

Why prompts fail

Module 02 · Talking to Machines: Prompting · Chapter 01

What you will learn

- ☐ The single cause behind almost every bad AI answer
- ☐ What a model does with vague instructions
- ☐ The two-sentence fix that upgrades any prompt

Your exercise

TRY IT YOURSELF · ABOUT 10 MINUTES

Take three prompts you've actually typed recently (anything counts). For each: write down every guess the model had to make. Rewrite each with the intern test applied. Re-run old vs new side by side in Kimi or ChatGPT and compare. Save the before/after pair into prompts/, this comparison is Chapter 2's launchpad.

My notes

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Bad outputs are usually missing specifications, not missing intelligence.
- Vague prompts push the model to the statistical middle, competent, beige.
- The intern test converts vibes into instructions.
- Specify audience, purpose, format, length and constraints up front.

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