IDA

Promt Guide

For Students

Prompt Guide for Students: How to Get Better Answers from AI in Your Studies

When using AI tools like ChatGPT, it's important to ask good questions – also known as prompts.
The better your prompt, the more relevant and useful the response will be.

This guide offers examples you can use directly in your academic life.
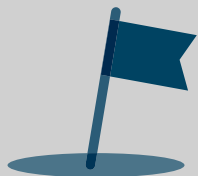
Table of Contents

1. What is a prompt?

A *prompt* is the message or question you write to the AI. It can be anything from "Explain photosynthesis" to "Create a study plan for my exam week."
The AI uses your prompt to understand what you want to know – and the more precise you are, the better the response.

You write →

← AI replies

2. Five principles for effective prompts

Be specific

"Explain the difference between supervised and unsupervised learning."

Add context

"I'm writing an assignment on green energy – explain solar cells vs. wind turbines."

Ask for examples

"Explain quantum mechanics and give a practical example."

Use follow-up questions

"Expand on entropy and energy loss in closed systems."

Ask across disciplines

"How does entropy relate to information processing in IT?"

3. Examples of study-friendly prompts

Research

"I'm writing an assignment on the use of machine learning in healthcare. Can you find and summarise three recent academic articles on diagnostic algorithms?"

Why it works:
It's specific, includes academic context, narrows the topic and defines the desired output.

Assignment writing

"I'm working on a report about robotics in production lines. Can you suggest a structure with technical description, analysis of productivity and working environment? Also help with transitions between sections."

Why it works:
It defines the topic, purpose and asks for both structure and language support.

Study planning

"I have exams in mathematics and programming in two weeks. Can you create a study plan that considers my busy days – Monday and Wednesday – and suggests times for revision and breaks?"

Why it works:
It's personal, time-bound and asks for a tailored plan.
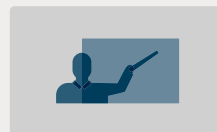
Note taking

"I've uploaded slides from a lecture on nanotechnology. Can you summarise the key points and highlight important concepts for exam preparation?"

Why it works:
It specifies the input, purpose and desired output – making it easy to turn into usable notes.

Exam preparation

"I have an oral exam in computer science. Can you simulate an exam scenario with questions on core theories and practical examples, and give feedback on my answers?"

Why it works:
It asks for an interactive exercise with feedback – and defines both subject and format.

Proof reading

"I've written an assignment on sustainable energy. Can you review the text and suggest improvements in grammar, language and flow to make it more professional and readable?"

Why it works:
It defines the type of text, purpose and asks for specific language help.

Collaboration

"My study group is working on a project about sustainable construction. Can you help create a task plan that distributes work based on team members' strengths and suggests a realistic timeline?"

Why it works:
It defines the project, collaboration format and desired output – asking for a concrete plan.

4. Tips for improving your prompts – learn from common pitfalls

You're already using AI – but here are five common pitfalls to avoid so you can improve your prompts and get even better answers:

- Too broad: "Explain AI" → too general. Better: "Explain the difference between artificial intelligence, machine learning, and deep learning."

- Missing context: "What are solar cells?" → vague. Better: "Explain solar cells in the context of green energy."

- Unclear purpose: "Find articles on machine learning." → unfocused. Better: "Find and summarise three academic articles explaining machine learning on disease diagnosis."

- No follow-up: Don't stop after the first answer – ask for clarification or expansion.

- Too many topics: Ask one question at a time for clearer responses.

5. Prompt template for your own use

I'm working on [type of assignment] about [topic]. Can you [action] and provide [examples/context]?

Example

"I'm working on a report about sustainable construction. Can you help structure the content and provide examples of environmental impact?"

I'm working on [type of assignment] about [topic]. Can you [action] and provide [examples/context]?

Get more tools and tips for a more structured student life with IDA

studerende.ida.dk/english/