The Prompt Anatomy

Visual breakdown of effective prompt components

Format



Set the scene

Task

Define the goal

Structure output

Constraints Set boundaries **Examples**

Show patterns

Example Prompt Breakdown

You are a marketing expert helping a startup launch their new eco-friendly water bottle. Create a compelling product description that highlights sustainability benefits and appeals to environmentally conscious consumers. Structure your response as: 1) Catchy headline, 2) Key features (3-4 bullet points), 3) Environmental impact statement, 4) Call-to-action. Keep the total length under 150 words and maintain an enthusiastic but professional For reference, think of brands like Hydro Flask or S'well that successfully combine functionality with environmental messaging.

Context Setting

Establishes the scenario, role, or background information. Helps the Al understand the perspective and domain expertise needed.

Effect: Provides relevant knowledge base and appropriate tone/style

Task Definition

Clearly states what you want the AI to do. The more specific and actionable, the better the results.

Effect: Ensures focused output aligned with your goals

Output Format

Specifies how you want the response structured - lists, paragraphs, tables, JSON, etc.

Effect: Makes output immediately usable and properly organized

Constraints

Sets boundaries like length limits, tone requirements, or things to avoid. Helps prevent unwanted outputs.

Effect: Keeps responses focused and within desired parameters

Examples

Provides concrete references or patterns to follow. Shows rather than just tells what you're looking for.

Effect: Dramatically improves quality by demonstrating expectations

Pro Tips for Better Prompts

Instead of "write about dogs," try "write a 200-word guide about training golden retriever puppies for first-time owners."

Set Boundaries

Word limits, tone preferences, and format requirements prevent scope creep.

Use Active Voice

"Analyze the data" is clearer than "The data should be analyzed."

Iterate & Refine

Start with a basic prompt, then add components based on the results you get.

Include Context

"You are a financial advisor" sets better expectations than jumping straight to the task.

Show Examples

One good example is worth a paragraph of explanation.