



AI in Test Development: Effective Prompts

Creating effective AI prompts is crucial for guiding the AI to produce accurate and relevant outputs. Below are key elements to consider when crafting prompts:

1. Provide Explicit Instructions

- **Clarity and Precision:** Assume AI is an intelligent but untrained assistant (or imbecile). Give clear, detailed instructions as if explaining to someone with no prior knowledge.
- **Single Task Focus:** Good prompts should assign only one task at a time. This helps the AI focus and deliver the best possible output.
- **Define Output Clearly:** Each prompt should clearly define the expected output, ensuring the AI understands what it needs to produce.
- **Deconstruct Complex Tasks:** Larger or more complex “jobs” should be broken up into discrete, simple tasks.

2. Provide Necessary Resources

- **Attach Helpful Resources:** Ensure that any documents, tools, or data the AI will need are attached and referenced within the prompt.
- **Resource Utilization:** Specify how to use each resource effectively, such as “Use Document X to summarize the main points in 200 words.”
- **Reference Location:** Document references should be adjacent to instructions regarding their use. These references should specify particular sections of the document relevant to the task at hand.

3. Mirror How AI Was Trained

- **Task Framework:** Design prompts which mimic how a non-expert might be instructed to approach the task.
- **General Language:** Avoid domain-specific jargon. Use language an educated non-expert might use when referring to the task being explained.
- **Consistent Formatting:** AI is a pattern replicator [super fancy auto-complete]. Maintain uniform formatting throughout the prompt and documents to enhance AI’s ability to follow instructions accurately.



Effective Prompts, cont.

4. Provide Context: Roles and Scenarios

Delineating roles or providing scenarios is more important specific wording in a prompt and helps reduce the frequency of AI “hallucinations.”

- **Roles:** Assign a specific role to the AI to ensure focused and relevant responses.
Example: "You are a doctor explaining a diagnosis to a patient."
- **Scenarios:** Present a clear scenario to provide context, helping the AI generate accurate and appropriate responses.
Example: "A customer received a damaged item and wants a refund."

5. Provide Examples

- **Clear Output Example:** Each prompt should include a clear example of the desired output for a better overall result.
- **Target Recurring Issues:** Use examples to address common or recurring issues in AI output (or typical errors a human would make).

6. Repeat & Refine

- **Combat Randomness:** Request multiple responses from the AI. This helps combat randomness in the results and provides multiple outputs to compare and refine.
- **Composite Output:** Combine the best elements of multiple responses to create an optimal final product. (Frankenstein it!)