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40

AI prompts to play with

Learn, write, decide, build, create. Forty prompts that make AI useful from the first try, and fun along the way. Copy one, fill in the brackets, and see what comes back.

Learn faster · Your career · Write better · Think and decide · Build and code · Create · Money and everyday life · Language and IELTS · Health, habits and focus · Just for fun

40	10	6
prompts, copy-ready	themes, from study to play	weeks, at one a day

The first answer is never the last.

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BEFORE YOU START

How to get more from every prompt

An AI assistant is a very fast, very well read intern who has never met you. The prompts in this book work because they tell it who you are, what you want and what shape the answer should take. Five habits make every one of them better.

1

Fill in the brackets with real detail

Every **[bracket]** is a place for your own words. "Explain photosynthesis" gets a textbook; "explain photosynthesis to me, a first-year student who finds biology boring, with one example from a Karachi kitchen" gets a lesson written for you.

2

Say the shape of the answer

A table, a list, 100 words, three options, in Urdu, step by step. If you do not say, the assistant guesses, and it usually guesses long.

3

Treat the first answer as a draft

Reply with "shorter", "simpler", "give me three versions", "do the same for my case" or "you missed the point about X". The second and third answers are where the value is.

4

Check anything you will act on

Assistants sound confident when they are wrong. Verify names, numbers, dates, laws, fees and quotations against the official page before you use them, and ask "how sure are you, and what should I check?"

5

Keep private things private

No passwords, ID numbers, bank details, other people's messages or your employer's data. Describe the situation instead of pasting the document.

How to read a card

The green box is the prompt: copy it as it is, brackets and all, then replace the brackets. The amber line under it is a way to make the prompt yours, or a follow-up worth trying.

Where to try them

Any assistant will do: ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude or Copilot, all with free plans. One prompt a day is six weeks of play. Start with the theme that sounds like your week.

THEME 1 OF 10

Learn anything faster

Turn the assistant into a patient tutor who explains, quizzes and never gets tired of your questions.

01

1 Explain it three ways

> Explain **[topic]** to me three times: first as if I am ten years old, then as a university student, then as an expert. After each one, ask me a single question to check that I understood before you go on.

↳ **Make it yours:** use the topic of your next exam, and answer the check questions honestly.

2 The 20-minute plan

> I have 20 minutes a day for the next two weeks to learn **[skill or topic]**. I already know **[what you know]**. Make a day-by-day plan with one small task per day, each one building on the last, and tell me how to test myself on day 14.

↳ **Make it yours:** after day 3, paste what you did and ask it to adjust the rest of the plan.

3 Quiz me, one question at a time

> Ask me ten questions about **[chapter or topic]**, one at a time. Wait for my answer each time, tell me whether I was right, and explain the ones I get wrong in two lines. At the end, list the three ideas I should revise first.

↳ **Make it yours:** add "make the questions harder each time I get one right".

4 Notes into flashcards

> Here are my notes: **[paste your notes]**. Turn them into 15 question-and-answer flashcards, hardest first. For the five hardest, add a one-line memory trick, and tell me which three cards cover the most marks.

↳ **Make it yours:** ask for the cards as a table you can paste into a flashcard app.

THEME 2 OF 10

Your career

A CV that gets read, an interview you have already practised, and a job ad you actually understand.

02

5 Stronger CV lines

> Here is one line from my CV: **[paste the line]**. Rewrite it in three stronger versions that start with an action verb and include a number or a result. Keep each under 20 words, and tell me which one a recruiter would stop on.

↳ **Make it yours:** paste the whole CV and ask for the five weakest lines first.

6 Mock interview

> You are the hiring manager for a **[job title]** role at a **[kind of company]** in Pakistan. Ask me one interview question at a time. Wait for my answer, then give honest feedback and a better version of my answer before the next question. Start with "tell me about yourself".

↳ **Make it yours:** add "be tough, and include one question I would not expect".

7 Decode a job ad

> Here is a job advertisement: **[paste it]**. List the five skills they really want, in order of importance. My background in two lines: **[your degree, your experience]**. Tell me which skills I already have, which I can show with a small project, and which I should be honest about.

