



# Common Syntactic Patterns That May Reveal AI-Written Text

## 1. Overuse of parallel structure

“This project explores space, challenges norms, and redefines boundaries.”

AI often uses **triplets** and similar-sounding phrases for rhythm and balance.

## 2. Excessive transitions and hedging

“While art has long been a tool for reflection, it also serves as a means of resistance.”

“In many ways, it can be argued that...”

ChatGPT tends to **smooth out arguments** with lots of connectors — which can feel *too polished*.

## 3. Formal, generic phrasing

“In today’s rapidly evolving world...”

“The intersection of art and technology offers unprecedented opportunities...”

It often defaults to **vague academic or professional tones**, unless specifically steered otherwise.

## 4. Lack of concrete detail or sensory language

“This project engages with themes of identity and belonging.”

ChatGPT tends to generalize — unless you prompt it with vivid detail, it avoids specificity.

## 5. Balanced sentence structures

“The installation invites reflection while simultaneously provoking discomfort.”

There's a strong tendency toward symmetry — “**while X, Y**” structures are very common.

## 6. Mild, non-committal tone

“This piece aims to explore...” instead of “This piece *demands*...”

AI often avoids strong personal claims, confrontation, or subjectivity unless asked to be bold.

## Punctuation Patterns in ChatGPT Text

### 1. Frequent Em dashes — like this

“The work challenges not only the viewer — but also the very concept of authorship.”

- ChatGPT **loves em dashes** for emphasis or contrast.
- They’re often used correctly, but maybe **too often**, creating a stylized, slightly artificial feel.
- In human writing, em dashes are often more idiosyncratic or rare.

✓ Tip: Replace some with semicolons, commas, or short new sentences for a more human rhythm.

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### 2. Comma-heavy sentences

“This project, which was developed over several years, engages with questions of identity, migration, and belonging.”

- It tends to use a **lot of commas**, especially in long, balanced sentences.
- Lists of three are everywhere: “X, Y, and Z.”

✓ Tip: Break up long sentences. Vary punctuation (colons, ellipses, etc.) to feel more natural.

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### 3. Avoids sentence fragments

You’ll rarely see:

“A moment of silence. Then movement.”

- ChatGPT writes **grammatically perfect**, complete sentences by default.
- Humans often use **fragments**, especially in expressive writing or poetic prose.

✓ Tip: Add fragments, abrupt starts, or trailing thoughts to feel more human.

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#### 4. Balanced clauses + commas before conjunctions

“The artist draws on mythology, and the viewer is invited to reflect.”

- The **comma before “and”** (Oxford comma style) is often used even in places many writers would skip it.
- It creates a smooth but slightly *uniform* cadence.