

160 ChatGPT

Prompt Cues

For better answers, every time



John Savage

How to use the cues

These are shorthand cues, not built-in Chat GPT commands. Chat GPT follows them when you write the cue AND what it means. The meaning is the part that does the work.

1 Ask your question first

Say what you need: the topic, the task or the text you want help with.

2 Add 2 to 4 cues with their meaning

Mix pages: one cue for how to think, one for how to check, one for the format.

3 Change one cue at a time

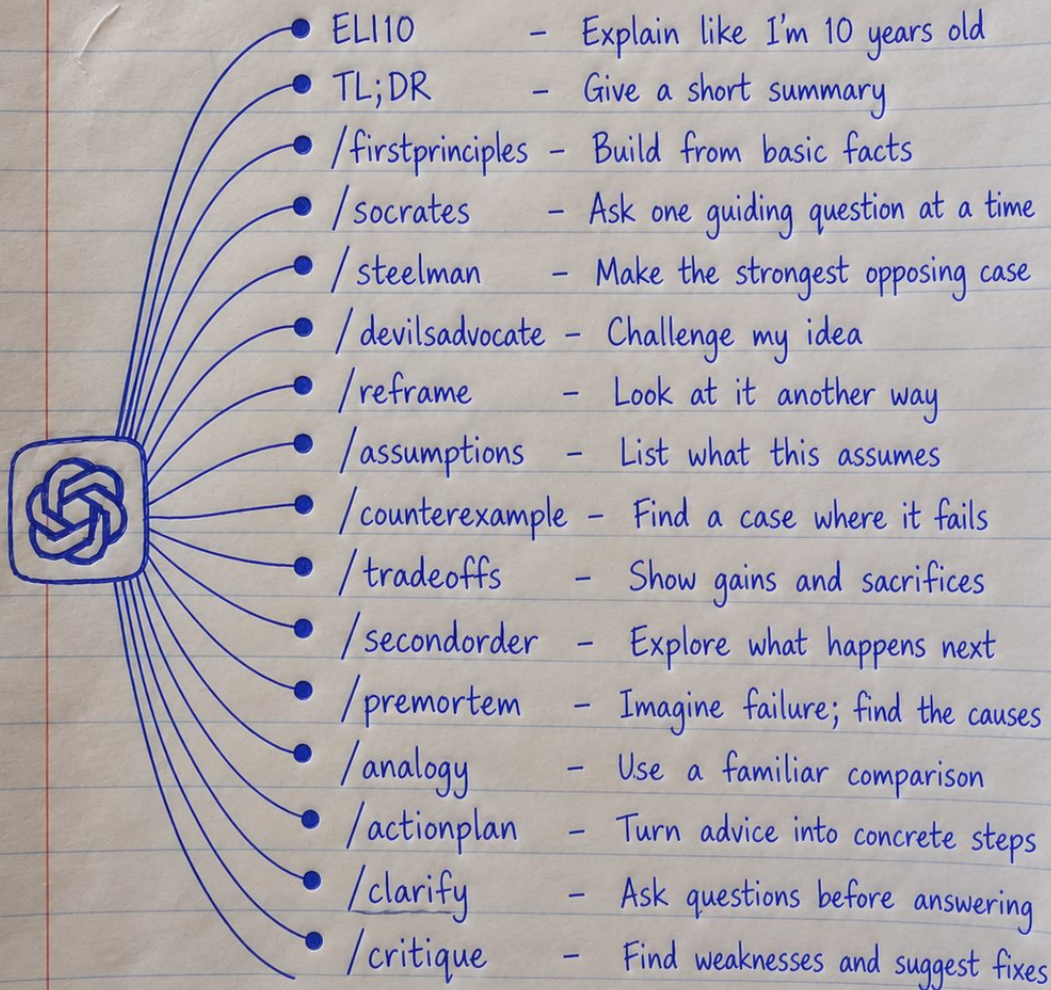
Not quite right? Keep the prompt and swap one cue (/brief to /deepdive) to see what it changes.

Example

Explain how inflation works. /beginner (assume no prior knowledge), /analogy (use a familiar comparison), /quizme (ask me one question and wait for my answer).

