Advanced Prompt Patterns

Explore reusable patterns for more complex tasks

Estimated reading time: 7 minutes

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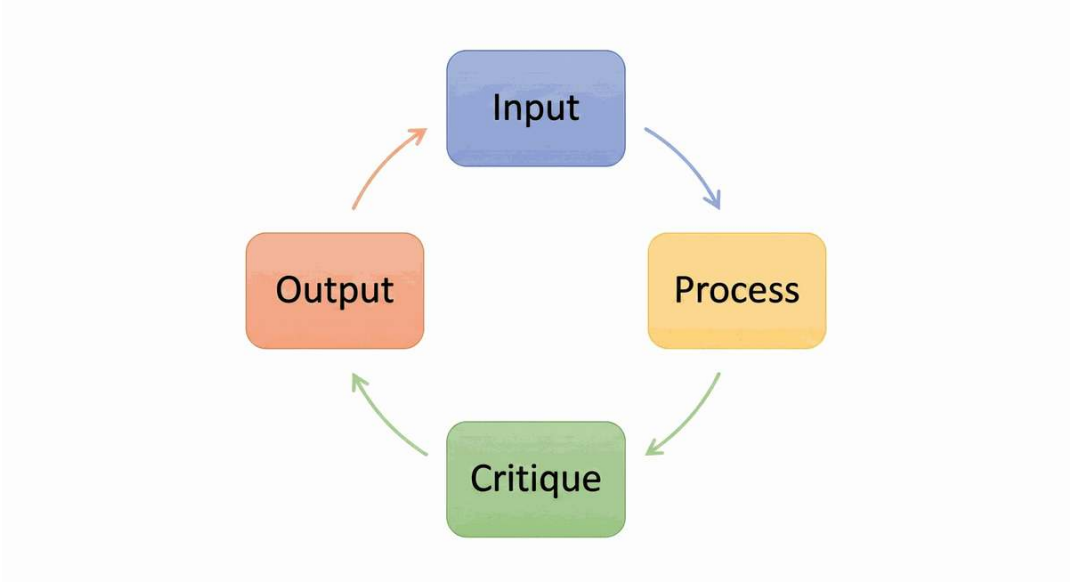
1. Think in patterns

Once the basics feel natural, it helps to think in prompt patterns. A pattern is a repeatable structure that helps you solve a class of problems well.

Instead of asking for a one-off answer, you design a small process the AI can follow.



2. Role + task + constraints

This is one of the most useful patterns because it separates the job, the context, and the boundaries.

Example prompt

```
# ROLE
[Who the AI is acting as]

# TASK
[What you want done]

# CONSTRAINTS
[Rules to follow]

# FORMAT
[What the output should look like]
```

Tip: Simple headers make long prompts easier for both you and the model to follow.

3. Iterative refinement

Some of the best prompts are conversations, not single messages. Ask for a draft, react to it, and tighten it step by step.

- 1. Ask for a first draft.
- 2. Point out what is missing or off.
- 3. Ask for a revised version.

Example interaction:

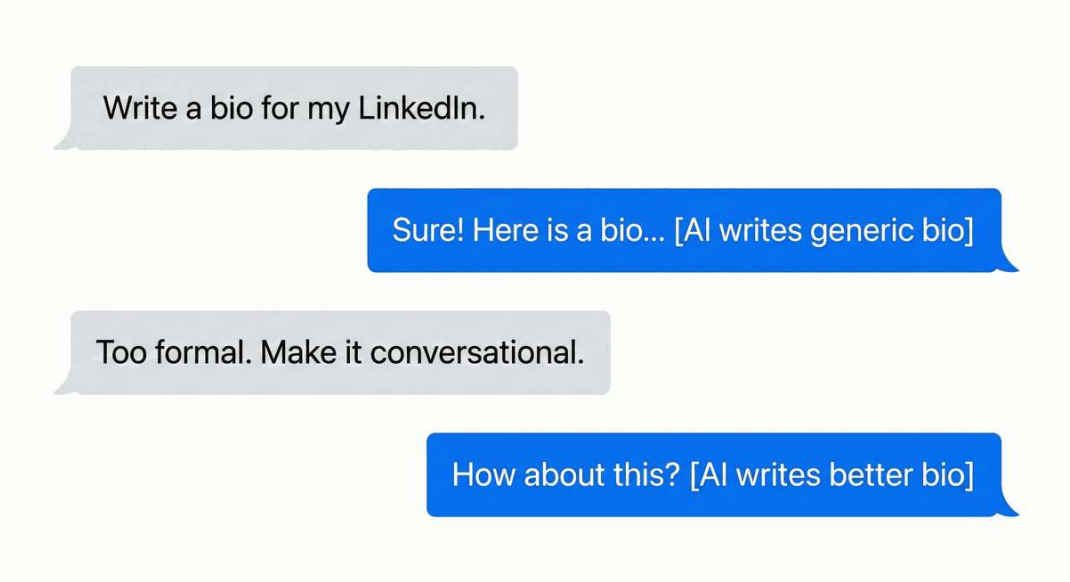
User: Write a bio for my LinkedIn.

