

2026 Prompt Engineering Best Practices
Core Template
Techniques

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Core Template

```
&lt;role&gt;  
You are a [world-class expert].  
&lt;/role&gt;  
  
&lt;context&gt;  
[Details]  
&lt;/context&gt;  
  
&lt;constraints&gt;  
- [list]  
&lt;/constraints&gt;  
  
&lt;examples&gt;  
[1-2 few-shot]  
&lt;/examples&gt;  
  
&lt;task&gt;  
[Clear instruction]. Think step-by-step in &lt;thinking&gt; tags.  
&lt;/task&gt;  
  
&lt;output&gt;  
[Structured format, e.g. JSON or numbered]  
&lt;/output&gt;
```

Techniques

- **CoT:** Always include step-by-step reasoning.
- **Few-shot:** 1-3 high-quality examples.
- **Role-playing:** Specific expert role.
- **XML Structure:** Tags for clarity (Claude/Grok love).
- **Explicit Output:** No preamble, validate schema.

Updated all packs with this.