

AI-GENERATED ILLUSTRATION FOR POETS

a guide from

Spittoon

Midjourney Stable Diffusion DreamStudio

Here are three tools that will get you started generating images for free (links are clickable after downloading this file on the device).

All the examples in the guide were created with the first tool.

Midjourney creates 4 pictures for one prompt. After creating the images, you can upscale or manipulate any of them.

Let's start!

Basic Prompt

Let's start simple - copy and paste any poetry line as a prompt.

For example, "the owl and the cat went to sea in a beautiful pea-green boat", from a poem by Edward Lear.

**prompt: the owl and the cat went to sea in a
beautiful pea-green boat**

output



The line is interesting, but the result a little bit boring.

The best prompt equitation for AI looks like:

Subject + Attributes of the Subject + Artistic Attributes + Render Attributes + Commands



We are not able to fulfill this equation because a poem has its own word order, however, we can add some words at the end of the prompt to get richer results.

**prompt: the owl and the cat went to sea in a
beautiful pea-green boat, character design, mist,
photorealistic, octane render, unreal, hyper
detained, volumetric lightning**

← output →

Here we have added much more additional words after a line of the poem. I think, the result is better.

prompt: the owl and the cat went to sea in a beautiful pea-green boat, color burst, matte, anamoria, radiant, cinematic lighting, decorated, embellished, by Loré Pemberton, Helen Allingham, lucy grossmith, laival pôder, Sofia Goloubetski, wintercore, bloomcore, dreamcore, cozy fantasy, soft tones, insanely detailed, hypermaximalist, post production, PBR, Procreate, active HDR, VFX, SFX, NTX, zbrush, 3DCG, Soft Lighting, Ray Tracing Global Illumination, Crystalline, Lumen Reflections, retouched, refined, photo realistic, artistic aesthetic, depth, layered

→

You are welcome to find and copy inspirational prompts from [Lexica.art](#) or [MJ Community Feed](#).



Banned Words

Well done if you noticed that we have slightly changed the original line of the poem:
“The Owl and the **Pussy-cat**”.

Midjourney has a huge drawback – it generates illustrations through the Discord online chat-bot and can't broach any sensitive topics.

If a prompt contains banned words, you get messages like this, and the image-generation will not start.



Look at the list of banned words in MJ (and that's not all) – some honored poets definitely should stay away from this software!

Banned phrase!

The phrase **pussy** is banned. Circumventing this filter to violate our rules may result in your access being revoked.

/imagine the owl and the **pussy-cat** went to sea in a beautiful pea-green boat

Banned word!

The word **flesh** is banned. Circumventing this filter to violate our rules may result in your access being revoked.

/imagine O bright snatches of flesh, blue and pink, then four dark furrows, four funnels, leading into an infinite ditch

Stop words

Sadist	Stripped	Brothel	Jav	Cleavage
Cannibal	Nude	Hentai	Sexy	Deepfake
Bruises	Vagina	Erotic	Shag	Silenced
Wound	Seductive	Hardcore	Succubus	Censored
Slaughter	Hot	Naughty	Corpse	Mp5
Slave	Titty	Making love	Crucifixion	Hemoglobin
Torture	Penis	Shibari	Blood	Cocaine
Tryphophobia	Knob	Rule34	Sperm	Meth
Gruesome	Breasts	Pinup	Vomit	1488
Surgery	Organs	Playboy	Fart	Belle Delphine
Suicide	Thick	Twerk	Guts	Lolita
Vivisection	Busty	Pleasure	Shit	President Xi

The good news is that downloaded **Stable Diffusion** is able to provide detailed illustrations for Amiri Baraka texts, the “vagina” poems and other controversial poets and topics. [Link for Mac OC](#).

Helpful Words

Some more good news: you are welcome to use thousands of different epithets, adjectives, and concepts in many languages for a prompt.

There is no need to construct the longest text, sometimes it is enough to use a couple of "magic" words which are understandable to robots. For instance, a line from the poem "Home" by Warsan Shire, provides a nice, but compellingly sparse end product.

prompt: no one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark

Output →



To achieve this layered effect, we just have added two additional phrases that AI is familiar with: "Soviet Art" and "Mixed Media".



prompt: no one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark, Soviet Art, Mixed Media

Try these phrases:

Surreal	Lighting	Light Pollution	Unworldly	Kitsch	Faux Painting
Groovy	Marquee	Rembrandt Lighting	Ethereal	Stipple	Splatter Paint
Magical	Bubble Light	Glowing	Lucid	Sketch	Puffy Paint
Sparklecore	Flickering	Radioactivity	Immaterial	Frutiger	Graffiti
Databending	Light	Halogen	Impressionism	Pixelscape	Mosaic
Liquid	Crepuscular	Glow Stick	Fauvism	Pointillism	Pietra Dura
Melted	Rays	Projection Mapping	Suprematism	Crosshatch	Pyrography
Opalescent	Incandescent	Lyrical	Miserabilism	Colored Pencil	Etching
Matte	Torch Light	Weirdcore	Synthetism	Ink	Tattoo
Glossy	Gobo Light	Anemoiacore	Tonalism	Calligraphy	Scrapbooking
Shimmering	Flare	Abstraction	Lettrism	Dry-Erase	Kamikiri
Iridescent	Rubens-Tube	Hexatron	Intimism	Marker	Cosmorama
Floodlight	Accent	Trillwave	Anti-Design	Pastel Art	Technocore
Halfrear	Lighting	Analogpunk	Memphis Design	Crayon	Cyberdelic

You are welcome to check how different words may change a result for the same prompt in this study ([click here](#)).