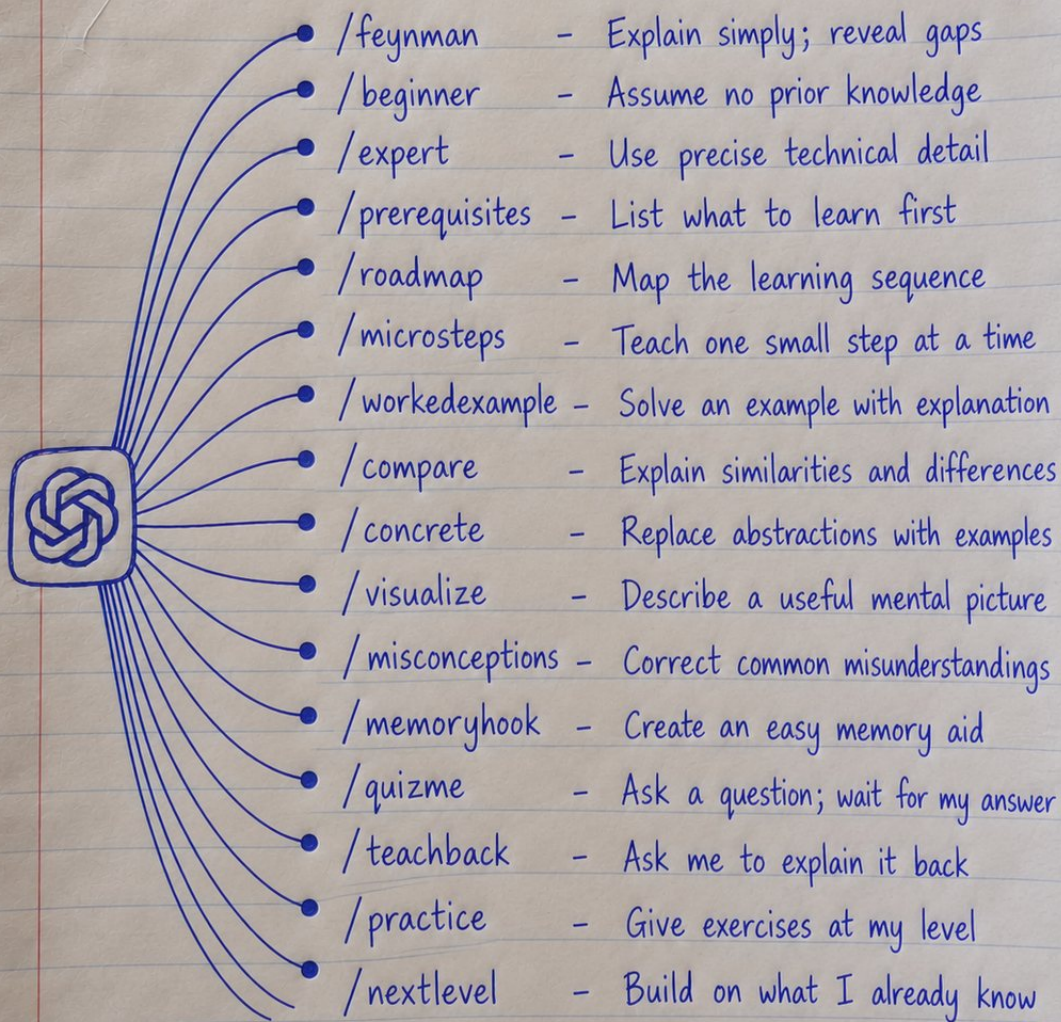
Prompts for Better Answers

Add a cue + its meaning to your prompt



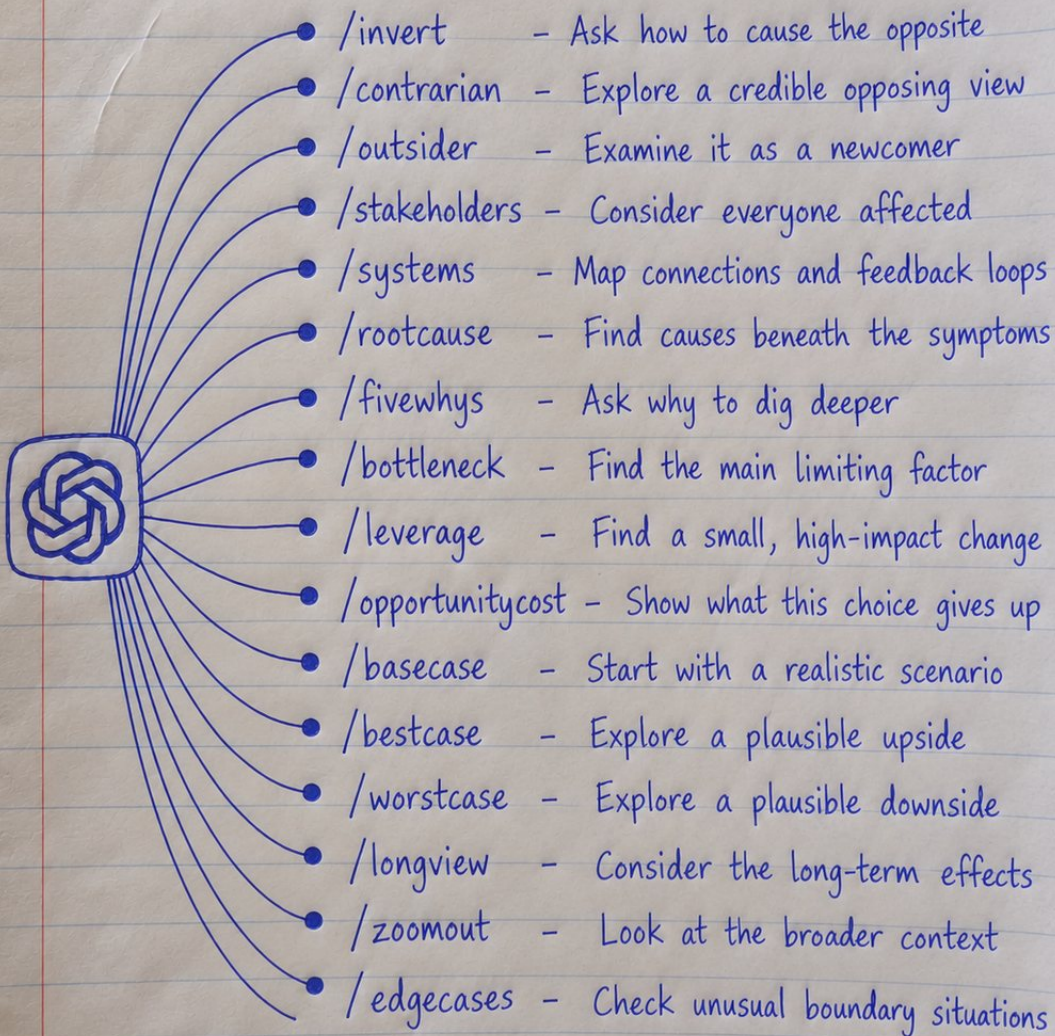
Learn & Understand

Add a cue + its meaning to your prompt



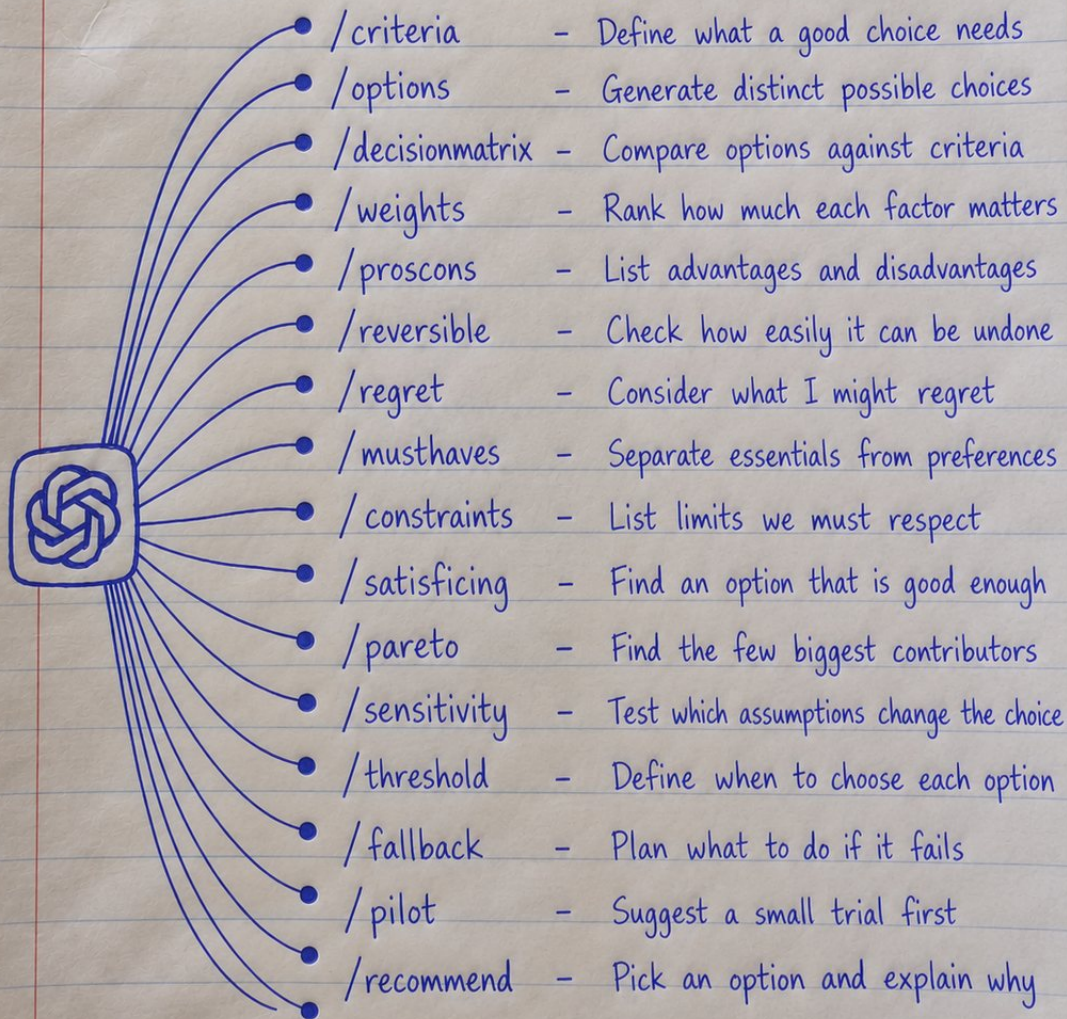
Think From New Angles

Add a cue + its meaning to your prompt



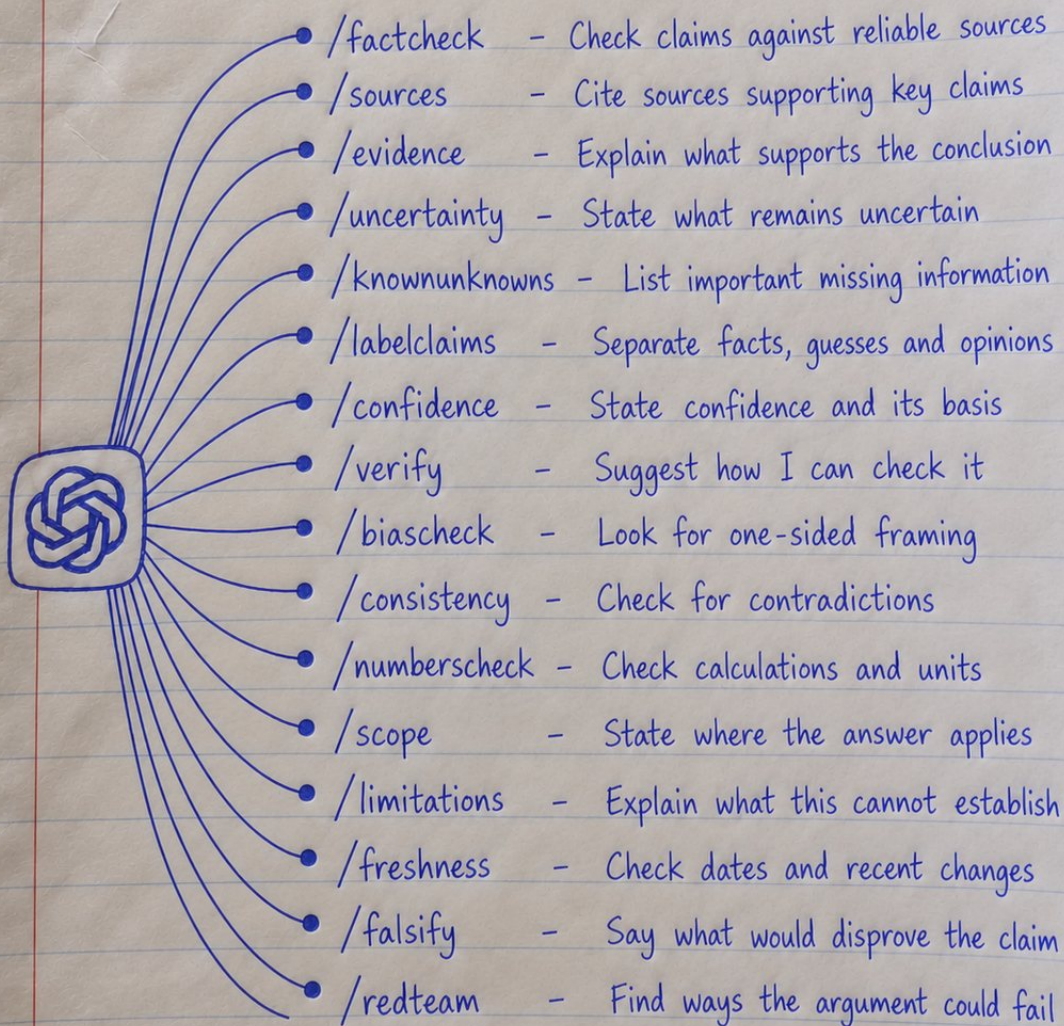
Make Better Decisions

Add a cue + its meaning to your prompt



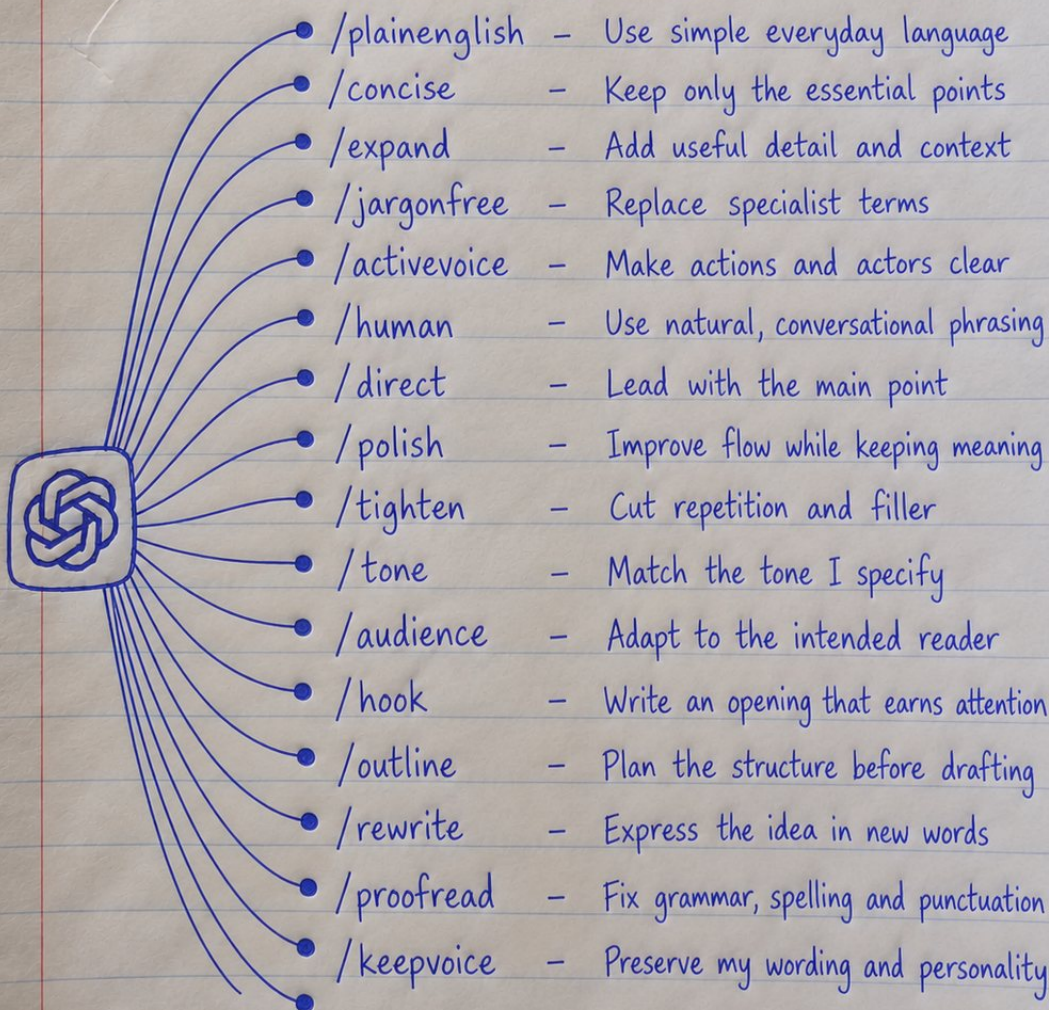
Check the Answer

Add a cue + its meaning to your prompt



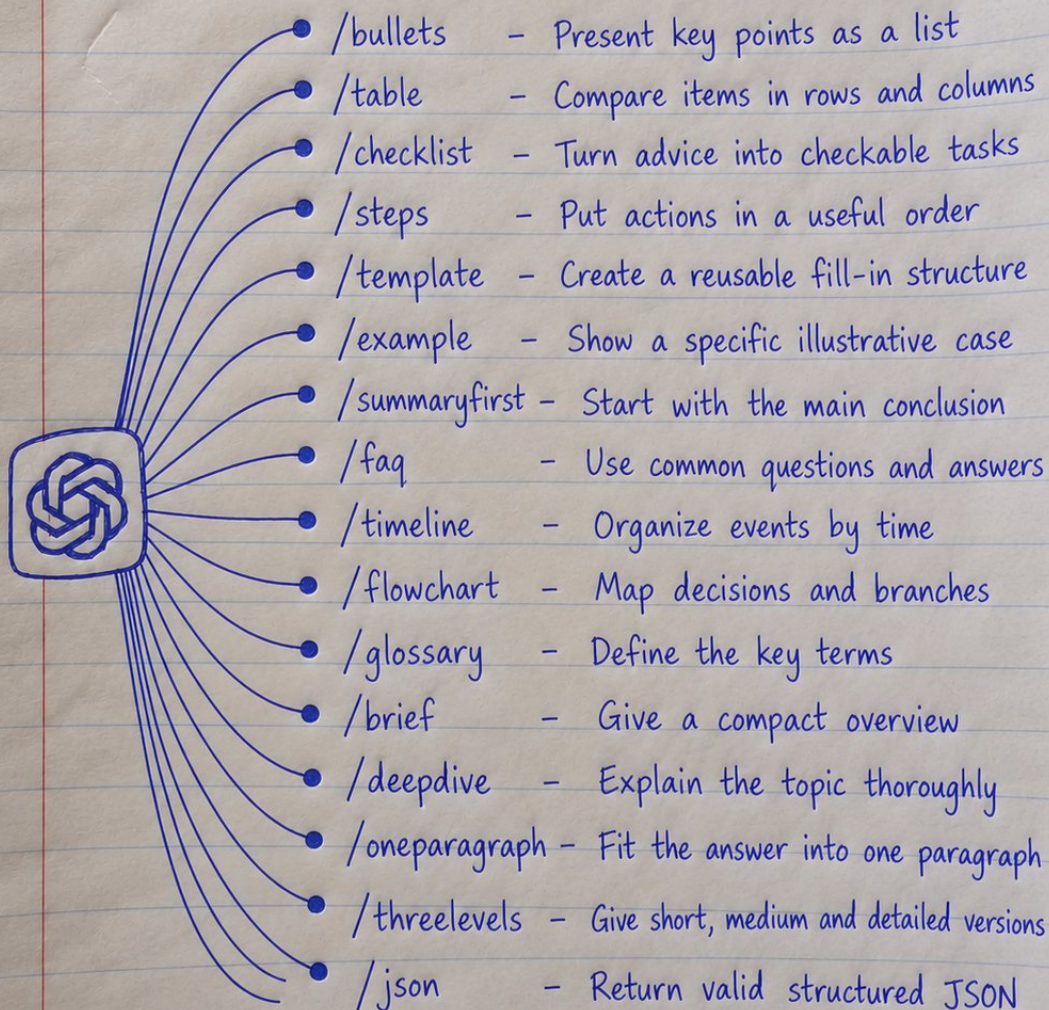
Write More Clearly

Add a cue + its meaning to your prompt



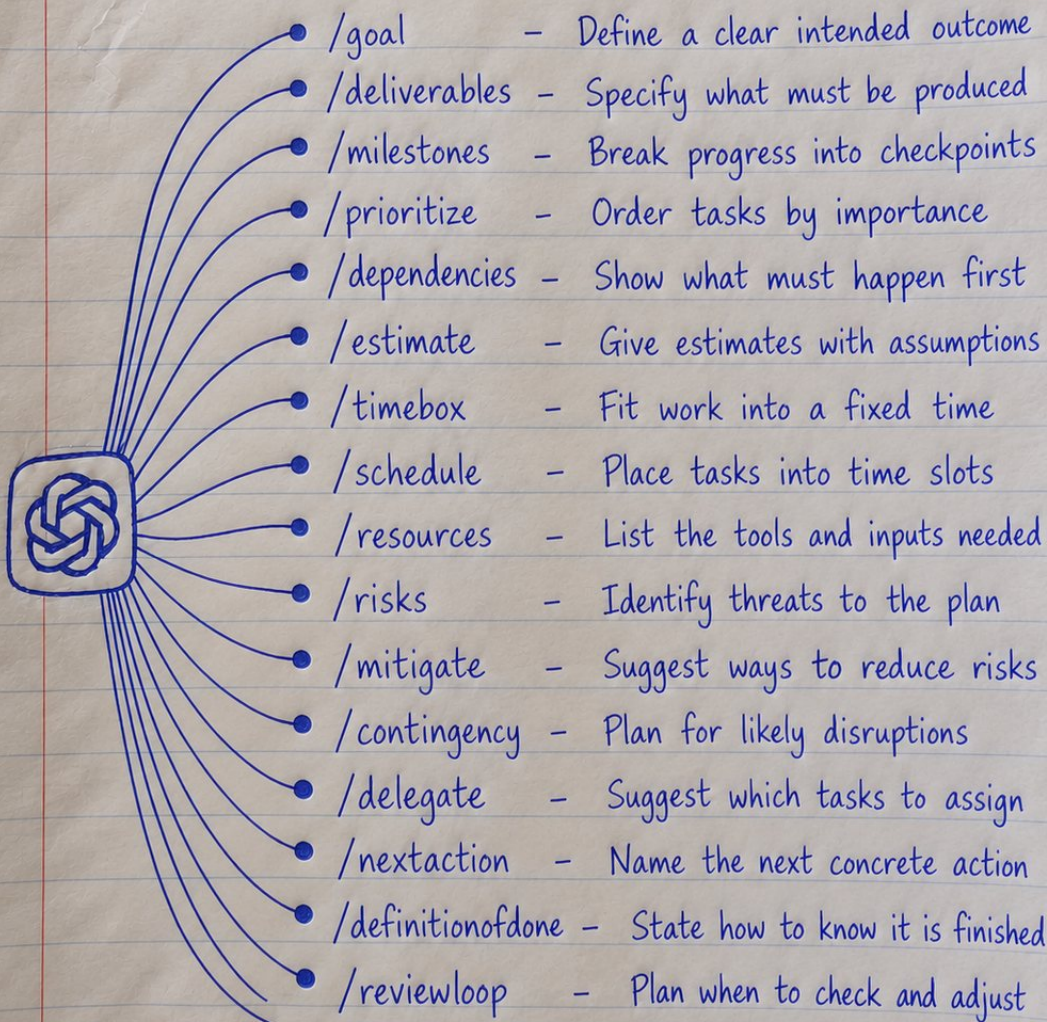
Structure the Answer

Add a cue + its meaning to your prompt



