

# Hands-On Lab: Getting to Know Our AI Prompting Tool



**Estimated time needed:** 20 minutes

## Introduction

As you open this lab, you will notice a tool called **Generative AI Classroom** on the right. You'll use this AI prompting tool to learn more about Prompt Engineering.

The Generative AI Classroom provides a hands-on environment for experimenting with large language models (LLMs) through prompt-based interactions. This lab type allows learners to explore the capabilities of generative AI by crafting prompts, analyzing model outputs, and refining responses to achieve specific outcomes. It is designed to help develop skills in prompt engineering, critical thinking, and responsible AI use, making it an ideal platform for understanding how generative models can be applied in real-world scenarios.

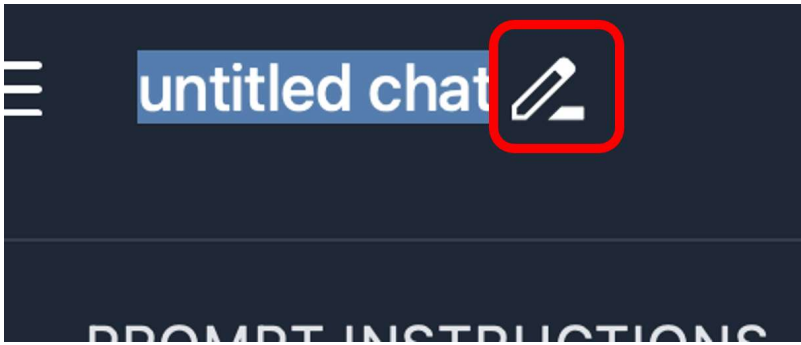
## Learning objectives

After completing this lab, you will be able to:

- Identify key components of the Generative AI lab interface, including chat history, prompt area, and model selection options.
- Demonstrate how to perform basic actions such as renaming or deleting a chat, and entering prompt instructions.
- Explore the model response behavior by running simple prompts and observing the output within the interface.

## Getting familiar with the interface

In the top section, you'll find "**Untitled chat**" with an icon to edit this title. Clicking on it will allow you to specify a name for this chat. But why would you want to do that? If you only have one chat, it's not very useful. However, once you start having multiple chat sessions in your history, having the ability to identify them quickly comes in handy.



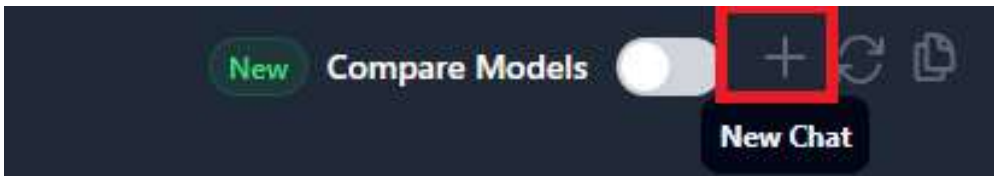
You'll find the list of chats in the hamburger menu on the left of "**Untitled Chat**".



Moving to top-left corner of the right pane, you'll see a drop-down list that defaults to "Granite 3.2 8B (Reasoning)". Here, you can select alternative large language models.

