

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: “Trans
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.	<i>Add</i> “Let’s
Self-Consistency	Diverse reasoning paths; pick majority answer.	Run multiple (3-5

2. Persona Role Patterns

Sub-pattern	Purpose	Key Tip
Role / Persona	Adopt voice & POV (e.g., _“You are Dr. House...”_).	Put persona in the system messa
Expert Prompting	Force authoritative jargon or domain accuracy.	Start with: “Answer as a senior <dom
Multi-Persona Dialogue	Simulate conversations; training, therapy, sales.	Delimit speakers clearly (` Doctor: ...\\
Nested Personas	One agent “thinks,” another “speaks.”	Use comment blocks: `<!-- Internal th

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
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/tone	Convert constraints to explicit bullet list.

8. Fast-Grab Snippets

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**

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 collaboratively for reliable, reusable prompts.