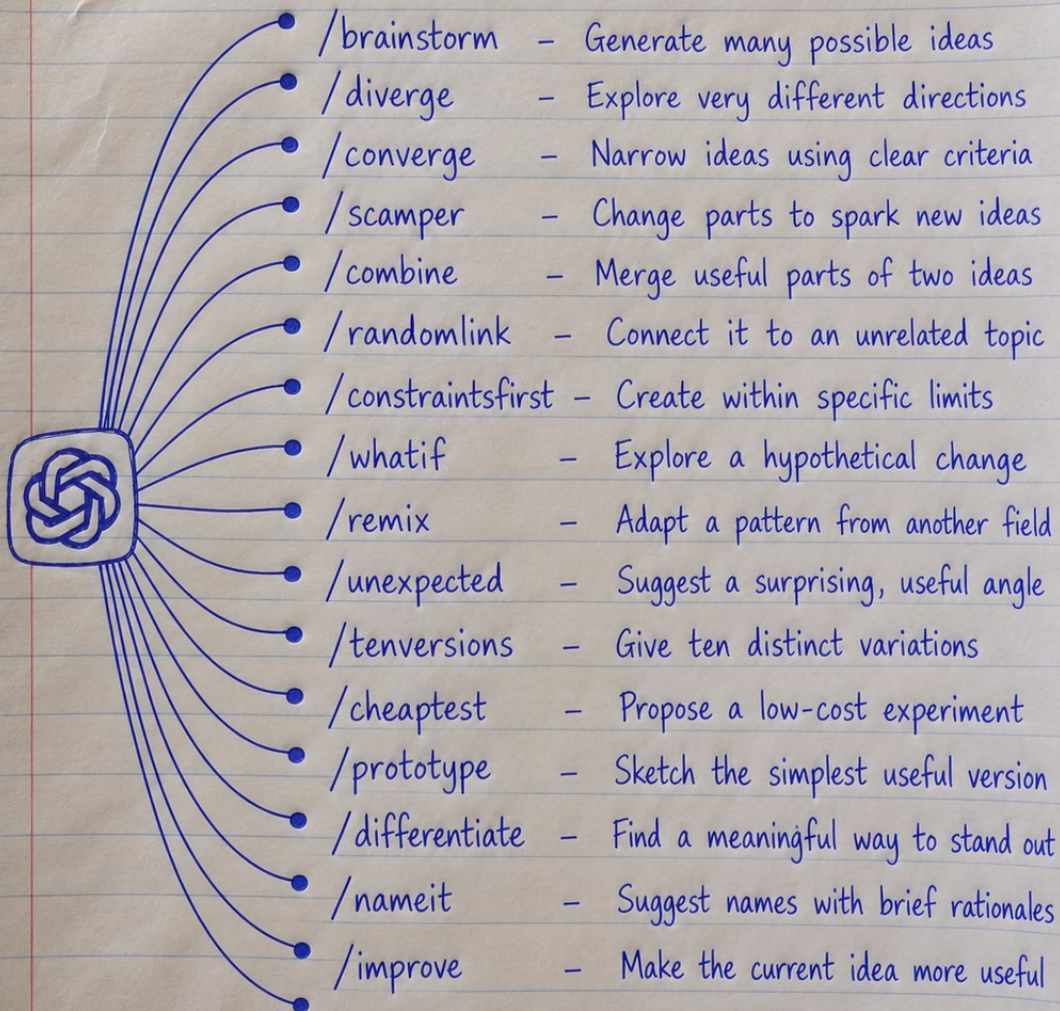
Plan & Get It Done

Add a cue + its meaning to your prompt



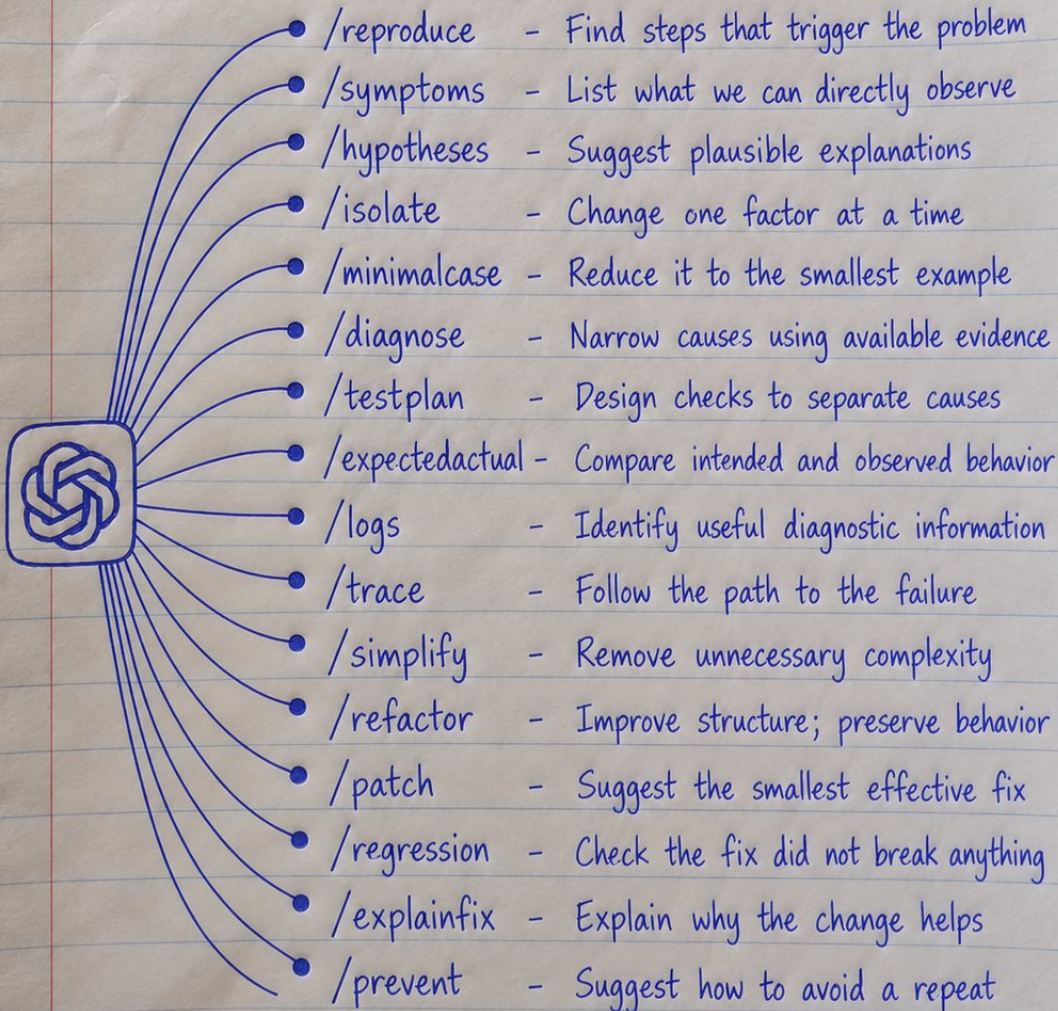
Find Better Ideas

Add a cue + its meaning to your prompt



Solve & Debug

Add a cue + its meaning to your prompt



Prompts for Better Answers

ELI10	Explain like I'm 10 years old
TL;DR	Give a short summary
/firstprinciples	Build from basic facts
/socrates	Ask one guiding question at a time
/steelman	Make the strongest opposing case
/devilsadvocate	Challenge my idea
/reframe	Look at it another way
/assumptions	List what this assumes
/counterexample	Find a case where it fails
/tradeoffs	Show gains and sacrifices
/secondorder	Explore what happens next
/premortem	Imagine failure; find the causes