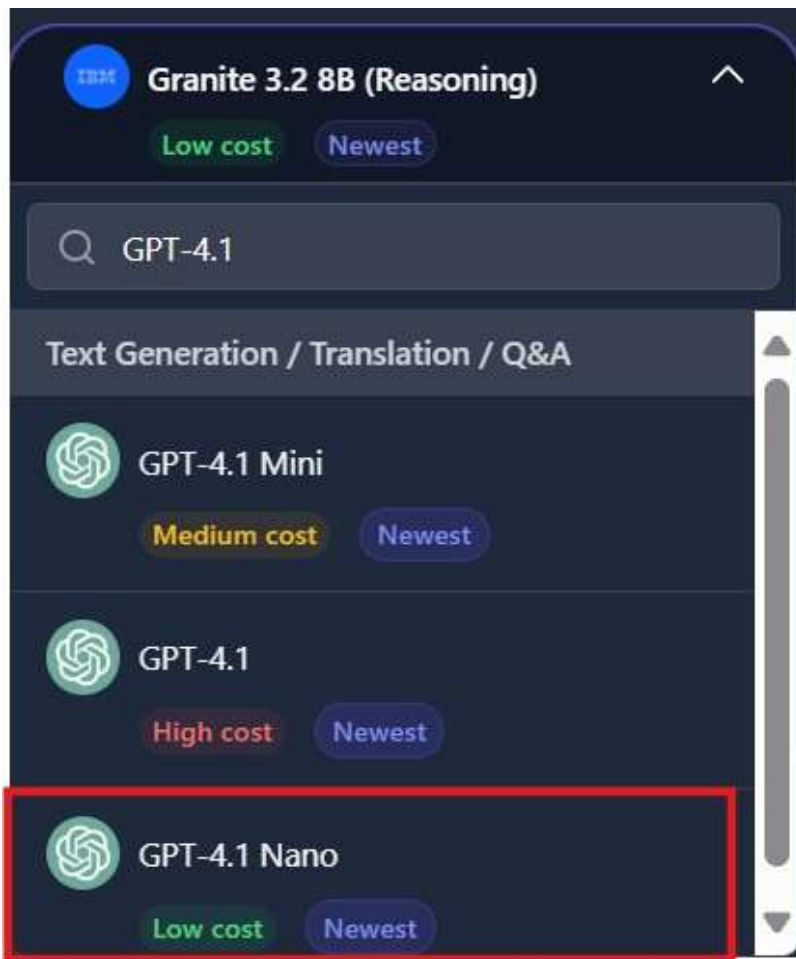


To create a new chat, use the **New Chat** option available at top-right of the page.



## Choose the model

Use the drop-down option from the top-left corner of the right pane for the text generation exercise and search for the "**GPT-4.1 Nano**" model.



The three icons on the top-right of the page allow you to create a new chat, reset the current one (removing all the questions and answers from the page), and duplicate a conversation.



# Prompt Instructions

## Entering prompt instructions

Moving to the central portion, you'll find two input areas—one for prompt instructions and one to send the actual prompt.

The prompt instructions are a way to instruct AI about the context of the conversation that is about to happen or to ask it to behave in a specific manner.

Let's try this out.

1. In the **PROMPT INSTRUCTIONS** field, on the right side of your screen, enter the following:

Sound extra cheerful in your replies.

2. Next, in the **Type your message** box available at the bottom of the page, enter the following message and then select **Start Chat**.

List 10 people who contributed to the development of LLMs.

GPT-4.1 Nano  
Low cost Newest

Chat Freeform

PROMPT INSTRUCTIONS

Sound extra cheerful in your replies.

Total Cost 0.00 cents  
Total Wait Time 0.00 seconds

! Higher cost models provide more advanced responses but will consume your available usage more quickly.

### How to use AI Classroom

- 1 Name the chat
- 2 Choose your model(s). You may select multiple models when "Compare Models"
- 3 Set the prompt instructions
- 4 Chat with your language model

