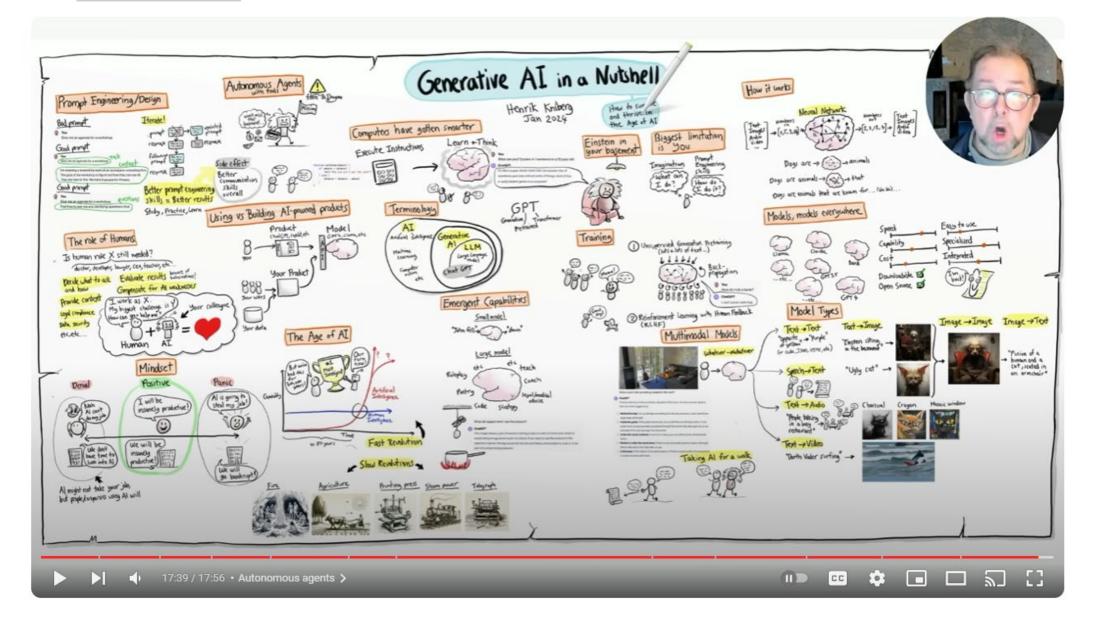# AI Chat Prompting for the Home User

*This presentation outlines the **essentials of AI chat prompting** for home users, providing a foundation for anyone looking to enhance their interaction with AI chatbots for personal use.*
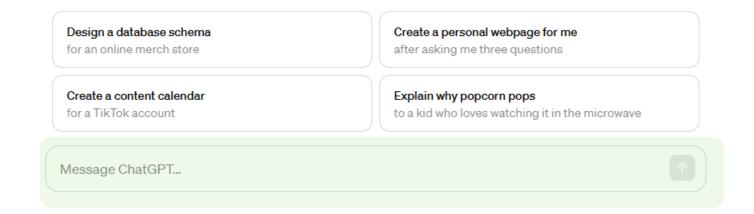
FC Computer & Tech Club
March 18, 2024

Link to YouTube "Generative A" video:
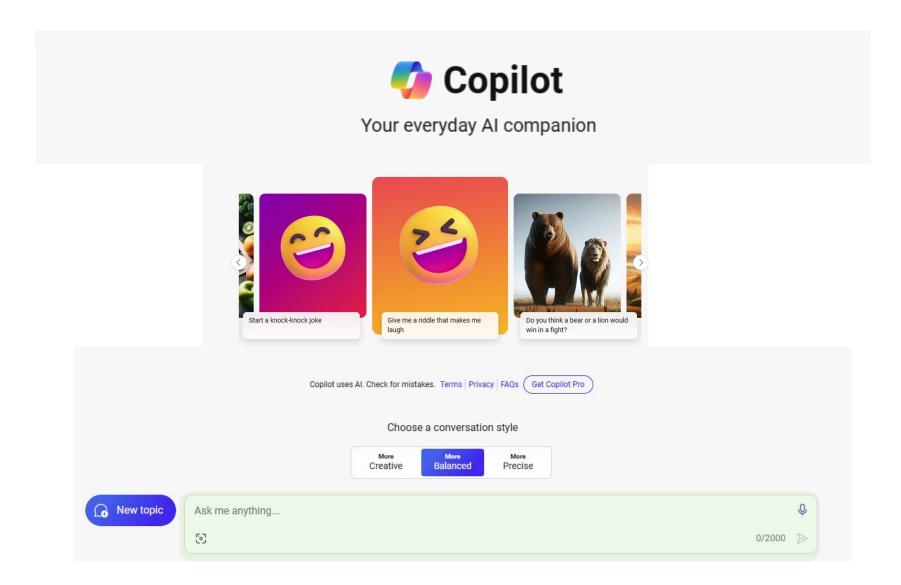**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IK3DFHRFfw**