/analogy	Use a familiar comparison
/actionplan	Turn advice into concrete steps
/clarify	Ask questions before answering
/critique	Find weaknesses and suggest fixes

Learn & Understand

/feynman	Explain simply; reveal gaps
/beginner	Assume no prior knowledge
/expert	Use precise technical detail
/prerequisites	List what to learn first
/roadmap	Map the learning sequence
/microsteps	Teach one small step at a time
/workedexample	Solve an example with explanation
/compare	Explain similarities and differences
/concrete	Replace abstractions with examples
/visualize	Describe a useful mental picture
/misconceptions	Correct common misunderstandings
/memoryhook	Create an easy memory aid
/quizme	Ask a question; wait for my answer
/teachback	Ask me to explain it back
/practice	Give exercises at my level
/nextlevel	Build on what I already know

Think From New Angles

/invert	Ask how to cause the opposite
/contrarian	Explore a credible opposing view
/outsider	Examine it as a newcomer
/stakeholders	Consider everyone affected
/systems	Map connections and feedback loops
/rootcause	Find causes beneath the symptoms
/fivewhys	Ask why to dig deeper
/bottleneck	Find the main limiting factor
/leverage	Find a small, high-impact change
/opportunitycost	Show what this choice gives up
/basecase	Start with a realistic scenario
/bestcase	Explore a plausible upside
/worstcase	Explore a plausible downside
/longview	Consider the long-term effects
/zoomout	Look at the broader context
