How Hot (or Not) Is Your Question? Answer Key

Prompt Set #1: Dogs

Focus: *A* is extremely broad - ChatGPT could discuss breeds, behavior, diet, history, or anything else. *B* narrows the topic to a single subject (sleep) and asks for a specific number of facts with a scientific lens.

Usefulness: *A* would generate a general overview, but it might not meet a specific learning goal. *B* provides structured, targeted, factual information - directly useful for a science project or research.

Clarity: *A* gives ChatGPT no direction, so the output might feel random or shallow. *B* clearly defines the task (list, five items, scientific facts, about sleep), ensuring precision and consistency.

Reasoning: The specific prompt acts like a GPS - it gives clear coordinates, while the vague one just says, "Drive somewhere." Precision shapes the topic, tone, and organization, producing a far more relevant response.

Prompt Set #2: Pizza

Focus: *A* is almost comically broad - ChatGPT might cover history, ingredients, or global popularity. *B* narrows the focus to a comparison within a country (the U.S.) and sets clear parameters (crust, toppings, cooking).

Usefulness: *A* might be fine for basic background information but not detailed enough for analysis. *B* would produce a focused comparison - exactly the kind of content useful for a cultural or food essay.

Clarity: *A* doesn't tell ChatGPT what angle to take. *B* provides structure, directing how to organize the answer (contrast among regions, three comparison points).

Reasoning: Specific wording ("regional styles," "crust thickness," "toppings," "cooking method") adds clarity and expectation, which sharpens the AI's focus. The second prompt practically builds the outline for the answer before the AI even starts.

Prompt Set #3: Earth

Focus: *A* invites an enormous range of information - geology, atmosphere, population, orbits, etc. *B* zooms into a single scientific process (seasons) and directs the AI to focus on cause and effect.

Usefulness: *A* provides an encyclopedia-style overview - interesting but not practical for learning about a specific concept. *B* produces a concise, informative summary tailored for science learning or classroom notes.

Clarity: *A* lacks purpose or structure. *B* clearly states what to summarize, how to approach it ("cause seasonal changes"), and even what kind of tone ("using clear examples").

Reasoning: The more precise prompt acts like a teacher giving a focused assignment. ChatGPT would know *exactly* which part of Earth's story to tell, making the response shorter, smarter, and more applicable.

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