The Pro Prompting Handbook: A Guide to Large Language Models

Hi! This guide will help you apply what you've learned on Script Acid to a new level when working with advanced, conversational AIs like Gemini, ChatGPT-4, or Claude.

The Biggest Difference: Vending Machine vs. Personal Assistant

Prompts for image generators (like Midjourney or Stable Diffusion) are often like a vending machine: you punch in keywords (`cyberpunk`, `woman`, `rain`, `neon`) and hope the right product drops out.

In contrast, Large Language Models (LLMs) are like a creative personal assistant: they expect task descriptions and context, not just commands. It's not enough to throw keywords at them; you need to have a conversation.

The 5 Core Principles of Successful Prompting

1. Assign a Role and Provide Context!

Tell the AI what persona it should adopt. This helps it select the appropriate style and knowledge base.

- Bad: „write an adventure idea"

- Good: „Act as an experienced dark fantasy novelist and D&D game master. Your task is to give me a unique adventure idea..."

2. Use Structure!

Lists, headings, and markdown formatting help the AI structure its response logically and clearly. Provide the exact format you want, just like the Script Acid RPG Helper does.

- Bad: „i need a city, some NPCs, and a quest"

- Good: „Please provide the answer in the following markdown format:

   ### City Name

   Description: (A brief description)

   Key NPCs:

   - NPC 1: (Description)"

3. Show, Don't Just Tell! (Provide an Example!)

If you want a very specific style or format, the best thing to do is give it a brief example.

- Example: „I want character concepts like this one: "Korgan, the burnt-out dwarven mercenary who seeks the memory of his lost love in the runes carved on his battle axe." Please give me three more in this style."

4. Refine and Continue the Conversation!

The first response is rarely perfect. Treat it as a draft! Continue the conversation and ask for refinements.

- Follow-up Examples:

   - „I like this! Now, please make the second NPC much more suspicious and give them a secret."

   - „The adventure idea is good, but let's make the mood darker and add elements of Lovecraftian horror."

5. Define Constraints!

Tell the AI what it should **NOT** do. This is just as important as telling it what to do.

- Examples:

   - „The character's backstory should not include a family tragedy."

   - „Avoid fantasy clichés like the "orphan boy who saves the world"."

With these principles, you're not just giving commands but engaging in a creative dialogue, resulting in an outcome much closer to what you envisioned. Good luck experimenting!

aliceinbp