

# 100+ AI Prompting Patterns Cheat Sheet

A Strategic Reference for Better Thinking, Smarter Decisions & Stronger Execution

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## 1 STRATEGIC THINKING

<b>/firstprinciples</b>	Break down to foundational truths
<b>/secondorder</b>	Explore downstream consequences
<b>/systems</b>	See how parts interact in a whole
<b>/longterm</b>	Focus on future impact & sustainability
<b>/shortterm</b>	Prioritize immediate actions & wins
<b>/tradeoffs</b>	Weigh what you gain vs. what you lose
<b>/constraints</b>	Solve within real-world limitations
<b>/premortem</b>	Imagine failure in advance to reduce risk
<b>/postmortem</b>	Analyze what happened & why
<b>/rootcause</b>	Identify the underlying causes
<b>/decisiontree</b>	Map choices and possible outcomes
<b>/opportunitycost</b>	What you give up by choosing this
<b>/counterfactual</b>	Explore alternative realities
<b>/inversion</b>	Work backward from the opposite
<b>/bottleneck</b>	Find the biggest constraint
<b>/flywheel</b>	Build reinforcing loops for momentum
<b>/80-20</b>	Focus on the vital few, ignore the trivial many
<b>/leverage</b>	Find high impact with minimal resources
<b>/riskmatrix</b>	Categorize risks by likelihood & impact
<b>/scenarioanalysis</b>	Test multiple future scenarios

## 2 CRITICAL REASONING

<b>/steelman</b>	Build the strongest opposing argument
<b>/devilsadvocate</b>	Challenge assumptions & push back
<b>/skeptical</b>	Approach claims with healthy doubt
<b>/evidence</b>	Prioritize facts, data & credible sources
<b>/falsify</b>	Try to disprove, not just confirm
<b>/biascheck</b>	Identify cognitive & systemic biases
<b>/assumptions</b>	Surface hidden assumptions
<b>/logiccheck</b>	Test if the reasoning actually follows
<b>/uncertainty</b>	Highlight unknowns & ambiguity
<b>/confidence</b>	Estimate confidence in the conclusion
<b>/weakpoints</b>	Expose vulnerabilities & gaps
<b>/pitfalls</b>	Surface common mistakes & traps
<b>/edgescases</b>	Examine extremes & unusual cases
<b>/failuresmodes</b>	How could this break or fail?
<b>/contradictions</b>	Find inconsistencies
<b>/blindspots</b>	Reveal what's not being seen
<b>/redteam</b>	Stress-test from an adversarial view
<b>/attackplan</b>	How might competitors exploit this?
<b>/realitycheck</b>	Ground ideas in practical reality
<b>/truthovercomfort</b>	Prioritize truth over feelings

## 3 PRODUCTIVITY & EXECUTION

<b>/actionplan</b>	Turn ideas into actionable steps
<b>/nextsteps</b>	Identify the immediate next actions
<b>/roadmap</b>	Create a phased plan over time
<b>/milestones</b>	Define key checkpoints
<b>/kanban</b>	Organize work into flow & stages
<b>/priority</b>	Rank by importance & urgency
<b>/focus</b>	Narrow to what matters most
<b>/deepwork</b>	Optimize for concentration
<b>/simplify</b>	Remove unnecessary complexity
<b>/checklist</b>	Build repeatable checklists
<b>/sop</b>	Create standard operating procedures
<b>/automation</b>	Find & design automation opportunities
<b>/delegate</b>	Determine what to assign
<b>/batching</b>	Group similar tasks
<b>/timebox</b>	Set time limits for focus
<b>/momentum</b>	Build & sustain progress
<b>/minimumviable</b>	Find the simplest viable solution
<b>/shipit</b>	Take action and release
<b>/execution</b>	Focus on doing, not just planning
<b>/constraintsfirst</b>	Design within constraints first

## 4 LEARNING & UNDERSTANDING

<b>/eli5</b>	Explain it simply
<b>/teachme</b>	Teach in a structured way
<b>/socratic</b>	Use questions to explore thinking
<b>/examples</b>	Show examples to illustrate
<b>/analogy</b>	Explain using comparisons
<b>/visualise</b>	Help me picture it
<b>/stepbystep</b>	Break it down sequentially
<b>/deepdive</b>	Go deep & comprehensive
<b>/intuitive</b>	Focus on intuition & meaning
<b>/memoryhooks</b>	Create retention anchors
<b>/flashcards</b>	Convert to active recall
<b>/quizme</b>	Test my understanding
<b>/compare</b>	Show similarities & differences
<b>/timeline</b>	Put in chronological order
<b>/taxonomy</b>	Classify into categories
<b>/framework</b>	Structure with a model
<b>/mentalmodels</b>	Apply powerful thinking models
<b>/conceptmap</b>	Map relationships
<b>/fromscratch</b>	Start from zero knowledge
<b>/expertmode</b>	Provide advanced depth

## 5 COMMUNICATION & WRITING

<b>/concise</b>	Make it shorter & clearer
<b>/expand</b>	Add detail & depth
<b>/rewrite</b>	Rephrase for clarity or style
<b>/humanise</b>	Make it more natural & relatable
<b>/storytelling</b>	Use narrative & compelling flow
<b>/persuasive</b>	Make a case for action
<b>/executivesummary</b>	Summarize for leaders
<b>/linkedin</b>	Format for professional impact
<b>/academic</b>	Use scholarly tone & structure
<b>/plainenglish</b>	Use simple, everyday language
<b>/lawyerstyle</b>	Use formal legal style
<b>/ceostyle</b>	Communicate strategically
<b>/tweetthread</b>	Turn into a social media thread
<b>/hookfirst</b>	Start with a strong hook
<b>/nobuzzwords</b>	Remove jargon & fluff
<b>/highsignal</b>	Maximize value, minimize noise
<b>/noautopilot</b>	Think deeper, avoid generic output

## WHY PROMPTING PATTERNS WORK

AI doesn't "think" on its own—it responds to the structure, clarity and intent of your prompts.

