

Compete in HackAPrompt 2.0, the world's largest AI Red-Teaming competition!

[Check it out →](#)



## Learn Prompting



and Key Parts

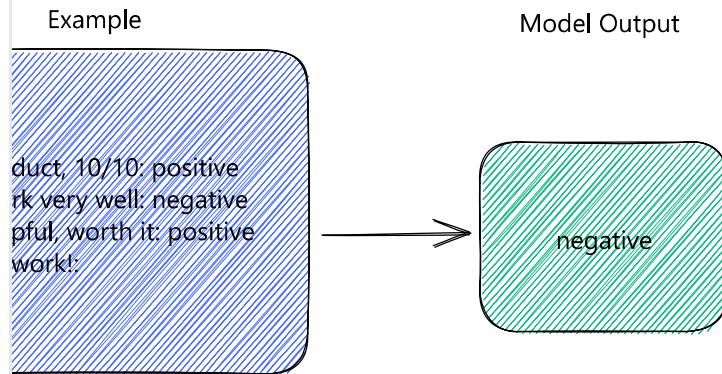
- Technique #1: Instructions in Prompts
- Technique #2: Roles in Prompts
- **Technique #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot**
- Combining Prompting Techniques
- Tips for Writing Better Prompts
- Prompt Priming: Setting Context for AI
- Differences Between Chatbots and LLMs
- LLM Limitations: When Models and Chatbots Make Mistakes
- What Can Generative AI Create Beyond Text?

e #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot

# Examples in Prompts: Zero-Shot to Few-Shot

⌚ Reading Time: 13 minutes

👤 Valeriia Kuka



ay prompting techniques—zero-shot, one-shot, and how providing your AI with examples or iracy. This practice, known as In-Context Learning n examples embedded in your prompt rather than owledge (what it has learned from the training data).

rompting methods, discuss their real-world ices so you can choose the right approach for any

✖ English ^



task.

## What are Examples in Prompts?



## Learn Prompting

- Introduction to Prompt Engineering
- Basic Prompt Structure and Key Parts
- Technique #1: Instructions in Prompts
- Technique #2: Roles in Prompts
- **Technique #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot**
- Combining Prompting Techniques
- Tips for Writing Better Prompts
- Prompt Priming: Setting Context for AI
- Differences Between Chatbots and LLMs
- LLM Limitations: When Models and Chatbots Make Mistakes
- What Can Generative AI Create Beyond Text?

es, we can improve their performance by providing **In-Context Learning (ICL)**. It allows models to learn in the prompt, rather than needing additional examples, we guide the AI to better understand the model's pattern recognition abilities.

useful for tasks where **instructions** alone may not be enough or style is required in the output. Showing the model apply patterns it has learned to similar,

## Prompting?

to the concept of **shot-based prompting methods**, which involve providing examples included in the prompt.

application of ICL, where multiple examples (or shots) are provided to the model's output. The more examples (or shots) we provide, the better the model performs, as it can learn from these examples and make better predictions.

There are three main types of shot-based methods:

**Zero-shot**: No examples are provided, and the model must rely entirely on its pre-trained knowledge to figure out the task.

**One-shot**: A single example is given to clarify the task for the model. This is useful when a few examples are included, allowing the model to learn from them and produce more accurate responses.

**Few-shot**: A few examples are provided, and the model must learn from them to figure out the task. The number of examples depends on the task, and the examples should be representative of the context, improving accuracy and output quality.

## Zero-Shot Prompting?

is the most basic form of prompting. Here, we give the model a task to perform without providing any examples or demonstrations. The model relies entirely on its pre-trained knowledge to figure out how to complete the task.

As such, all of the **instruction** and **role prompts** that you have seen so far are **zero-shot prompts**.



## Learn Prompting

- Introduction to Prompt Engineering
- Basic Prompt Structure and Key Parts
- Technique #1: Instructions in Prompts
- Technique #2: Roles in Prompts
- Technique #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot
- Combining Prompting Techniques
- Tips for Writing Better Prompts
- Prompt Priming: Setting Context for AI
- Differences Between Chatbots and LLMs
- LLM Limitations: When Models and Chatbots Make Mistakes
- What Can Generative AI Create Beyond Text?