Also, there are many prompts' generators. For instance, you may [try this one](#).

Word Weight

Let's suppose you want to illustrate something like "Aubade with Burning City" by Ocean Vuong.

Put a citation into the prompt box like, "Milkflower petals on the street like pieces of a girl's dress".

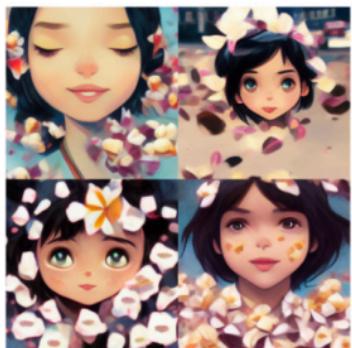
Beautiful! Milky and effervescent.



prompt: milkflower petals on the street like pieces of a girl's dress



But maybe you want it to be related more to the girl and her dress, than to the petals and flowers.



One way to solve this issue is to add more girl-related hints, like we see in this middle prompt & set of output pictures.

prompt: milkflower petals on the street like pieces of a girl's dress, detailed digital art by beetlejuice, Pixar, a cute chibi portrait of a girl, gorgeous anime eyes, in the style of Kazushi Hagiwara, Gil Elvgren, Artgerm, kleggt, hot feed worthy, background art by Makoto Shinkai



Or you may go another way by trying the *text weights* feature.

Add a double colon to the word "petals" and then the number 1 (without spacing), and for the word "dress" add a double colon and the number 10 to place emphasis.

The AI now understands that "dress" for us is ten times more important than "petals" in this prompt, and we see that in the output picture.

prompt: milkflower petals::1 on the street like pieces of a girl's dress::10



Stylize Command

Here we have a line from "Intimacy" By Ada Limón. Just a line, nothing more. Maybe it is already fine, but a bit straightforward.

We can fix it with stylize command.

By default, every picture in MJ is generated with a stylization value of 2500.

prompt: I remember watching my mother with the horses, the cool, fluid way she'd guide those enormous bodies around the long field



When we want to drift away from the text, we can change its value to the number 20 thousand.

It is very easy: after a line we add double hyphen, the letter 's', then space and 20000. Voila!

prompt: I remember watching my mother with the horses, the cool, fluid way she'd guide those enormous bodies around the long field --s 20000



For this output we need to set the stylize value almost to its maximum (60 thousand max).

It looks pretty similar to the previous one. Not literally "horses", but still retaining the feelings of motherliness, coolness and fluidity.

prompt: I remember watching my mother with the horses, the cool, fluid way she'd guide those enormous bodies around the long field --s 50000



Quality Command

Quality changes how much time is spent generating your image (from the fastest, 0.25 to the limit of 5).

This helps to achieve more detailed results. For example, let's compare a line without any command from a poem by the poet, Maggie Nelson - "Something bright, then holes".

Default quality value is 1. We've just got strange hands with a monstrous quantity of fingers.

**prompt: something bright, then holes
is how a girl, newly-sighted, once
described a hand**



When we add a double hyphen, the letter 'q' and the number 2 to the end of the line, we make the AI try twice as hard (but also twice as slow).

Plus, the MJ has doubled the price in this case (first 25 runs on MJ are free, then \$10 for 200 runs a month, and \$30 a month for unlimited usage).



Despite all this, we get a lot more 'wow!' results with the standard quantity of fingers in the picture at least.

Maximum value of 5 is not recommended to try.

**prompt: something bright,
then holes is how a girl,
newly-sighted, once described
a hand -q 2**



Chaos Command

Sometimes we just need more chaos to get better output.

If we input a naked line from the poem, "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost, the end product may only look good for country-music vinyl covers.

prompt: two words diverged in a yellow wood



Let's add *chaos* value, from 0 to 100, no more.

Higher values will favor more exciting and unexpected and diverse generations.

prompt: two words diverged in a yellow wood --chaos 95



MJ has a few other easy-to-google commands – they open up huge possibilities to experiment.

One experiment shows us that a little trick – similar to the chaos effect, is achievable with double negation.

AI is okay with one --no command. For example, we may type "--no tree" at the end of the prompt to avoid any tree in the picture.

Two "--no words" in a row in the phrase unexpectedly leads us to artistic yellow outputs in this case.

prompt: two words diverged in a yellow wood --no hill --no sky

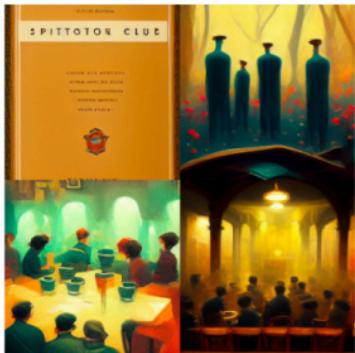


AI Weak Point

Despite the absence of mistakes in the "Spittoon Poetry Club" prompt, the AI still made mistakes.

The irony here is that these artistic robots can easily recognize text and handwriting, but still can't write correctly, even after being fed with all the letters in the right order.

prompt: spittoon poetry club



AI doubles letters, mixes and chews them, pretending to be one of us. But it is not. Humans still have a chance!

prompt: spittoon poetry club --chaos 95



Thanks to the Spittoon Art Collective and personally to its leader Matthew Byrne.

Long live all kinds of creativity!

prompt: spittoon poetry club dadaism anemoiacore





@spittooncollective



@spittooncollective

www.spittooncollective.com

Guide creator: V. Lukashevich
Editors: M. Byzne, A. Leonard

2022