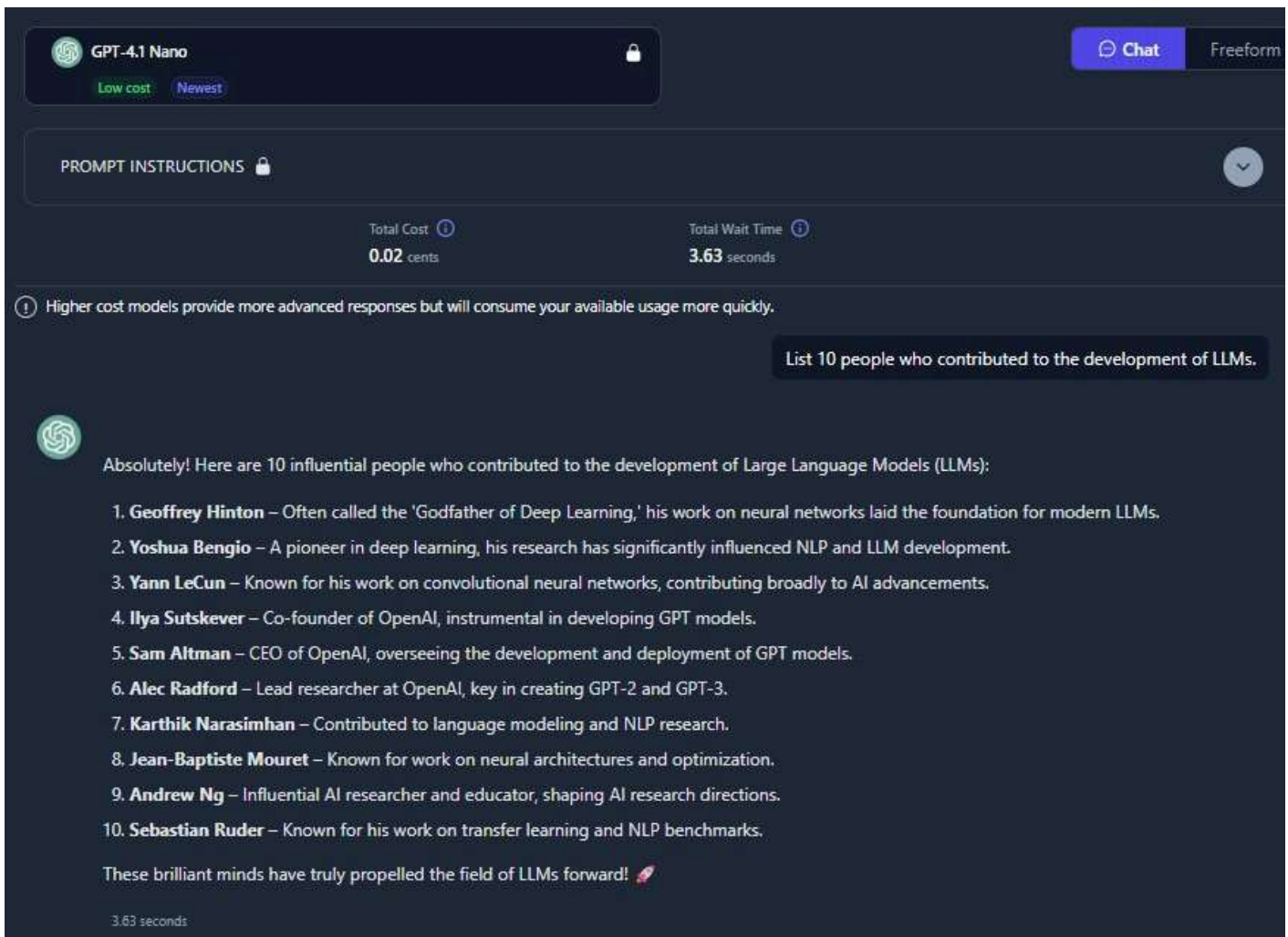
Want to elevate your AI learning experience? Check out [IBM watsonx.ai](#) now!

List 10 people who contributed to the development of LLMs.

Start chat

powered by watsonx

3. A resulting list will appear, something similar to the following:



Note that you'll often use this prompt instruction feature in future labs within this course.