## Prompting

not prompt is:

Copy

llowing text as positive, negative, or neutral.  
key.

tion based solely on the task description, without  
The output might be:

Copy

ork well for simple tasks—especially ones that the  
g training—it's often not enough for more complex  
the model guessing, and the results can be

## Prompting?

o-shot prompting by providing a single example  
larify expectations and improves model

## Prompting

sion of the same sentiment classification task:

Copy

Classify the sentiment of the following text as positive, negative, or neutral.

Text: The product is terrible.



## Learn Prompting

- Introduction to Prompt Engineering
- Basic Prompt Structure and Key Parts
- Technique #1: Instructions in Prompts
- Technique #2: Roles in Prompts
- Technique #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot
- Combining Prompting Techniques
- Tips for Writing Better Prompts
- Prompt Priming: Setting Context for AI
- Differences Between Chatbots and LLMs
- LLM Limitations: When Models and Chatbots Make Mistakes
- What Can Generative AI Create Beyond Text?

kay. Sentiment:

xample ("The product is terrible. Sentiment: new input. This allows the model to better The output might now be more reliable:

Copy

odel a starting point, but with only one example, it r complex tasks. More examples are often needed to outputs.

## Prompting?

or more examples, which helps the model recognize tasks. With more examples, the model gains a leading to improved accuracy and consistency.

## Prompting

shot Prompting. Below is a prompt that is attempting positive or negative. The first three lines are cation. The fourth line is new piece of feedback that n't work! :). This line is called the test instance, t that we want to LLM to analyze.

f our sentiment classification prompt could look like

Copy

CLASSIFY THE SENTIMENT OF THE FOLLOWING TEXT AS POSITIVE, NEGATIVE, OR NEUTRAL.

Text: The product is terrible. Sentiment: Negative

Text: Super helpful, worth it Sentiment: Positive



## Learn Prompting

- Introduction to Prompt Engineering
- Basic Prompt Structure and Key Parts
- Technique #1: Instructions in Prompts
- Technique #2: Roles in Prompts
- **Technique #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot**
- Combining Prompting Techniques
- Tips for Writing Better Prompts
- Prompt Priming: Setting Context for AI
- Differences Between Chatbots and LLMs
- LLM Limitations: When Models and Chatbots Make Mistakes
- What Can Generative AI Create Beyond Text?

hen passed through GPT-4. In this case, the model is able to generalize from multiple examples, making it more likely to generate an accurate response.

Copy

odel generalize from multiple examples, making it easier for the model to adhere to specific formats or patterns, such as for content generation.

## Few-Shot Prompting Technique

Prompting technique – zero-shot, one-shot, or few-shot – depends on the task and the level of guidance the model requires.

use each method:

when the task is simple, well-understood, or familiar to the model's training data. It's efficient for tasks like basic sentiment classification for common phrases.

helpful for tasks that need more specific guidance or handle ambiguity. Providing a single example can clarify what the model needs to do in tasks like basic classification or structured data entry.

ed for complex tasks requiring multiple examples to learn. This technique is ideal for tasks that involve varied inputs, where the inputs demand a higher degree of accuracy, such as in image captioning or handling nuanced classifications.

## One-Shot Prompting

## Real-World Applications of Few-Shot Prompting



## Learn Prompting

- Introduction to Prompt Engineering
- Basic Prompt Structure and Key Parts
- Technique #1: Instructions in Prompts
- Technique #2: Roles in Prompts
- **Technique #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot**
- Combining Prompting Techniques
- Tips for Writing Better Prompts
- Prompt Priming: Setting Context for AI
- Differences Between Chatbots and LLMs
- LLM Limitations: When Models and Chatbots Make Mistakes
- What Can Generative AI Create Beyond Text?

and can be applied to various domains, such as:

### Categorization<sup>1</sup>

Two applications: information extraction and so provide the guidance about using few-shot featured in a desired way.

