



Commonly Asked Questions About AI

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What is AI prompting, and why is it important?

AI prompting is the process of giving structured instructions to an AI model (like ChatGPT) to generate useful, accurate, or creative responses. It's important because the quality of the AI's output directly depends on how well you craft your prompt essentially, better prompts = better results. Like any tool AI is only as good as the prompt created for it.

People do not realize AI does not have the large body of person experiences that are normal for most people. So you must create a prompt giving the AI enough information to generate an intelligent answer.

Think of cooking, you would not discover a new recipe then send someone to go buy a lot of groceries to make it. In this case your experiences would guide you to buy certain things you think would create the taste you want. Other people would have very different ideas and most likely buy different things. Without your memories it would be very difficult to buy the right items then cook and create a meal that tasted the way you expect.

AI is similar in that it needs to know the question, who is asking the question, what are the circumstances surrounding the situation, who is reading the answer and of course what is expected and how should the answer be presented. The basics cover these areas and explain how to communicate a clear question to the AI.

It is very similar to creating a good story, you need actors, a background, a challenge, the limitations and finally a solution. If you prompt correctly the AI will search billions of records, books and papers to assemble your answer.

So what about the bigger picture, why use AI? You can in many cases go to your local library or use the internet and dig through pages or many volumes of books and reports but AI can do the same in minutes. Curious about the classics or anything in history or how machines work? Rather than spend hours digging you can in a good prompt let AI do the work for you. AIs with large LLMs, their database, can search billions of possibilities in minutes and give you answers that will satisfy your curiosity and put you on the path to understanding.

How Do I Write an Effective Prompt?

Simply put effective prompts are clear, specific and goal oriented. However that stated, in many cases AI needs to know any restraints such as the people involved, authority, timing, budget or anything that impacts the process involved. It is not difficult but just as you learned to put nouns and verbs together along with other words to make sentences. You must now do this for the AI. If you can talk or write you can create good prompts.

What Are the Differences Between the Prompt Styles?

Prompts work best in different situations. You match the style of prompt to the situation but

regardless of style you must start with good basic skills. From that point you match the style to the need. You start with Zero Shot meaning you are asking the AI to search for answer without any additional information. It then searches a huge database called an LLM, Large Language Model, and billions of records. It is fast and is the place most people start prompting.

Next is the Few Shot meaning you are going to give the AI a few examples of what you want it to do to guide it in answering. The next prompt would be Chain of Thought where you set up the prompt but you ask it to show you the thinking or logic at each step.

Condensed Chain of Thought is similar but you are requesting a summary of the steps instead of them being displayed. It is a shorter answer.

Beyond this is the Retrieval Augmented Generative, RAG style which is used when you want to add more current or more specific information about a company or situation.

This process gives you a more current answer and is not limited by the LLM.

AI Simplified What AI Taught Me From Beginner To Success covers basic applications in the first 2 chapters. A beginner can stop there and prompt with confidence for most applications.

After these are many prompts designed to optimize, fine tune, be more specific, validate, reduce hallucination, correct bias, be more predictive, generate feedback, multi-prompting and much more.

If you start with little to no knowledge of these subjects you have many questions. I put everything in the book because to do all of my work I needed to know it. I simply shared all that I was taught without consideration to basic or advanced or fine tuning and so on.

What causes an AI to answer or respond with off topic or incorrect answers?

Poorly designed prompts, vague instructions, or lack of context can cause AI to guess or generalize inaccurately. AI also relies on training data and probabilistic reasoning, so without clear direction, it may generate “plausible-sounding” but incorrect content. This is called hallucination.

There are ways to reduce errors such as show “step by step” or “review and validate” before responding but the best method is to be clear, specific and minimize verbiage.

Proper prompt construction is the best way to reduce or eliminate off topic and incorrect answers.

Can AI Be Used For Business?

Some people estimate roughly 50% of the global large companies use AI in some form now and it will only grow. AI is extremely helpful to businesses and governments because it can take large blocks of data or information and find the specific details or odd pieces that stand out. It can also predict many things based upon historical information which helps in business decisions.

It is also very useful in assisting with customer service inquiries, marketing analysis, fraud detection, writing and many business summaries.

How Can I Train Myself To Get Better at Prompting?

Learn and master the basics, study prompt structure then practice, practice and practice. Test, record your prompts and keep refining your prompts.

Is there More To Learn After Mastering the Basics or Fundamental Prompts?

Yes but it is not for everyone. For those who have the need there is much to learn in Advanced AI Prompting where you can apply the variations you learned in the earlier steps. This body of knowledge just supports and advances your ability for research and business applications such as Content Creation, Business Decisions, Predictive AI Prompts, AI for Creativity, AI for Writing and more. In these areas you benefit from fine tuning that covers things such as word values, delimiters, Temperature, Top-P, Top-K, language and semantics so you can not only write the correct prompt but tweak it to achieve the maximum benefit of AI.

Can Learning AI Prompting Future Proof My Employment?

AI has a growing presence in large, medium and even small companies. Each level has it's own need for AI help. Large and medium size companies need the data or information help for daily and predictive decisions. Small companies also benefit from the decision side but it can also free their staff for more productive work.

A good basic knowledge can serve you many ways from personal to business level work. Ask yourself with AI being involved in more and more businesses are you better off to ignore it or to learn how to use it? Which path makes you more valuable to your company

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