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System prompts



A **system prompt**, typically given at the start of a chat, provided high-level instruction to the LLM about the sort of responses it should give.



Things to put in a system prompt:

- The *role* that the LLM should play in the conversation.
 - The *style* that it should adopt.
 - Any *restrictions* on its responses.
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Why not just always prompt directly?

- Less repetition vs including role/style/restrictions instructions in every prompt.
- Potentially improved performance due to stronger prioritization by the LLM.
- Improved focused, keeping the LLM from keying in on smaller details of individual user prompts.

For particularly important considerations, repeating the instructions in both the system and user prompt can be significantly more reliable.

