

# Fine-tuning vs. Prompting: When to Use Each?

## Prompting

 Quick - No training needed

 Flexible - Easy to iterate

 API-based - Simple access

 Pay per API call

✓ Ideal for:

Prototyping

Few examples

Varied tasks

Quick experiments

## Fine-tuning

 Better performance - Task-specific

 Consistent - Reliable outputs

 Private data - Full control

 Training infrastructure needed

✓ Ideal for:

Production

Large datasets

Low latency

Custom domains



## Requirements

Consider **task complexity** & goals



## Data

Evaluate **dataset size** & quality



## Resources

Balance **cost** & **infrastructure**



### Hybrid Approach

**Prompt-based fine-tuning** (instruction tuning)  
combines both benefits



### Future Trend

**Prompting becoming more powerful** with larger  
models