↳ **Make it yours:** follow up with "write the cover letter's first paragraph from that".

8 LinkedIn in one paragraph

> Write a LinkedIn "About" section for me in 120 words, in the first person, warm but professional, no buzzwords. Facts: **[degree and field]**, **[two things you have done]**, **[what you want next]**. End with one line about what I enjoy outside work.

↳ **Make it yours:** ask for a headline under 80 characters to go with it.

THEME 3 OF 10

Write better

Emails that get answered, essays with a spine, and your own voice kept intact.

03

9 Fix my email, keep my voice

> Rewrite this email so it is clear, polite and half as long, but keep my tone and do not add phrases I would not use: **[paste the email]**. Then show me the three changes that mattered most and why.

↳ **Make it yours:** add who it is for ("my professor", "a client who is late paying").

10 Draft, then critique, then redraft

> Write a 200-word **[essay, post or statement]** on **[topic]** for **[audience]**. Then critique your own draft as a strict teacher would, in five bullet points. Then give me a second draft that fixes every point.

↳ **Make it yours:** paste your own draft instead and let it critique that.

11 The tired reader test

> Here is my paragraph: **[paste it]**. Read it as a tired person on a phone at 11 pm. Which sentence would they skip, and where would they stop reading? Rewrite it so every sentence earns its place, and keep it under **[number]** words.

↳ **Make it yours:** works on captions, assignment introductions and WhatsApp announcements.

12 Say it in my language

> Translate this into **[Urdu or Sindhi]**, keeping the meaning rather than the words, in the register a **[teacher, friend, official]** would use: **[paste the text]**. Then point out two places where a literal translation would have sounded wrong and explain why.

↳ **Make it yours:** go the other way and ask it to check your English translation of a Sindhi line.

THEME 4 OF 10

⚖ Think and decide

Use the assistant as a sparring partner: it argues the other side, imagines the future and keeps you honest.

04

13 Two futures

> I am deciding between **[option A]** and **[option B]**. Describe an ordinary Tuesday one year into each choice, in detail: morning, work, money, people, evening. Then name the one risk in each that I am most likely to be underestimating.

↳ **Make it yours:** add your real constraints: family, savings, the city you must stay in.

14 Argue the other side

> I believe **[your opinion]**. Make the strongest possible case against it, with the best evidence and the most reasonable version of the opposing view, not a weak one. Then tell me which of my original reasons survive and which do not.

↳ **Make it yours:** try it on a decision you have already made and see if you still agree with yourself.

15 Pre-mortem

> I am about to **[your plan]**. Imagine it is six months from now and it failed badly. Write the short story of why it failed, with the three most likely causes. Then turn each cause into one thing I can do this week to prevent it.

↳ **Make it yours:** run the opposite too: "imagine it went better than expected, why?"

16 Decision in a table

> Compare **[the options]** on **[the criteria that matter to you]**. Make a table, score every cell from 1 to 5 with one line of reasoning each, total the scores, and then tell me which criterion I should probably weigh more heavily than I think.

↳ **Make it yours:** ask "what question would change the result?" and answer it.

THEME 5 OF 10

</> Build and code

Errors explained, code reviewed, a weekend project designed and the tests written before the bug.

05

17 Explain this error

> I got this error while **[what you were doing]**: **[paste the error]**. Explain in plain words what went wrong, the most likely cause in my case, and the smallest change that fixes it. Then tell me how to check that the fix worked.

↳ **Make it yours:** add "and how do I avoid this class of error next time?"

18 Senior code review

> Review this code as a senior engineer would before merging: **[paste the code]**. First say what is good. Then bugs, then readability, then one refactor you would insist on. Show the refactored version and explain the trade-off.

↳ **Make it yours:** add the language and the framework, and whether it runs in production.

19 A weekend project that teaches one thing

> Design a weekend project that teaches me **[skill, for example Docker or REST APIs]** using **[language or tool]**. Give me the folder structure, five steps in order with what each step teaches, what "done" looks like, and one stretch goal for Sunday night.

↳ **Make it yours:** ask for a README you could put on GitHub when it is finished.