- Provide Structure**  
Guide the AI's reasoning path.
- Improve Depth**  
Surface better insights & analysis.
- Reduce Bias & Blind Spots**  
Challenge assumptions & expand perspective.
- Increase Actionability**  
Turn ideas into clear next steps.
- Enhance Communication**  
Get outputs tailored to your audience & purpose.
- Drive Better Outcomes**  
Better prompts lead to better decisions.

## 6 ANALYSIS & DIAGNOSTICS

<b>/diagnose</b>	Identify core issues
<b>/datadriven</b>	Use data & metrics
<b>/patternspotting</b>	Find recurring patterns
<b>/trendspotting</b>	Spot emerging trends
<b>/benchmark</b>	Compare to standards
<b>/swot</b>	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
<b>/gapanalysis</b>	Find gaps to close
<b>/impactanalysis</b>	Assess potential impact
<b>/stakeholdermap</b>	Map stakeholders & influence
<b>/valuechain</b>	Understand value creation

## 7 DECISION SUPPORT

<b>/options</b>	Generate possible options
<b>/proscans</b>	List pros & cons
<b>/scorecard</b>	Evaluate with a scorecard
<b>/weightedcriteria</b>	Score using weighted criteria
<b>/rank</b>	Rank by preference or value
<b>/prioritize</b>	Determine what comes first
<b>/tradeoffmatrix</b>	Compare trade-offs visually
<b>/decisionlog</b>	Document decision rationale
<b>/recommend</b>	Provide a recommendation
<b>/commitmenttest</b>	Test readiness & commitment

## 8 PLANNING & DESIGN

<b>/design</b>	Design the solution
<b>/blueprint</b>	Create a high-level plan
<b>/architecture</b>	Design structure & systems
<b>/frameworkdesign</b>	Build a reusable framework
<b>/processdesign</b>	Design the process flow
<b>/uxthinking</b>	Think from the user's view
<b>/ideate</b>	Generate lots of ideas
<b>/brainstorm</b>	Explore many ideas rapidly
<b>/brainwriting</b>	Develop ideas collaboratively
<b>/conceptualize</b>	Turn ideas into concepts

## 9 PERSPECTIVE & CONTEXT

<b>/userperspective</b>	See through user's eyes
<b>/customerlens</b>	Focus on customer impact
<b>/empathize</b>	Understand emotions & needs
<b>/stakeholderview</b>	Consider key stakeholders
<b>/culturalcontext</b>	Factor in culture & norms
<b>/marketlens</b>	Understand market dynamics
<b>/historicalcontext</b>	Learn from the past
<b>/futurelens</b>	Anticipate future implications
<b>/globalview</b>	Take a global perspective
<b>/ethicalview</b>	Assess ethical implications

## 10 AI INTERACTION MODES

<b>/slowthinking</b>	Think carefully & step by step
<b>/depth</b>	Go deeper & explore nuance
<b>/walkthrough</b>	Guide me through the process
<b>/thinkaloud</b>	Show your reasoning
<b>/selfask</b>	Ask & answer your own questions
<b>/clarify</b>	Ask for clarity before answering
<b>/breakitdown</b>	Break complexity into parts
<b>/fewshot</b>	Use examples to set the pattern
<b>/contextrich</b>	Use more context for better output

## HOW TO USE THEM EFFECTIVELY

- Stack Patterns** – Combine 2–5 that fit your goal.
- Add Context** – Include background, constraints, and desired outcome.
- Be Specific** – The clearer the ask, the better the result.
- Iterate** – Refine prompts based on the output.
- Build Your Library** – Save & reuse your most effective combinations.

## THE BIG IDEA

These prompting patterns are not magic commands. They are cognitive tools that guide AI to think the way you need it to.

## POWERFUL STACK EXAMPLE

**/firstprinciples** + **/steelman** + **/premortem** + **/noautopilot** + **/metricsmode**

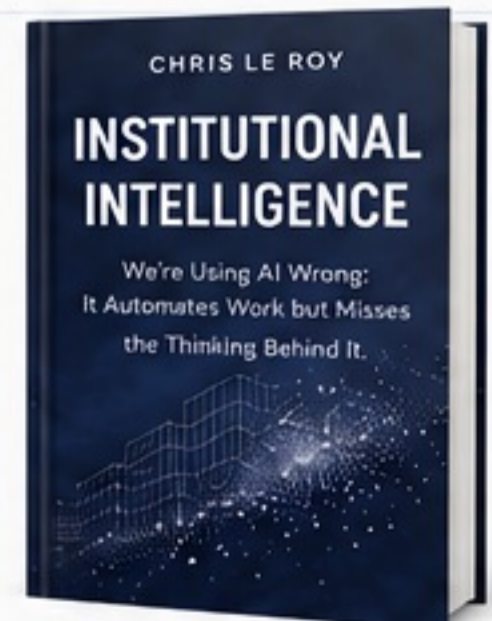
**Why it works:** Breaks problems down to the truth, challenges assumptions, anticipates risks, avoids generic output, and defines measurable success.



## REMEMBER

The quality of your output is a reflection of the quality of your questions, context, and patterns.

**Better prompts → Better thinking → Better decisions → Better results.**



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