Stop Getting Generic AI Answers

12 one-liners that make AI actually useful

Add any of these to your next prompt. Stack them, remix them, make them your own!
These work with ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, or whatever you use.

GIVE BETTER CONTEXT

1 Act as a [persona 1] who [knows / thinks / writes] like [description].
Sets the AI's tone, expertise, and way of thinking. Try: "Act as a CFO who explains things simply" or "Act as a skeptical journalist."

2 Think through this as both a [designer] and an [engineer] and give me each perspective.
Gets you diverse takes on the same problem without having to re-prompt. Great for decisions where different angles matter.

3 Before you start, ask me any clarifying questions you need to give a high-quality answer.
Forces the AI to identify gaps instead of guessing. You get targeted questions that surface assumptions you didn't know you were making.

SHAPE THE RESPONSE

7 Walk me through your reasoning step by step before giving the final answer.
Shows the AI's logic so you can catch bad assumptions early. Also produces more thoughtful output.

8 Give me the answer first, then explain. Keep it concise.
When you just need the result. Saves scrolling through paragraphs to find the actual point.

9 What are the pros and cons of each option?
Prevents one-sided recommendations. Lays out what you gain and what you lose so you can make the call yourself.

GET BETTER OUTPUT

5 Give me 3 different versions so I can compare and pick my favorite parts from each.
Breaks you out of accepting the first draft. You'll often combine the best elements into something better than any single version.

6 Tell me if there's a better, more efficient way to accomplish the same thing.
You might be asking the wrong question. This gives the AI permission to redirect you toward a smarter approach.

7 What would you change about this if you were being honest? Don't just validate it.
AI defaults to agreeable. This overrides that and gets you genuine, constructive feedback.

GET HONEST FEEDBACK

10 Rate this 1-10 and tell me specifically what would make it a 10.
Concrete gap analysis. The distance between your score and 10 is where the most actionable feedback lives.

11 Poke holes in this. What am I missing or getting wrong?
Skips the compliment sandwich and goes straight to what needs fixing. Short, direct, effective.

12 What's the strongest argument against what I'm proposing?
Steel-mans the opposing view so you can pressure-test your thinking before you commit.

> **The real magic? Stack them together!**
> Try addingall of thisto oneprompt:Act asasenior product manager. Give me 3 versions. For each one, walk me through your reasoning and the pros and cons. Then rate each version 1-10 and tell me which one you'd pick if you were being honest.