20 Write the tests first

> Here is a function: **[paste it]**. Write unit tests for the normal case, two edge cases and one failure case, in **[test framework]**. Then tell me which single test would have caught a bug the fastest, and what input the function probably handles badly.

↳ **Make it yours:** run the tests, paste the failures, and ask it to fix the function, not the tests.

THEME 6 OF 10

Create

Stories, pictures, poems and names. The assistant is a tireless collaborator, and you are the editor.

06

21 A story from three words

> Write a 300-word short story set in **[a place in Pakistan]** that uses these three words: **[word one]**, **[word two]**, **[word three]**. Give it one real character with a small want, and end with a line that changes how the opening reads.

↳ **Make it yours:** ask for the same story told by a different character.

22 A picture, described well

> Write a prompt for an AI image tool. The subject is **[subject]**, the style is **[style, for example watercolour or film photo]**, the time of day is **[time]**, the mood is **[mood]**. Give me the prompt, then two variations that change only the lighting, and one that changes only the camera angle.

↳ **Make it yours:** paste the prompt into an image tool and bring the result back for a second round.

23 A poem in a form

> Write a short poem in **[English, Urdu or Sindhi]** about **[topic]** in the form of a **[ghazal, haiku, sonnet or free verse]**. Keep the rhyme natural, no forced words. Afterwards, tell me the one image you are proudest of and one line you would cut.

↳ **Make it yours:** give it a first line of your own and ask it to continue.

24 Twenty names

> I am starting **[a project, shop, channel or app]** for **[who it is for]**. Give me 20 names: five plain, five playful, five in Urdu or Sindhi, five that would work as a web address. Mark the three you would actually choose and say why in one line each.

↳ **Make it yours:** ask for a one-line tagline for each of the three finalists.

THEME 7 OF 10

Money and everyday life

A budget you can keep, dinner from what is in the fridge, a trip that fits the money and a form that finally makes sense.

07

25 A budget that fits

> My monthly income is Rs **[amount]**. My fixed costs are **[rent, transport, phone, and so on]**. Build a simple monthly budget as a table with a realistic savings target, and point out the one expense that people in my situation most often cut without feeling it.

↳ **Make it yours:** add a goal ("a laptop by June") and ask what has to change.

26 Cook with what I have

> I have **[the ingredients in your kitchen]** and 30 minutes. Suggest two dishes, step by step, using the spices a Pakistani kitchen usually has. Say how many people each serves and which one is easier for a beginner.

↳ **Make it yours:** add "one of them should be something my family has not tried".

27 Plan a trip

> Plan a three-day trip to **[place]** for **[number]** people, travelling from **[city]**, on a total budget of Rs **[amount]**. Day by day, with where to stay, how to get around, the one thing not to miss, and the one common tourist trap to avoid. Mark anything I must book in advance.

↳ **Make it yours:** ask for a packing list for that season and place.

28 Explain this bill or form

> Here is a **[bill, form or official letter]**: **[paste the text or describe it]**. Explain each part in plain words, tell me exactly what I have to do and by when, and flag anything that looks wrong or unusual. Do not guess at fees; tell me where to check them.

↳ **Make it yours:** ask for the explanation in Urdu for someone at home.

THEME 8 OF 10

Language and IELTS

A writing examiner, a speaking partner and a daily English coach who corrects one thing at a time.

08

29 IELTS writing examiner

> Here is my IELTS Writing Task 2 essay on the question "**[the question]**": **[paste the essay]**. Score it on the four official criteria with one reason each. Then rewrite only the weakest paragraph to a band 7 level and explain each change you made.

↳ **Make it yours:** ask for three linking phrases you overuse and their replacements.

30 Speak for two minutes

> Give me an IELTS Speaking Part 2 cue card about **[topic]**. I will type my two-minute answer. Then mark my vocabulary, grammar and fluency out of 9 with one reason each, and give me five better phrases I could have used, with an example sentence for each.

↳ **Make it yours:** use voice input if your assistant has it, and answer out loud.

