiters

Example:

- System Prompt: "You will be given two articles, marked with XML tags. Summarize the key points of each article separately, then provide a comparison of the arguments."

- User Prompt: "<article> Summary of the first article goes here. </article> <article> Summary of the second article goes here. </article>"

Your Turn:

- Write a prompt that asks the AI to fill in placeholders with specific information. The task is to write a thank you note to a colleague. The placeholders should indicate where the colleague’s name, project name, and specific contributions should be inserted.

# 5. Specify Steps

Example:

- System Prompt: "Follow these steps to analyze the given data:"

1. Load the dataset.

2. Clean the data by removing any missing values.

3. Perform a linear regression analysis.

4. Summarize the findings in a short paragraph.

Your Turn:

- Write a prompt that guides the AI through the steps to write a book review. The review should include an introduction to the book, a discussion of the main themes, and a final recommendation.

# 6. Provide Examples

Example:

- System Prompt: "Give a creative explanation for why the sky is blue, in a similar style to the example below."

- Example Answer: "The sky is a giant canvas, and each day it’s painted with the soft hues of a master artist. The blue you see is the whisper of the oceans mirrored above, kissed by the rays of the sun."

Your Turn:

- Write a prompt that asks the AI to describe the benefits of exercise, providing an example of the desired style or tone.

# 7. Specify Words

Example:

- User Prompt: "Summarize the following news article in no more than 100 words."

Your Turn:

- Write a prompt that asks the AI to explain a complex topic (e.g., quantum computing) in exactly 50 words.

# Reflection

- Think about the prompts you’ve written. How did adding details, specifying steps, or adopting a persona change the output quality?

- What will you do differently when crafting prompts in the future to ensure you get the best possible results?