

Name _____

Too Many Cooks Spoil the Prompt

Sometimes a long prompt tries to cover everything at once. While detail is helpful, too many instructions can make a prompt confusing or even contradictory. A strong prompt should be clear: it should focus on what is **essential**, leave out what is **optional**, and avoid what might **confuse the AI**.

Directions - Read the prompt below. Each instruction is numbered. Decide whether it is **essential**, **optional**, or **confusing**. Then write a short explanation for your choices.

Messy Prompt: *"Write a story following these directions:"*

1. Make the story about a pirate who is brave but also very cowardly.
2. Keep the story short, around 200 words, but also make sure it is long enough to feel detailed, like 500 words.
3. Use exciting action scenes with sword fights and treasure hunts.
4. End the story with a surprising twist.
5. Write it like a poem in rhyming couplets, but also like a news article reporting real events.
6. Include at least two supporting characters who help the pirate on their journey.

