

Better prompts. More useful AI.

[Stop asking AI to guess what you mean | 2026-09-05 | Edited replay 58:17](#)

In our first class, I showed why a short, vague request usually gives you a vague answer. Bring your own facts, let the AI ask what it needs to know, and check what comes back before you use it.

What you will learn

- Use CRIT: Context, Role, Interview, Task. We also discussed asking for sources when facts matter.
- Work through one real task instead of collecting clever prompts.
- Spot the parts of an answer that sound right but need checking.

Follow the exercise, step by step

1. Choose one real task

Pick something you actually need to do: a job application, a business idea or a work problem. Say what you need at the end and who will use it. If a CV belongs to somebody else, get permission before sharing it.

2. Bring the ingredients

This is the oven, not the microwave. Give it your goal, the facts, the constraints and an example if you have one. If you do not know something, say so. Do not let the AI quietly make it up.

3. Use CRIT

Give the context. Tell it what sort of help you want. Ask it to interview you, one question at a time. Then give the task and the format you need. Calling it an adviser does not make it a qualified professional.

4. Answer and refine

Answer with your real experience. Read the draft. Tell it what is wrong, what sounds unlike you and what it has missed. A first answer is a starting point, not the finished work.

5. Check before acting

Look at every claim you might repeat to somebody else. In an application, check it against your CV and the job description. In a business plan, check costs and rules yourself. Ask for sources, open them and make sure they actually support the claim.

Conv and adapt this starter prompt

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I need help with [your real task]. I want [the result] for [who it is for]. Here are the facts: [your facts]. My limits are [time, budget, location or tone]. I do not yet know [gaps]. Work with me as a careful [career or business planning] partner. Ask me three questions, one at a time, before you write anything. Then give me [the output] in [the format]. Do not invent experience, results or sources. Show me what I still need to check.
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Your practice task

Try CRIT on one task of your own. Save your prompt, answer the questions, and keep the draft. Write down three things you corrected or checked before you would use it.

Before you share

- My prompt includes a real goal and relevant facts.
- I answered the clarifying questions.
- I can point to three human checks or corrections.
- I have not shared confidential or unconsented personal data.

Replay and next step

Watch the class: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3CG08ZfEmc>

Tool screens may have changed since the recording. Follow the brief, build and checking process rather than copying each click.