### Information Extraction

ting to extract key details from job postings in a e is a prompt that extracts the key details from a job

Copy

n specialist needed at TechCorp. 5+ years  
e \$90,000 - \$120,000. Remote work available. Apply  
on: Software Engineer Specialization: Python  
uired: 5+ years Salary Range: \$90,000 - \$120,000  
adline: June 30, 2024

balBrand. MBA preferred. 3-5 years in consumer  
Hybrid work model. Applications close July 15,  
g Manager Company: GlobalBrand Education: MBA  
-5 years Industry: Consumer goods Salary Range:  
rid Application Deadline: July 15, 2024

DATA SCIENTIST wanted at AI Innovations Ltd. PhD in Computer Science or related field. Minimum 2 years industry experience. Competitive salary €60,000 -



## Learn Prompting

- Introduction to Prompt Engineering
- Basic Prompt Structure and Key Parts
- Technique #1: Instructions in Prompts
- Technique #2: Roles in Prompts
- Technique #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot
- Combining Prompting Techniques
- Tips for Writing Better Prompts
- Prompt Priming: Setting Context for AI
- Differences Between Chatbots and LLMs
- LLM Limitations: When Models and Chatbots Make Mistakes
- What Can Generative AI Create Beyond Text?

site work in Berlin office. Apply by August 31,

Copy

how we used the INPUT, OUTPUT format instead of ss the signifigance of this later.

: AI Innovations Ltd Education: PhD in Computer  
nace Required: Minimum 2 years Salary Range:  
site Location: Berlin Application Deadline: August

: Few-shot prompting can be used to extract structured and present it in a different format. The model to identify relevant information and maintain the o the new output format while still capturing the key

### Creation

: Use few-shot prompting to create concise travel types of vacations.

Copy

: Cultural Exploration Itinerary: A 5-day adition and modernity. Visit ancient temples like c districts like Akihabara. Experience a tea in traditional crafts, and end with a day trip to of Japan's iconic landmark.

: Eco-Adventure Itinerary: 7 days of natural tart in the Arenal Volcano area for hiking and rde Cloud Forest for canopy walks and wildlife

: Rainforest Adventure Itinerary: 10 days of rainforest exploration with relaxation on pristine beaches.



## Learn Prompting

- Introduction to Prompt Engineering
- Basic Prompt Structure and Key Parts
- Technique #1: Instructions in Prompts
- Technique #2: Roles in Prompts
- **Technique #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot**
- Combining Prompting Techniques
- Tips for Writing Better Prompts
- Prompt Priming: Setting Context for AI
- Differences Between Chatbots and LLMs
- LLM Limitations: When Models and Chatbots Make Mistakes
- What Can Generative AI Create Beyond Text?

YAML file?

Consider the following prompt and output:

pe: Culinary Journey Itinerary: A 6-day feast for Begin with a pasta-making class, followed by Trastevere and historic Jewish Ghetto. Visit g in the Roman countryside, and cap off the trip xperience.

pe: Lord of the Rings Fan Tour Itinerary:

ow we had two "inputs", the destination and the trip very versatile!

Copy

earth's real-life locations. Start in Auckland et in nearby Matamata. Fly to Wellington to rban filming locations. Head to the South Island f Edoras in Mount Sunday and Pelennor Fields in eenstown, taking in the scenery of Isengard and optional helicopter tour over the Misty Mountains trip, enjoy themed accommodations and meals

prompting can be used to generate creative eters (in this case, destination and trip type). The ample to create a new itinerary description that e examples while incorporating relevant details for be applied to various types of content generation l adaptation to specific inputs are required.

### ed Outputs

most important benefit of few-shot prompting. If als output into a spreadsheet or use code to extract erstand how to take advantage of Few-Shot puts. When we say discuss structured outputs, we it that the output is in. Is it just a paragraph of text, hing else like a markdown block of code or a JSON or



## Learn Prompting

Copy

● Introduction to Prompt Engineering

didn't work very well: negative Super helpful, k!:

● Basic Prompt Structure and Key Parts

Copy

● Technique #1: Instructions in Prompts

● Technique #2: Roles in Prompts

● Technique #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot

e three instances in an **input: classification** format, following the final line, rather than outputting a **view is positive**. However, if we wanted a complete djust our examples as:

● Combining Prompting Techniques

Copy

● Tips for Writing Better Prompts

a positive classification "Didn't work very well": n "Super helpful, worth it": this is a positive

● Prompt Priming: Setting Context for AI

ON format by structuring the examples as follows:

● Differences Between Chatbots and LLMs

Copy

● LLM Limitations: When Models and Chatbots Make Mistakes

: "positive"} "Didn't work very well": {"label": h it": {"label": "positive"}}

● What Can Generative AI Create Beyond Text?