/edgecases	Check unusual boundary situations

Make Better Decisions

/criteria	Define what a good choice needs
/options	Generate distinct possible choices
/decisionmatrix	Compare options against criteria
/weights	Rank how much each factor matters
/proscons	List advantages and disadvantages
/reversible	Check how easily it can be undone
/regret	Consider what I might regret
/musthaves	Separate essentials from preferences
/constraints	List limits we must respect
/satisficing	Find an option that is good enough
/pareto	Find the few biggest contributors
/sensitivity	Test which assumptions change the choice
/threshold	Define when to choose each option
/fallback	Plan what to do if it fails
/pilot	Suggest a small trial first
/recommend	Pick an option and explain why

Check the Answer

/factcheck	Check claims against reliable sources
/sources	Cite sources supporting key claims
/evidence	Explain what supports the conclusion
/uncertainty	State what remains uncertain
/knownunknowns	List important missing information
/labelclaims	Separate facts, guesses and opinions
/confidence	State confidence and its basis
/verify	Suggest how I can check it
/biascheck	Look for one-sided framing
/consistency	Check for contradictions
/numberscheck	Check calculations and units
/scope	State where the answer applies
/limitations	Explain what this cannot establish
/freshness	Check dates and recent changes
/falsify	Say what would disprove the claim
/redteam	Find ways the argument could fail

