

Oops, I Broke the Bot Answer Key

Round 1 - The Starting Point

What's working here:

Clear and direct prompt with an open creative space.

The story is coherent, focused, and has a consistent tone.

Round 2 - Refinement and Growth

How did this refinement improve the story's depth or focus?

It gives the robot motivation and emotion, turning the task into a story about memory and belonging.

What new creative direction or emotion did this version add?

Themes of loneliness, hope, and human connection.

Round 3 - The Broken Iteration

What went wrong: The prompt added too many conflicting requirements that cannot fit meaningfully into 20 words.

Why did this make it hard for the AI to respond effectively?

The constraints clash and overwhelm the original goal, creating confusion and breaking narrative flow.

Debugging the Prompt

Repaired Prompt: Rewrite the story in under 120 words, keeping the emotional focus and adding a brief flashback to the robot's creator.

How this version works:

It keeps one new creative element (flashback) but removes impossible restrictions, allowing emotional tone and pacing to stay consistent.

Reflection

1. Good prompts balance direction with flexibility.
2. Too many limits cause shallow or broken results.
3. Simplify goals and remove excess rules to "debug" unclear writing.