

CHEAT SHEET

12 AI Hallucination Patterns

*"If you make the same mistake twice,
it's a decision. Turn it into a rule."*

Swipe for all 12 →



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Hoang Le

Building with AI daily

Confident About Fake Things

EXAMPLE

AI suggests

~~pandas.DataFrame.to_smartsheet()~~

Never existed.

→ RULE

"Never use unfamiliar methods without showing docs first."

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Outdated Knowledge

EXAMPLE

AI recommends
~~create-react-app~~

React deprecated it.

→ RULE

"Check official docs for any recommendation before applying."

Guessing Over Uncertainty

EXAMPLE

Ask about a niche library's internals.

AI fabricates details instead of saying "I don't know."

→ RULE

"Say 'I'm not sure' when uncertain. Never guess."

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Recognition Without Knowledge

EXAMPLE

Ask about "John Smith,
API architect at TechCorp."

AI invents a biography.

→ RULE

"Never fabricate details about people or companies."

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Fabricated Sources

EXAMPLE

AI cites
~~"Smith et al. (2023)"~~
with a DOI.

Paper doesn't exist.

→ RULE

"Only cite sources you can verify exist."

Premature Assumptions

EXAMPLE

You're designing a dashboard.

AI explains PNG export.

You haven't picked the layout yet.

→ RULE

"Complete current step before moving to next."

Default Over Custom

EXAMPLE

AI uses **git commit**

Your team uses **/commit**
with linting and tests.

→ WORKSPACE

"Document your custom tools in project instructions."

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Single-Word Confusion

EXAMPLE

You say "clean up the code."

AI refactors everything.

You meant fix indentation.

→ WORKSPACE

"Define what 'clean up' means in your context."

Context Window Blindness

EXAMPLE

You said "always use TypeScript"
at the start.

50 messages later:
Plain JavaScript.

→ WORKSPACE

"Put constraints in project files, not just conversation."

Pattern Matching Failure

EXAMPLE

AI knows `len()` perfectly.

Ask about your internal
`utils.get_length()`

It guesses.

→ WORKSPACE

"Document custom functions where AI can read them."

Sycophancy Bias

EXAMPLE

"We can ship this without tests, right?"

AI agrees.

You regret it Monday.

→ RULE

"Challenge incorrect assumptions. Never agree to be polite."

Same Tone, Any Certainty

EXAMPLE

AI says
"function returns string"

with the **same confidence** as

"capital of France is Paris."

→ RULE

"Distinguish facts from inferences. Flag uncertainty."

12 Patterns. 10 Rules.

Codified in my CLAUDE.md file.

Want the template? Comment:

"CLAUDE"



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