A key use case for Few-Shot prompting is when you need the output to be **structured in a specific way** that is difficult to describe to the model. To understand this, let's consider a relevant example: say you are conducting an economic analysis and need to



## Learn Prompting

- Introduction to Prompt Engineering
- Basic Prompt Structure and Key Parts
- Technique #1: Instructions in Prompts
- Technique #2: Roles in Prompts
- Technique #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot
- Combining Prompting Techniques
- Tips for Writing Better Prompts
- Prompt Priming: Setting Context for AI
- Differences Between Chatbots and LLMs
- LLM Limitations: When Models and Chatbots Make Mistakes
- What Can Generative AI Create Beyond Text?

ns of well-known citizens in towns nearby by  
s. You would like the model to read each article and  
tions in the **First Last [OCCUPATION]** format. In order to  
how a few examples. Look through the embed to see

Id Hills, a diverse group of individuals made  
dedicated nurse, was known for her  
cal hospital. David Thompson, an innovative  
relessly on groundbreaking projects that

)

RUCTOR]  
EER1

[edit this embed](#)

the correct output format, it is able to produce the  
e could produce this same output by using an  
e Few-Shot prompt works much more consistently.

## Few-Shot Prompting

, consider:

Iude

- The order and relevance of the examples
- The output format (e.g., list, JSON, YAML)



## Learn Prompting

- [Introduction to Prompt Engineering](#)
- [Basic Prompt Structure and Key Parts](#)
- [Technique #1: Instructions in Prompts](#)
- [Technique #2: Roles in Prompts](#)
- [Technique #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot](#)
- [Combining Prompting Techniques](#)
- [Tips for Writing Better Prompts](#)
- [Prompt Priming: Setting Context for AI](#)
- [Differences Between Chatbots and LLMs](#)
- [LLM Limitations: When Models and Chatbots Make Mistakes](#)
- [What Can Generative AI Create Beyond Text?](#)

ots?

ot Prompts is very important. By this, we mean do s with a colon (:) or the words INPUT/OUTPUT. We in this article. How can you decide? We generally casionally use the QA format, which is commonly

Copy

will use the INPUT/OUTPUT format. This allows for

Copy

: your prompt, start simple. You will likely have to eventually. If you are interested in learning more t Prompts, check out our [Advanced Prompt](#)

**Prompting**

/ effective, it has limitations:

nit the number of examples.

if examples are too similar.

erficial patterns rather than understanding the task.

## Conclusion



## Learn Prompting

- Introduction to Prompt Engineering
- Basic Prompt Structure and Key Parts
- Technique #1: Instructions in Prompts
- Technique #2: Roles in Prompts
- **Technique #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot**
- Combining Prompting Techniques
- Tips for Writing Better Prompts
- Prompt Priming: Setting Context for AI
- Differences Between Chatbots and LLMs
- LLM Limitations: When Models and Chatbots Make Mistakes
- What Can Generative AI Create Beyond Text?

and powerful technique for enhancing AI's, you can guide the model to generate accurate, important to consider limitations such as context to maximize effectiveness.

1. Gao, T., Fisch, A., & Chen, D. (2021). Making Pre-trained Language Models Better Few-shot Learners. Proceedings of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for



## Learn Prompting

- Introduction to Prompt Engineering
- Basic Prompt Structure and Key Parts
- Technique #1: Instructions in Prompts
- Technique #2: Roles in Prompts
- **Technique #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot**
- Combining Prompting Techniques
- Tips for Writing Better Prompts
- Prompt Priming: Setting Context for AI
- Differences Between Chatbots and LLMs
- LLM Limitations: When Models and Chatbots Make Mistakes
- What Can Generative AI Create Beyond Text?

