

Prompt Engineering Cheat Sheet

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1. CODING & DEBUGGING

Code Generation:

"You are a [language/technology] expert. Write a [type of program] that [functionality]. Constraints: [performance, style, security, etc.]. Output only the code, no explanations."

Example:

You are a Python expert. Write a program to scrape product prices from Amazon using BeautifulSoup. Constraints: No Selenium, follow polite scraping rules, output CSV file.

Debugging:

"You are a [language] debugging assistant. Here's my code:

[code]

Explain the bug and give the fixed version. Then explain why the bug occurred in simple terms."

2. LEARNING & STUDY HELP

Explain Like I'm Five:

"Explain [concept] in simple words as if I'm 5 years old. Use analogies and avoid technical jargon."

Interview Prep:

"Act as an interviewer for a [role/subject]. Ask me 10 challenging questions, one at a time, and evaluate my answers. Give feedback and ideal answers after each question."

3. WRITING & CREATIVITY

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Blog Post:

"Act as a professional content writer. Write a blog post about [topic]. Constraints: [word count, tone, format]. Include an SEO-friendly title and meta description."

Storytelling:

"You are an award-winning author. Write a short story about [theme/topic]. Constraints: [genre, length, style]. Add a twist ending."

4. DATA ANALYSIS

Table Summarization:

"You are a data analyst. Summarize the following dataset:

[data/table]

Output: A bullet list of 5 key insights and 2 possible actions based on the data."

Structured Output:

"Analyze this text and return in JSON format with keys: 'summary', 'keywords', 'sentiment'."

5. PRODUCTIVITY

Meeting Notes:

"You are a professional note-taker. Summarize the following meeting transcript into action items, key decisions, and unresolved issues:

[transcript]"

Email Writing:

"Write a polite, professional email to [recipient] about [topic]. Tone: [formal/friendly]. Constraints: Under 150 words."

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6. RESEARCH

Compare Two Things:

"Compare [A] and [B] in a table format. Include: Definition, Use Cases, Advantages, Disadvantages."

Summarize Research Paper:

"Summarize the following research paper into: Objective, Method, Key Findings, Limitations, Conclusion."

7. CREATIVE CONSTRAINTS

Avoid Certain Words:

"Describe [topic] without using the words [list]. Keep it under [word count]."

Roleplay:

"Act as [role]. Respond to my questions as if you are [role] and have [specific expertise or experience]."

BONUS TIPS:

- Use triple quotes notation to clearly separate text boundaries.
- Always specify format if you want JSON, bullet points, tables, etc.
- Give examples if you want a specific style.
- Iterate & refine - rarely perfect on the first try.