

From Vague Vibes to Laser Beams Answer Key

Prompt Pair #1: The Study Dilemma - Predicted Differences:

Length: The broad prompt would likely generate a long, general response - a mix of random advice covering behavior, motivation, and time management. The specific prompt would yield a shorter, more structured output (likely a numbered list of 5 habits).

Depth: The broad version would stay surface-level with clichés ("pay attention in class," "get enough sleep"). The specific one would dig deeper, using research-based techniques (spaced repetition, active recall, Pomodoro method).

Focus: The broad one would cover *everything* about being a "better student." The specific one narrows focus to *study habits, science-based evidence, and a high school audience*.

Tone: The broad version would sound motivational and generic, maybe like advice from a blog post. The specific version would sound informative and academic - possibly citing psychology or neuroscience concepts.

Usefulness: The specific prompt produces more *actionable* results - habits the student can actually try. The broad one might inspire, but it wouldn't teach concrete strategies.

Reasoning: Specificity tells ChatGPT exactly what to deliver (type of advice, evidence base, number of examples, and audience). The clearer the request, the more organized and relevant the output becomes.

Prompt Pair #2: The Pancake Paradox - Predicted Differences:

Length: The broad prompt could produce a lengthy, essay-style explanation about pancake history, varieties, or ingredients. The specific prompt would be shorter and more direct - a numbered recipe format with concise instructions.

Depth: The broad version gives general information without much detail on *how* to make pancakes. The specific version provides practical, step-by-step depth focused on process, ingredients, and cooking order.

Focus: The broad one might wander into trivia (origins, cultural versions). The specific one is entirely focused on *making blueberry pancakes, for beginners, with simple ingredients*.

Tone: The broad prompt would sound informational or encyclopedic. The specific one would be friendly and instructional, possibly conversational to match a recipe tone.

Usefulness: The broad answer might be interesting but not actionable. The specific answer would be directly useful - something a person could follow in the kitchen.

Reasoning: Adding constraints ("step-by-step," "simple ingredients," "for beginners") narrows the AI's lens, forcing it to produce content that's usable, concrete, and audience-appropriate.