OpenAI: ChatGPT

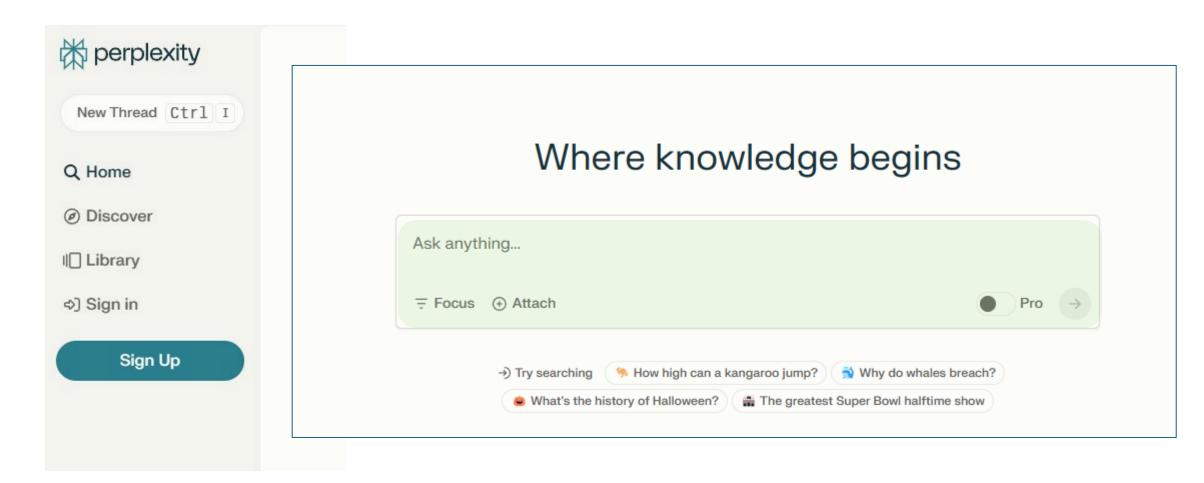# Microsoft: Copilot

Google:Gemini

ANTHROPIC: Claude

Perplexity AI: Perplexity

Introduction

- What is AI Chat Prompting?

- A method of interacting with AI systems to generate specific responses or actions.

- Involves crafting questions or commands in a way that guides the AI to understand and fulfill the user's intent.

Importance of Effective Prompting

- Maximizes AI Utility
  - Ensures AI tools like ChatGPT, Google's Gemini, Microsoft's Copilot AI chatbot are used to their full potential.

- Enhances User Experience
  - Leads to more accurate, relevant, and useful responses from AI.

- Facilitates Creative and Productive Use
  - Encourages exploration of AI's capabilities in personal projects, learning, and daily tasks.

Prompting Tips

- 1. Be Specific
  - Example: Instead of "Tell me about dogs," use "Provide a summary of the history and types of domestic dogs."

- 2. Use Clear and Concise Language
  - Example: "Translate 'Hello, how are you?' into French."

- 3. Specify the Output Format
  - Example: "List the top four longest rivers in the world in bullet points."

Prompting Tips *(Continued)*

- 4. Include Context When Necessary
  - Example: "As a high school teacher, how can I explain quantum physics simply?"

- 5. Iterate and Refine
  - Example: If the first response isn't satisfactory, refine the prompt with more details or clarity.

Examples of Effective Prompting

- For Learning
  - Prompt: "Explain the concept of machine learning to a 10-year-old."
- For Daily Tasks
  - Prompt: "Create a weekly meal plan for a family of four, considering a vegetarian diet."
- For Entertainment
  - Prompt: "Write a short story about a time-traveling cat."

Challenges and Solutions

- Understanding AI Limitations
  - AI models have knowledge cutoffs and may not have the latest information.
- Avoiding Misinterpretation
  - Be as clear as possible to avoid ambiguous responses.
- Dealing with AI Hallucinations
  - Fact-check critical information provided by AI.

Common mistakes to avoid when writing AI prompts

When writing AI prompts, avoiding common mistakes can significantly improve the quality and relevance of the responses you receive from AI models like ChatGPT. Here are some key mistakes to avoid, informed by insights from various sources:

Common mistakes to avoid when writing AI prompts *(continued)*

1. **Being Vague or Ambiguous:** AI models perform best with clear and specific prompts. Vague or ambiguous prompts can lead to irrelevant or broad responses

2. **Overloading with Details:** While specificity is crucial, providing too much unnecessary detail can confuse the AI or lead it to focus on the wrong aspects of the prompt

3. **Ignoring Context:** Failing to provide sufficient context can result in responses that don't align with your actual needs or intentions. Context helps the AI understand the framework within which to generate its response

Common mistakes to avoid when writing AI prompts *(continued)*

4. **Overlooking the AI's Capabilities and Limitations:** Expecting the AI to understand highly specialized knowledge without guidance or to perform tasks beyond its training can lead to frustration. It's important to align your prompts with the AI's known capabilities

5. **Failing to Specify the Desired Output Format:** If you have a specific format in mind for the AI's response (e.g., a list, a detailed explanation, a summary), it's important to state this explicitly in your prompt

Common mistakes to avoid when writing AI prompts *(continued)*

6. **Neglecting to Iterate and Refine:** The first response from an AI might not always meet your expectations. Iteration, where you refine and adjust your prompts based on previous responses, is key to achieving better outcomes

7. **Using Confusing or Ambiguous Language:** Clear and straightforward language helps the AI understand your prompt better. Avoid using jargon, idioms, or ambiguous phrases that could be misinterpreted

Common mistakes to avoid when writing AI prompts *(continued)*

8. **Not Leveraging Examples:** Including examples in your prompt can guide the AI more effectively, especially when you're seeking responses in a specific format or style

9. **Assuming the AI Has Up-to-Date Knowledge:** AI models are trained on data available up to a certain point in time. Assuming the AI has knowledge of very recent events or trends can lead to inaccuracies

By avoiding these common mistakes, you can craft more effective AI prompts that lead to more accurate, relevant, and useful responses.

Conclusion

- Effective AI chat prompting transforms AI chatbots from simple tools to powerful assistants in learning, creativity, and daily life management.

- Practice and experimentation are key to mastering the art of prompting, unlocking the full potential of AI for home users.