Write More Clearly

/plainenglish	Use simple everyday language
/concise	Keep only the essential points
/expand	Add useful detail and context
/jargonfree	Replace specialist terms
/activevoice	Make actions and actors clear
/human	Use natural, conversational phrasing
/direct	Lead with the main point
/polish	Improve flow while keeping meaning
/tighten	Cut repetition and filler
/tone	Match the tone I specify
/audience	Adapt to the intended reader
/hook	Write an opening that earns attention
/outline	Plan the structure before drafting
/rewrite	Express the idea in new words
/proofread	Fix grammar, spelling and punctuation
/keepvoice	Preserve my wording and personality

Structure the Answer

/bullets	Present key points as a list
/table	Compare items in rows and columns
/checklist	Turn advice into checkable tasks
/steps	Put actions in a useful order
/template	Create a reusable fill-in structure
/example	Show a specific illustrative case
/summaryfirst	Start with the main conclusion
/faq	Use common questions and answers
/timeline	Organize events by time
/flowchart	Map decisions and branches
/glossary	Define the key terms
/brief	Give a compact overview
/deepdive	Explain the topic thoroughly
/oneparagraph	Fit the answer into one paragraph
/threelevels	Give short, medium and detailed versions
/json	Return valid structured JSON

Plan & Get It Done

/goal	Define a clear intended outcome
/deliverables	Specify what must be produced
/milestones	Break progress into checkpoints
/prioritize	Order tasks by importance
/dependencies	Show what must happen first
/estimate	Give estimates with assumptions
/timebox	Fit work into a fixed time
/schedule	Place tasks into time slots
/resources	List the tools and inputs needed
/risks	Identify threats to the plan
/mitigate	Suggest ways to reduce risks
/contingency	Plan for likely disruptions
/delegate	Suggest which tasks to assign
/nextaction	Name the next concrete action
/definitionofdone	State how to know it is finished
/reviewloop	Plan when to check and adjust

Find Better Ideas

/brainstorm	Generate many possible ideas
/diverge	Explore very different directions
/converge	Narrow ideas using clear criteria
/scamper	Change parts to spark new ideas
/combine	Merge useful parts of two ideas
/randomlink	Connect it to an unrelated topic
/constraintsfirst	Create within specific limits
/whatif	Explore a hypothetical change
/remix	Adapt a pattern from another field
/unexpected	Suggest a surprising, useful angle
/tenversions	Give ten distinct variations
/cheapest	Propose a low-cost experiment
/prototype	Sketch the simplest useful version
/differentiate	Find a meaningful way to stand out
/nameit	Suggest names with brief rationales
/improve	Make the current idea more useful

Solve & Debug

/reproduce	Find steps that trigger the problem
/symptoms	List what we can directly observe
/hypotheses	Suggest plausible explanations
/isolate	Change one factor at a time
/minimalcase	Reduce it to the smallest example
/diagnose	Narrow causes using available evidence
/testplan	Design checks to separate causes
/expectedactual	Compare intended and observed behavior
/logs	Identify useful diagnostic information
/trace	Follow the path to the failure
/simplify	Remove unnecessary complexity
/refactor	Improve structure; preserve behavior
/patch	Suggest the smallest effective fix
/regression	Check the fix did not break anything
/explainfix	Explain why the change helps
/prevent	Suggest how to avoid a repeat

10 combo prompts

1. Learn anything fast

Teach me [topic]. /beginner (assume no prior knowledge), /microsteps (one small step at a time), /concrete (use real examples), /quizme (ask me one question and wait for my answer).

2. Make a big decision

Help me choose between [A] and [B]. /criteria (what a good choice needs), /decisionmatrix (compare the options against them), /reversible (how easily it can be undone), /recommend (pick one and explain why).

3. Check an answer

/factcheck your last answer (check claims against reliable sources), /labelclaims (separate facts, guesses and opinions), /confidence (state your confidence and its basis), /verify (how I can check it myself).

4. Pressure-test a plan

Here is my plan: [plan]. /steelman (the strongest case against it), /premortem (imagine it failed and find the causes), /secondorder (what happens next), /actionplan (turn the fixes into steps).

5. Write a better email

Rewrite this email: [text]. /direct (lead with the main point), /concise (keep only the essentials), /human (natural, conversational phrasing), /keepvoice (keep my wording and personality).

10 combo prompts (2)

6. Plan your week

/goal: [goal]. /prioritize (order the tasks by importance), /timebox (fit the work into fixed time), /schedule (place tasks into time slots), /nextaction (name the next concrete action).

7. Find a business idea

/brainstorm 20 business ideas for [your skill] (many possible ideas), /converge (narrow them with clear criteria), /cheapest (a low-cost first experiment), /nameit (names with brief reasons).

8. Fix a bug

This code fails with [error]. /reproduce (steps that trigger it), /hypotheses (plausible explanations), /isolate (change one factor at a time), /patch (the smallest effective fix), /regression (check it breaks nothing else).

9. Understand a hard topic

Explain [topic]. ELI10 (explain like I'm 10) first, then /expert (precise technical detail), /visualize (a useful mental picture), /misconceptions (correct common misunderstandings).

10. Summarize a long report

Summarize this: [paste]. TL;DR (short summary), /summaryfirst (start with the main conclusion), /table (compare the key items in rows and columns), /knownunknowns (list important missing information).

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