

Anatomy of an AI Request

How building in the Workbench looks

- Prompt Library System: Most Workbenches will allow you to save your prompts to your account for easy testing. Figure out a naming system early on to account for high volume of prompts.
- Model Selection: Click 'claude-sonnet-4-5...' to switch Anthropic models.
- System Prompt: This is the static instruction you're sending to the LLM, this defines what this prompt fundamentally does.
- User Request: 'User' can be misleading here for non-chatbot systems. This is just the particular data you're sending for this particular instance.
- Expected Response: "This is an LLM response from Anthropic API"

The screenshot shows the Cohere Workbench interface. At the top, there are three buttons: a list icon, a plus icon, and a 'Default' dropdown. Below that, a header reads 'Testing New System' with a lock icon and the text 'Last saved Nov 16 at 10:59 AM'. To the right are buttons for 'claude-sonnet-4-5-20250929', a code editor icon, 'Examples', and 'Templatize'. A large central area contains a 'System Prompt' box with the text: 'This is an example prompt, just print out "This is an LLM response from Anthropic API" no matter what I send to you.' Below it is a 'User' box with the text 'Trying this out!'. At the bottom are buttons for 'Pre-fill response' and 'Add message pair'. The bottom right corner shows the number '43' with a circular arrow icon.

Intermediate Techniques

System Prompt Variables & Message Pairs

- System Prompt Variables: Wrap camelCase string in {{...}} to setup a variable within your system prompt. Could be used to customize the prompt for specific purposes or to further modularize prompts.
- Message Pairs: Most common use-case is for chat history, but fundamentally adds context to this specific request.
- **NOTE:** My personal preference is to avoid things like system prompt variables and instead systematize user requests. You'll see examples of how I do this in the Prompt Engineering module. This is just what makes more sense to me.

The screenshot shows the Claude AI interface. At the top, there are three buttons: a menu icon, a plus sign for creating new models, and a cube icon labeled "Default". Below the buttons, the title "Testing New System" is shown with a "Last saved Nov 16 at 11:13 AM" timestamp. To the right of the title are several icons: a file icon, a "1" indicating one message pair, a gear icon, "Examples", and an "Improve prompt" button. The main area is divided into sections. The first section is titled "System Prompt" and contains the text: "This is an example prompt, just print out {{selectedResponse}} This is an LLM response from {{}} no matter what I send to you." The second section is titled "User" and contains the message "Trying this out!". The third section is titled "Assistant" and contains the message "This is an LLM response from Anthropic API". The fourth section is titled "User" and contains the message "Yeah, why do you keep saying that?". At the bottom of the interface, there are two buttons: "Pre-fill response" and "Add message pair".