

The Interview Pattern

In the previous lab, we saw the limitations of the naive approach to prompting and how the Persona Pattern can improve results.

Still, when we asked for a training program, the results were for a generic out-of-shape person. They were not specific to us and therefore not as useful as they could be.

We can employ the **Interview Pattern** along with the Persona Pattern to optimize these results. Let's start with the fitness program scenario, and then consolidate the idea with a new example.

In the Prompt Instructions, enter the following:

- 1
1. You will act as a fitness expert who is current with the latest research data and provide very detailed step-by-step instructions in reply to my queries. You will interview me, asking me all the

Copied!

Next, let's ask the question in the prompt input box:

- 1
1. Create a gym workout program to lose weight and build strength.

Copied!

In my case, the AI responded as follows:

Sure! I'd be happy to help you create a gym workout program to lose weight and build strength. Before we start, could you please provide me with some information?

1. What is your current fitness level? Are you a beginner, intermediate, or advanced?
2. How many days per week are you able to dedicate to your gym workouts?
3. Do you have any specific equipment available at your gym?
4. Are there any exercises or types of workouts you enjoy or prefer?
5. Are there any limitations or injuries I should be aware of?
6. Do you have any specific goals in mind? For example, are you looking to lose a certain amount of weight or gain a certain amount of muscle?

Once I have these details, I'll be able to create a personalized gym workout program tailored to your needs and goals.

I answered these questions, and the AI provided me with a detailed program.

Try it yourself to see what kind of program you get.

In some cases, depending on the amount of information provided, the AI will ask further questions until it's satisfied that it has enough information to craft a reasonable answer.

Creating a blog post with the Interview Pattern

Let's see how else we can use the Interview pattern to our advantage. Imagine that we wanted to create a blog post to publicize our "Prompt Engineering for Everyone course".

I'll start a new chat to remove the existing fitness-specific prompt instructions.

At first, we'll try the naive approach:

- 1
1. Craft a blog post to announce my new course, "Prompt Engineering for Everyone".

Copied!

Try it for yourself to see the result. It's a good post but it's very generic because the AI needs to learn about our specific course. Right now, it knows nothing about it other than the title.

Next, let's start a new chat and add the following prompt instructions:

1. 1

1. You will act as a SEO and content marketing expert. You will interview me, asking me (one at the time) all the relevant questions necessary for you to generate the best possible answer to my quer

Copied!

PROMPT INSTRUCTIONS

You'll act as a SEO and content marketing expert. You'll interview me, asking me (one at the time) all the relevant questions necessary for you to generate the best possible answer to my queries.

For the prompt, we'll still use:

1. 1

1. Craft a blog post to announce my new course, "Prompt Engineering for Everyone".

Copied!

This time around, the AI asks me:

Sure! I'd be happy to help you craft a blog post to announce your new course. Could you please provide me with some key information about the course? Specifically, I would need to know the target audience, the main benefits or features of the course, and any unique selling points that differentiate it from similar courses in the market.

These follow-up questions allow us to create a more precise blog post that draws information specific to my course.

The quality of your input still matters. The more information you provide to the AI in answer to its question, the better the blog post will be.

Depending on your answers to these specific follow-up questions, the AI might decide that it has enough information or opt to ask you further questions.

Another alternative in the Prompt Instructions is to instruct the AI to the given instruction.

1. 1

1. Ask me a series of questions, one by one, to gather all the information you need to give a proper response.

Copied!

Any variation along those lines will do.

So, you don't need to remember the exact phrasing and you can experiment with your own fine-tuned prompt instructions. The critical part is that you understand the concept of soliciting an interview from the AI to have much more customized results back from the AI.

It's yet another way to obtain better, more valuable results.

Tips

1. Remember, the Interview Pattern is about drawing out as much specific information as possible. Provide high-quality answers to the questions you receive to the LLM to obtain better responses.
2. Combining the Persona Pattern and Interview Pattern can lead to richer, more detailed, and personalized results.
3. Don't hesitate to experiment with different instructions. Sometimes, slight variations in your instructions can lead to improved outcomes and new perspectives.

Now, get started yourself! Take your time with each exercise and reflect on the differences in the results when you employ the Interview Pattern.

Exercises

1. Combining the Persona Pattern and the Interview Pattern improve the results for the question. Try this prompt.

1. 1

1. Suggest a travel itinerary for my next vacation.

Copied!

2. Do the same for the query

1. 1

1. Give me a recipe for dinner tonight.

Copied!

3. Then try again this prompt.

1. 1

1. Suggest a gift for my friend.

Copied!

Author(s)

[Antonio Cangiano](#)

© IBM Corporation. All rights reserved.



Skills Network