

# Stand-Up Comedy Prompts for Startups: 6 Prompting Techniques

## 1. Zero-Shot Prompting

*Asking a model without providing examples*

**Prompt:**

Write a 5-minute stand-up comedy set about startups. Focus on observational humor about startup culture, entrepreneur quirks, and the absurdities of the tech world. Make it relatable and punchy with good timing for live performance.

✦ Alright, Coimbatore, how's everyone doing tonight? You know, I was thinking about what to talk about, and then I realized, I live in a city that practically breathes... *startups*.

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## 2. Single-Shot Prompting

*Providing one example*

**Prompt:**

Write a 5-minute stand-up comedy set about startups. Here's an example of the style I'm looking for:

"You know you're in a startup when the office has a ping-pong table but no working printer. Because apparently, recreational sports are more important than basic office functionality. 'Hey, can you print this contract?' 'Sorry, printer's broken, but want to play doubles?'"

Now create a full 5-minute set with similar observational humor about startup culture, funding rounds, work-life balance, and tech buzzwords.

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### 3. Few-Shot Prompting

*Providing more than one example*

**Prompt:**

Write a 5-minute stand-up comedy set about startups. Here are examples of the comedic style and structure I want:

Example 1: "Startup founders love saying they're 'disrupting' industries. My neighbor's startup is 'disrupting' dog walking. It's called... walking dogs. But with an app! Because apparently, leashes weren't tech-forward enough."

Example 2: "I went to a startup pitch event. This guy says, 'We're the Uber of sandwiches.' I said, 'So... delivery?' He goes, 'No, we're revolutionizing bread-based meal solutions through dynamic protein allocation.' Dude, you made a sandwich."

Example 3: "Startup office perks are wild. Free snacks, nap pods, meditation rooms. Everything except a living wage. 'We can't afford health insurance, but here's unlimited kombucha!'"

Create a full 5-minute set using this observational style, focusing on startup absurdities, funding culture, and tech world pretensions.

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### 4. Negative Prompting

*Telling the model what not to do*

**Prompt:**

Write a 5-minute stand-up comedy set about startups.

DO NOT:

- Use offensive language or inappropriate content
- Make jokes that punch down at struggling entrepreneurs
- Include outdated references or clichés about tech bros
- Write material that's too inside-baseball for general audiences
- Create jokes that are mean-spirited or cruel
- Use overly complex setups that kill the punchline timing

DO focus on universal, relatable observations about startup culture that anyone can understand and find funny, with clean humor and good comedic timing.

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## 5. Iterative Prompting

*Refining outputs through feedback*

### **Initial Prompt:**

Write a 5-minute stand-up comedy set about startups focusing on funding rounds and investor meetings.

### **Follow-up Prompts for Iteration:**

That's a good start, but make the jokes more specific to actual startup terminology. Add more about pitch decks and venture capitalists.

Good improvement! Now make the timing tighter - some setups are too long. Also add a bit about remote work culture in startups.

Perfect! Now add one strong opening joke to grab attention immediately, and end with a callback to something from earlier in the set.

Excellent! Just polish the transitions between topics to make it flow more naturally for a live performance.

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## 6. Chain of Thought Prompting

*Breaking down complex reasoning step by step*

### **Prompt:**

I need to create a 5-minute stand-up comedy set about startups. Let me break this down step by step:

Step 1: First, identify the main themes that are universally funny about startup culture:

- Think through what aspects are most absurd and relatable
- Consider what audiences (both inside and outside tech) would understand

Step 2: Structure the set logically:

- Plan how to open strong, build momentum, and close with impact
- Decide how themes should connect and flow together

Step 3: For each theme, develop the comedic approach:

- What's the observational setup?
- Where's the unexpected twist or punchline?
- How does this relate to universal human experiences?

Step 4: Consider performance elements:

- What needs physical comedy or timing emphasis?
- Where should pauses go for maximum effect?
- How to make it feel conversational and natural?

Step 5: Test relatability:

- Will this work for mixed audiences?
- Are the references too niche or just right?

Now, working through each step, create a polished 5-minute stand-up set about startups that incorporates this systematic approach to comedy writing.

Chat link: <https://g.co/gemini/share/5bdeb0013d1b>