31 Daily English, no lecture

> Every day I will send you three sentences I wrote in English. Correct them, explain only the single most important mistake in one line, and give me a version that sounds natural. Keep a running list of my repeated mistakes and show it to me every Friday.

↳ **Make it yours:** send sentences from real messages you wrote that day.

32 Learn one word properly

> Teach me the word **[word]**: its meaning, three example sentences from everyday life, two words it is often confused with and how they differ, and one sentence in **[Urdu or Sindhi]** that anchors it in my memory.

↳ **Make it yours:** ask it to quiz you on this week's words every Sunday.

THEME 9 OF 10

Health, habits and focus

Plans that start small enough to keep, a workout in a small room, and an hour of real focus.

09

33 A plan I will actually follow

> I want to **[the habit, for example walk every day or read before bed]**. I failed before because **[the honest reason]**. Make a four-week plan that starts embarrassingly small, grows a little each week, and tells me exactly what to do on the day I miss.

↳ **Make it yours:** ask it to write the reminder message you will set on your phone.

34 Home workout, no gym

> Make a 20-minute workout I can do in a small room with no equipment, for a **[beginner or intermediate]**, three times a week. Include a two-minute warm-up, the exercises with counts, and what to swap if my **[knees, back or shoulders]** hurt. Check with a doctor is understood; keep it simple.

↳ **Make it yours:** ask for a week-4 version that is a little harder.

35 One hour of focus

> Plan my next 60 minutes. The task is **[the task]**, I keep getting distracted by **[the thing]**, and I have already wasted **[how long]**. Break the hour into blocks, tell me what to do with my phone, and give me one sentence to write down when the hour ends.

↳ **Make it yours:** come back after the hour and report; ask for the next one.

36 Talk it through first

> I feel **[stuck, anxious or low]** about **[the situation]**. Do not give me a list of tips yet. Ask me three questions, one at a time, that help me see what is really bothering me. Then summarise what you heard in my own words, and only then suggest one small step.

↳ **Make it yours:** an assistant is not a doctor or a counsellor; if it is heavy, talk to a person you trust too.

THEME 10 OF 10

Just for fun

Riddles, guessing games and a visitor from the future. Play is how you learn what the assistant can do.

10

37 Riddle me

> Give me a riddle. Let me guess up to three times, with a small hint after each wrong guess. Then reveal the answer and explain how the riddle was built. Keep going with a new riddle until I say stop, and make each one a little harder than the last.

↳ **Make it yours:** ask for riddles about your own subject: chemistry, cricket, Kubernetes.

38 Twenty questions

> Think of a famous person, place or thing from Pakistan and do not tell me what it is. I will ask yes-or-no questions to guess it. Answer honestly, keep count of my questions, and tell me when I have used all twenty. If I guess right, tell me how close my questions were.

↳ **Make it yours:** swap roles: you think of something and let it guess.

39 A visitor from 2100

> You are a visitor from the year 2100 who has just arrived in **[your city]**. Describe what has changed and what has stayed the same, then let me interview you. Stay in character, be specific, and admit when something is just your guess.

↳ **Make it yours:** try a visitor from 1947 instead.

40 A text adventure

> Run a short text adventure where I am a **[role]** in **[a setting]**. Give me three choices at every step, keep each turn under 80 words, and make something surprising happen on turn five. Keep score of what I have found. Begin.

↳ **Make it yours:** play it in Urdu or Sindhi, and ask it to correct your replies gently.

KEEP GOING

Forty prompts in, what next?

If a few of these made you lean forward, you already use AI better than most people. The next step is making it a habit: one prompt a day, and the first answer is never the last.

The AI master sheet

Two pages on using AI like a pro: the prompt formula, the refine loop, what to check before you trust an answer and what never to paste. Print it and keep it by the keyboard.

rashidwassan.com/resources/ai

From playing to building

If the build-and-code prompts were your favourites, the free DevOps and Kubernetes path takes you from Linux basics to Kubestronaut, in the order to take it, with official courses only.

rashidwassan.com/resources/devops-path

Talk it through with a person

Career, studies, a plan that keeps slipping: an honest hour with someone who has walked the path. Sessions are online, and a free 15-minute discovery call comes first.

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