

Prompt Pattern Cheatsheet

Day 2 — Foundational Prompt Patterns & Persona Workflows

1. Shot-Based Prompting Patterns

| Pattern | When to Use | Minimal Skeleton |

|-----|-----|-----|

| ****Zero-Shot**** | Straightforward tasks the model already excels at; exploratory “first try.” | `System: You are

| ****One-Shot**** | Task is clear but output style/format is critical. | `Example: “Translate: Bonjour → Hello” \n--

| ****Few-Shot (2-5 ex.)**** | Complex output schema, subtle tone, or high accuracy needed. | `System: Format

| ****“Chain-of-Thought” Shot**** | Forces step-by-step reasoning for math, logic, multi-hop QA. | *Add* “Let’s th

| ****Self-Consistency**** | Diverse reasoning paths; pick majority answer. | Run multiple (3-5) few-shot prompts

2. Persona & Role Patterns

| Sub-pattern | Purpose | Key Tip |

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| ****Role / Persona**** | Adopt voice & POV (e.g., _“You are Dr. House...”_). | Put persona ****in the system mes**

| ****Expert Prompting**** | Force authoritative jargon or domain accuracy. | Start with: “Answer as a senior <do

| ****Multi-Persona Dialogue**** | Simulate conversations; training, therapy, sales. | Delimit speakers clearly (`D

| ****Nested Personas**** | One agent “thinks,” another “speaks.” | Use comment blocks: `<!-- Internal thoughts

3. Template Engineering Blocks

...

<Title>

[CONTEXT]

{context}

[INSTRUCTION]

{instruction}

[EXAMPLES]

{few_shot}

[OUTPUT_FORMAT]

{schema}

###

...

Fill placeholders via code or UI variables for rapid reuse.

Keep each block ≤ 75 tokens for easy swapping.

4. Readability & Tone Controls

* ****Length**** — “Limit to 150 words.” or use token ceilings.

* ****Tone**** — “...in a friendly, humorous style.”

* **Formality** — “Rewrite formally.” vs “...for a 5th-grader.”
* **Delimiter Fences** — wrap long context in `"""` or `````.

5. Modular Prompt Design

1. **Context Block** — background facts, citations.
2. **Task Block** — the actual instruction.
3. **Example Block** — zero / one / few-shot.
4. **Constraints Block** — tone, length, format.
5. **Output Schema Block** — JSON, XML, Markdown, etc.

> Swap or reorder blocks to A/B test without touching others.

6. Collaborative Workflow Tips

- * **Comment** unused variants with `<!-- ... -->` or `# ...`.
- * **Version** templates in Git (diff friendly).
- * **Name** each template (`pricing_email_v2`) for quick retrieval.
- * **Pair Review**: teammate runs prompt, highlights ambiguity, refactors.

7. Common Pitfalls & Fixes

| Pitfall | Symptom | Quick Fix |

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| Missing role segregation | Model slips out of character | Put persona in **system** role; repeat in examples

| Example order bias | All outputs copy first example's style | Shuffle or diversify few-shot list. |

| Over-stuffed context | Hallucinations / truncation | Summarize or link via `CONTEXT:` block ≤ 500 tokens. |

| Ambiguous constraints | Inconsistent length/toner | Convert constraints to explicit bullet list. |

8. Fast-Grab Snippets

````text`

System: You are a meticulous proofreader.

User: Proofread the following → `"""{draft}"""`

Assistant MUST:

- Return only the corrected text
- Track changes using Markdown `~~strike~~` and **bold**

`````

````text`

System: You are Socrates.

Student: {question}

Socrates: Ask me *one* probing question that guides the student.

`````

Use this cheatsheet as your Day 2 desk-reference: mix-and-match patterns, enforce clarity, and iterate col