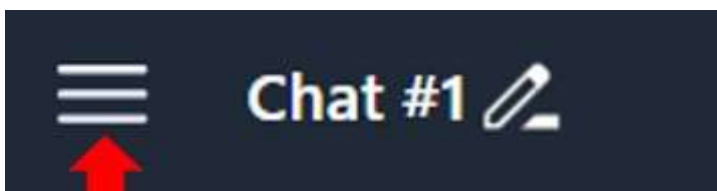
# Chats

## Deleting chats

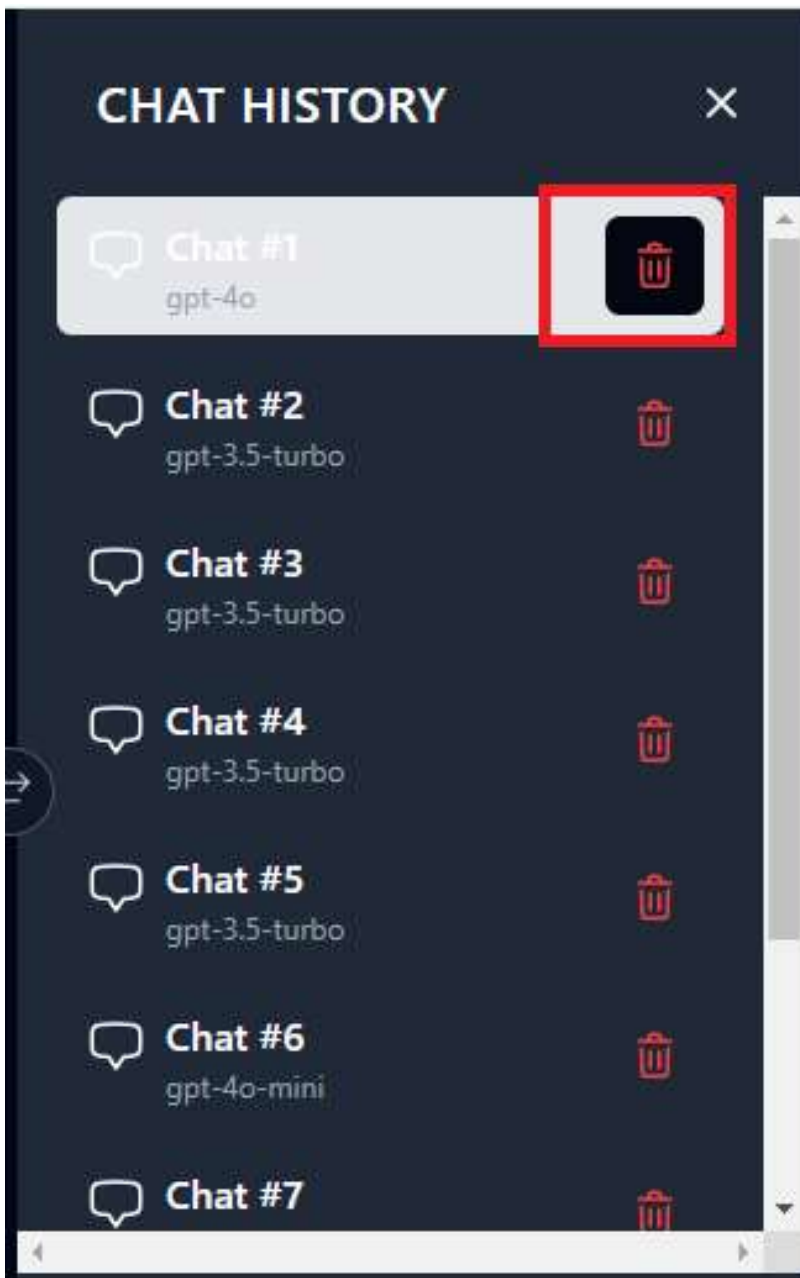
Now that you have tried to generate a prompt, let's reset the chat by clicking on the top right icon. Although the conversation will reset for you, but the Prompt Instructions are still locked to this particular chat.



If you'd like to delete this chat, click the hamburger menu on the left.



You'll find a list of chats you can select or delete. To delete a conversation, click the trash bin icon next to the chat you desire to delete.



## Prompt Instructions and the Prompt

### The difference between prompt instructions and the prompt

Technically, you can paste your prompt instructions in the prompt just before your question for the AI. What is the difference between the two approaches?

Separating the prompt instructions from the main prompt not only improves visual clarity but also allows you to apply those instructions consistently to the whole conversation without needing to repeat them each time you ask a question.

However, there are times when this behavior isn't ideal. In such cases, including the instructions directly in the prompt text box is useful, as it limits them to a single question without affecting the rest of the chat.

### Exercise

1. Go ahead and delete your first chat. When you're done, click the **New Chat** button to create a new one.
2. Experiment with the **PROMPT INSTRUCTIONS** field by coming up with prompt instructions ideas and then trying a few queries. For example, you can try the following prompt.

Talk to me like I'm a 5-year-old.

Then, ask tougher questions such as:

How does Artificial Intelligence work?

or maybe something like:

What is the difference between Generative AI and traditional AI?

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