Tanimawo AI Academy

INTERMEDIATE

Prompt Engineering Techniques

Go beyond basic prompts: 8 techniques that get better results

Free guide

About 15 minutes to read

tanimawoai.com

Free AI training every Sunday
with Dr. Daniel Tanimawo

© 2026 Dr. Daniel Tanimawo · Tanimawo AI Academy · tanimawoai.com · Free to download and share with credit. Selling, rebranding or removing this notice is not allowed.

Recap: the basics still matter

Every technique in this guide builds on **Role, Context, Task, Format**. If an answer is weak, first check you gave the AI enough context and a clear task.

1. Few-shot prompting (show examples)

Give the AI two or three examples of what you want, then ask for more in the same style.

TRY THIS PROMPT

Here are two product descriptions I like:
1. "Soft cotton tee. Breathable, durable, made for Lagos heat."
2. "Classic leather sandals. Handmade in Kano, built to last."
Write 5 more in the same style for: ankara tote bag, beaded necklace, shea butter, plantain chips, phone case.

> Examples teach style, length and tone faster than any description.

2. Ask for reasoning, then the answer

For maths, planning and decisions, ask the AI to work through the problem before giving a final answer, and to show its working so you can check it.

TRY THIS PROMPT

I earn N220,000 a month. Rent is N60,000, transport N25,000, food N50,000. I want to save for a N300,000 laptop in 6 months. Work through it step by step, show the numbers, then tell me if my plan is realistic.

3. Constraints

Tell the AI the limits: length, reading level, words to avoid, budget, time.

- “Use words a 14-year-old understands.”
- “No more than 3 bullet points.”
- “Only suggest ideas that cost under N20,000.”

4. Ask the AI to ask you questions

When you are not sure what details matter, let the AI interview you.

TANIMAWO AI ACADEMY
tanimawoai.com · Dr. Daniel Tanimawo

© 2026 Dr. Daniel Tanimawo · Tanimawo AI Academy · tanimawoai.com · Free to download and share with credit. Selling, rebranding or removing this notice is not allowed.

TRY THIS PROMPT

I want to start a small catering business. Before giving advice, ask me the 7 most important questions about my situation, one at a time.

5. Personas and audiences

Ask for the same content for different readers.

TRY THIS PROMPT

Explain what an AI agent is in 3 versions: for a 10-year-old, for a busy market trader, and for a software developer.

6. Structured output

Ask for tables, numbered steps, or even JSON when you will copy the result into another tool.

TRY THIS PROMPT

List 10 affordable smartphones good for students. Return a table with columns: Phone, Approx price range, Battery, Best for. Mark prices as approximate.

7. Iterate: draft, critique, improve

Ask the AI to review its own work against your goal, then rewrite it.

TRY THIS PROMPT

Here is my cover letter: [paste]. First list its 3 biggest weaknesses for a bank teller job. Then rewrite it to fix them.

8. Break big tasks into steps

Instead of one giant prompt, work in stages: outline → approve → draft each section → polish. You stay in control and catch mistakes early.

TANIMAWO AI ACADEMY
tanimawoai.com · Dr. Daniel Tanimawo

© 2026 Dr. Daniel Tanimawo · Tanimawo AI Academy · tanimawoai.com · Free to download and share with credit. Selling, rebranding or removing this notice is not allowed.

Prompt troubleshooting

Problem	Try this
Too long	“In under 80 words.”
Too generic	Add context: who, where, budget, audience
Wrong tone	“Warmer”, “more formal”, “like a WhatsApp message”
Made-up facts	“Only use the information I gave you. Say ‘not sure’ if unsure.”
Keeps ignoring a rule	Put the rule at the start and again at the end

Build your prompt library

- [ ] Save prompts that work well in a notes app.
- [ ] Give each a name, like “Customer apology” or “Weekly meal plan”.
- [ ] Replace the details with [brackets] so you can reuse them.

Keep learning, free

Join the free live AI class every Sunday at 8 PM Nigeria time with Dr. Daniel Tanimawo. Register at **tanimawoai.com**, watch past classes on the Replays page, and download more free guides.

Share this guide with a friend who wants to learn AI.

TANIMAWO AI ACADEMY
tanimawoai.com · Dr. Daniel Tanimawo

© 2026 Dr. Daniel Tanimawo · Tanimawo AI Academy · tanimawoai.com · Free to download and share with credit. Selling, rebranding or removing this notice is not allowed.