

Case of the Half-Baked Prompt Answer Key

Added Detail: "...set in a post-apocalyptic world."

Revised Prompt: "Write a story about kindness set in a post-apocalyptic world."

How This Change Would Affect the AI's Response: The *setting* immediately reshapes the mood and tone. Instead of a cheerful or everyday story, the response would likely become dramatic and emotional, showing kindness in contrast to hardship or chaos. The AI would focus on survival, scarcity, and hope - creating deeper tension and moral contrast. The vocabulary would shift toward darker, more sensory language ("dust," "ruins," "flickering lights") while highlighting the rarity and power of compassion.

Why It Works: A single detail transforms a generic "nice" story into one with emotional stakes and atmosphere. The AI must now *contextualize kindness* - not just describe it.

Prompt #2:

Added Detail: "...as a motivational speech for a basketball team right before a big game."

Revised Prompt: "Explain the importance of teamwork as a motivational speech for a basketball team right before a big game."

How This Change Would Affect the AI's Response: The *format* and *audience* push the AI toward a high-energy, inspirational tone. Instead of listing reasons teamwork matters, the AI would use repetition, rhetorical devices, and emotional appeals ("We win together, we lose together!"). Vocabulary becomes dynamic ("unity," "drive," "trust," "momentum") rather than academic.

Why It Works: This single adjustment transforms a dull explanatory essay into a powerful, emotional pep talk - same core idea, entirely different delivery.

Prompt #3:

Added Detail: "...in the style of a scientific report."

Revised Prompt: "Describe a sunset in the style of a scientific report."

How This Change Would Affect the AI's Response: The *tone* and *format* shift from artistic and emotional to factual and analytical. Instead of focusing on color, beauty, or feeling, the AI would discuss light wavelengths, atmospheric particles, and refraction. The writing would sound objective ("At approximately 6:48 p.m., light scattering intensified, producing a reddish hue...").

Why It Works: The added instruction replaces poetic imagery with technical precision - showing how purpose and audience completely rewire the response style.