AI: It returns a generic bio.

User: This is too formal. Make it warmer and mention my love of hiking.

AI: It returns a better version.

User: Great. Now shorten it to under 100 words.



4. Structured outputs

When you need something you can reuse elsewhere, ask for a structured format.

JSON / CSV

These are helpful when the answer needs to move into a spreadsheet or another tool.

Example prompt

```
Extract the names and email addresses from this text and format them as
a CSV list.
```

Summary pattern

Structure also helps with long summaries.

Example prompt

```
Summarize the text below. Include a 'Key Takeaways' section with 5
bullet points, followed by a 'Next Steps' section.
```

5. Multi-step reasoning

For logic and calculation, it often helps to ask the model to work through the steps rather than jumping straight to the answer.

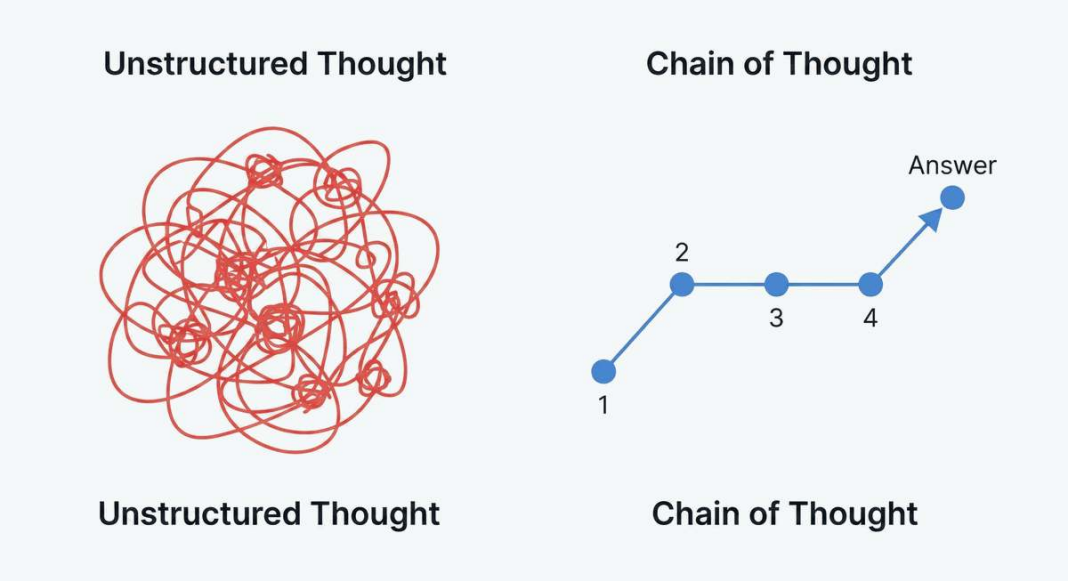
Useful phrase

Example prompt

```
Think step-by-step.
```

That small instruction can improve reliability on tasks that involve reasoning.

Example: I have 5 apples. I eat 2, buy 3 more, then drop 1. How many do I have? Think step-by-step.



6. Reusable advanced templates

These are worth saving because you can bring them back whenever you need them.

Socratic tutor

Example prompt

```
I want to learn about [Topic]. Don't just explain it. First ask a
question to test what I already know, then teach the missing pieces
based on my answer. Continue that loop.
```

Style mimic

Example prompt

```
Analyze the writing style of the text below. Describe the tone, sentence structure, and vocabulary. Then write a new paragraph about [New Topic] in that same style.
```

Devil's advocate

Example prompt

```
I am considering [Decision]. Act as a critical opponent. Give me 3 strong arguments against this decision and tell me what risks I may be missing.
```

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7. Practice exercise

Style transfer

- 1. Find a paragraph by a writer you like.
- 2. Paste it into the AI.
- 3. Use the Style Mimic pattern to write a text message to a friend in that style.

8. Expert checklist

- ■ Did I use a clear structure?
- ■ Did I iterate on the first draft?
- ■ Did I ask for reasoning where it matters?
- ■ Is the output structured for reuse?