I the 11th International Joint Conference on Natural  
830. ↵

Subbiah, M., Kaplan, J. D., Dhariwal, P., Neelakantan,  
I, A., & others. (2020). Language Models are Few-  
ural Information Processing Systems, 33, 1877–1901.

n, A., & Firat, O. (2021). Few-shot learning for cross-  
nace. arXiv Preprint arXiv:2104.14690. ↵

ian, Q., Pinto, H. P. de O., Kaplan, J., Edwards, H.,  
n, G., & others. (2021). Evaluating Large Language  
Preprint arXiv:2107.03374. ↵

). Exploiting Cloze-Questions for Few-Shot Text  
guage Inference. Proceedings of the 16th  
hapter of the Association for Computational  
-269. ↵

shin, J., & Fung, P. (2021). Few-shot Bot: Prompt-  
systems. arXiv Preprint arXiv:2110.08118. ↵

at Learn Prompting, is passionate about making  
oreviously grew a 60K+ follower AI-focused  
eposts from Stanford NLP, Amazon Research,  
ers. She has also worked with AI/ML newsletters  
0K+ members and authored clear and concise  
s.

Next



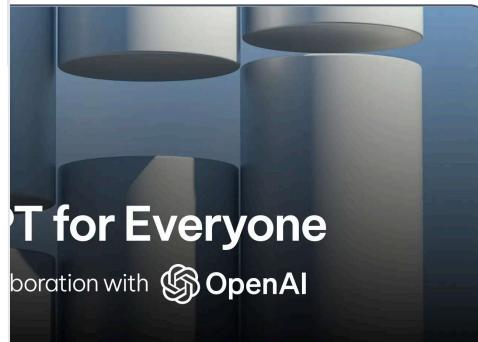
• Combining Prompting Techniq



## Learn Prompting

- Introduction to Prompt Engineering
- Basic Prompt Structure and Key Parts
- Technique #1: Instructions in Prompts
- Technique #2: Roles in Prompts
- **Technique #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot**
- Combining Prompting Techniques
- Tips for Writing Better Prompts
- Prompt Priming: Setting Context for AI
- Differences Between Chatbots and LLMs
- LLM Limitations: When Models and Chatbots Make Mistakes
- What Can Generative AI Create Beyond Text?

# Get Competitive AI with Our Courses



for Everyone

to use ChatGPT effectively and  
explore the exciting new world of Generative AI. No prior  
knowledge required!

Enroll Now



Introduction to Prompt Engineering



## Learn Prompting

- Introduction to Prompt Engineering
- Basic Prompt Structure and Key Parts
- Technique #1: Instructions in Prompts
- Technique #2: Roles in Prompts
- **Technique #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot**
- Combining Prompting Techniques
- Tips for Writing Better Prompts
- Prompt Priming: Setting Context for AI
- Differences Between Chatbots and LLMs
- LLM Limitations: When Models and Chatbots Make Mistakes
- What Can Generative AI Create Beyond Text?

lamentals of prompt engineering, the art of crafting effective instructions for AI like GPT, Claude, and Perplexity. You'll learn how to write better prompts, understand how large language models (LLMs) interpret inputs, and



Prompt Engineering

anced techniques in prompt engineering to enhance the accuracy, reliability, and safety of AI-generated responses. Learn methods for creating complex prompts... like GPT-4o, Claude, and Gemini.

Enroll Now

Want to keep learning  
**Explore Our Full Course Collection**





## Learn Prompting

- Introduction to Prompt Engineering
- Basic Prompt Structure and Key Parts
- Technique #1: Instructions in Prompts
- Technique #2: Roles in Prompts
- **Technique #3: Examples in Prompts: From Zero-Shot to Few-Shot**
- Combining Prompting Techniques
- Tips for Writing Better Prompts
- Prompt Priming: Setting Context for AI
- Differences Between Chatbots and LLMs
- LLM Limitations: When Models and Chatbots Make Mistakes
- What Can Generative AI Create Beyond Text?

## Prompting's Newsletter

Get the latest AI news, prompts, and tools... in 3 minutes or less!

[Subscribe](#)



[Resources](#)

[Docs](#)

[Community](#)

[Blogs](#)

[HackAPrompt](#)

[For Business](#)

[Pricing](#)

[Follow Us](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Discord](#)

[YouTube](#)