Mind Reader: AI Edition Answer Key

Spot the AI's Mind Reading

Example of Interpretation: "Space exploration began as a Cold War competition..." - The AI interpreted the prompt *"Tell me about space exploration"* as a request for historical background rather than technology, achievements, or cultural impact.

Example of Filling Gaps: "Private companies like SpaceX are leading the next chapter..." - The AI added a modern example even though the user didn't ask for current events or private-sector involvement.

Example of Assumption: "...dreaming of Mars colonies that may appear within a decade." - The AI assumed the user was interested in future or speculative aspects, not just historical facts.

Teaching Note: Students should see that general prompts invite AI to choose direction and emphasis - the "mind reading" moments occur when vague wording forces interpretation.

Rewrite the Original Prompt

Revised Prompt (Model Example): "Write a short summary explaining how human space exploration has changed from the Cold War era to today, focusing on major organizations like NASA and SpaceX. Use an informative tone and keep it under 150 words."

Brief Explanation (Model Response): This prompt clarifies time period, focus (organizations), and tone. It removes ambiguity about scope (not all of space history), limits speculation, and defines format, so the AI no longer has to guess whether to include the future or make it dramatic.

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