Prompting

Chat assistants based on large language models (LLMs) require *prompts*, text inputs that describe what you want the model to do & how to do it. The prompts you use directly affect the quality of the results you get.

Well known chat assistants

owner

OpenAI	Microsoft	GitHub	Google	Anthropic
ChatGPT	**Copilot**	**Copilot**	**Gemini**	**Claude**
GPT	GPT	Codex	Gemini	Claude

LLM

Know the limits of chat assistants

‣ Not a knowledge base. Often out of date. Biased.

‣ Not skilled at reasoning or mathematics.

‣ Eloquent & convincing, but obsequious & servile.

What kind of tasks can you give a chat assistant?

TRANSFORM

Language translation
Grammar & spelling
Paraphrasing
Style transfer
Syntactic reformatting

ANALYZE

Information extraction
Keyword extraction
Part-of-speech tagging
Sentiment analysis
Text classification

SUMMARIZE

Document summaries
Code simplification

⚠ Hallucination is <u>still</u> a risk!

⚠ Highest risk of hallucination

EXPAND

Text generation
Brainstorming
Code suggestion
Concept explanation

TIPS

‣ Start simple, then iterate and experiment.
‣ Put clear instructions at the beginning or end.
‣ Make clear what is prompt and what is data.
‣ Favour positive ('do') over negative ('do not').
‣ Give examples or formatting instructions.

TIPS

‣ Avoid leading questions & begging the question.
‣ Never share personal or confidential info or data.
‣ Be critical of the responses you get.
‣ Check any facts the model produces.
‣ Be open about AI's influence on your work.

Some prompting templates

❄ Start with a temperature of 0

FEW SHOT

```
Q: {EXAMPLE Q ONE}
A: {EXAMPLE A ONE}

Q: {EXAMPLE Q TWO}
A: {EXAMPLE A TWO}

Q: {QUESTION}
A:
```

⭐ Very effective

CHAIN OF THOUGHT

```
Answer the following
question:

{QUESTION}


Let's think step by
step. Explain your
reasoning.
```

ROLE PLAY

```
You are a patient,
professional,
careful {AI ROLE}
with a lot of
experience. Explain
{TOPIC} to me at the
level of {MY ROLE}.
Use real-world
examples.
```

COMPARISON

```
Make a Markdown
table comparing
{THING A} with
{THING B}. Include
no more than 10
attributes, focusing
on important ones,
and those that help
differentiate the
items.
```

Still not getting what you want? Try increasing the **temperature** a bit 🌡

Be responsible with AI. Check facts and sources. Check for inappropriate output. Be clear about contributions.