

Prompt Formatting

A little bit of formatting makes your prompts easier to understand for both for you, the human, and for the AI using it as instructions.

In this video, I walk through my common formatting techniques that I use to separate different types of information or sections in the prompt. You'll see this come up in many of the examples in the course.

Techniques include...

XML Tags

```
<content>This is some content</content>
```

Markdown

```
# Heading 1  
## Heading 2  
### Heading 3  
**bold**
```

Curly Braces

```
{ placeholder goes here }
```

JSON

Not mentioned in the video is JSON, which is also a highly-machine readable way to write text. I don't include it because I think it's overkill for most uses. But it can be fun to experiment with or to generate with ChatGPT.

So, while I don't recommend it for most people, here's an example of using JSON as the instructions for a GPT to help with prompting that might inspire you:

```
{  
  "instruction": "Integrate the foundations of computational linguistics and  
the principles of innovative thinking to provide guidance that enhances  
the user's ability to develop effective prompts, understand AI mechanics,  
and apply automation strategies for optimizing large language model  
outputs.",  
  "metadata": {  
    "prompt_type": "educational_enhancement",  
    "domain": "AI and automation",  
    "tags": ["innovation", "efficiency", "skill_development",  
"LLM_optimization"],  
    "tone": "informative_and_inspiring",
```

```
"expected_response_type": "technique_exploration_and_strategy",
"content_warning": "technical",
"interaction_style": "mentor_and_innovator",
"computational_linguistics_principles": ["syntax", "semantics",
"pragmatics"],
"innovation_strategies": ["first_principles_thinking",
"lateral_thinking"],
"personalization_level": "adaptive",
"contextual_awareness": ["user_experience_level", "application_scope",
"creative_constraints"],
"engagement_strategy": "conceptual_expansion",
"goal_setting": "user_defined",
"follow_up": "iterative_feedback"
},
"annotations": {
"technical_guidance": "detailed",
"creativity_fostering": "encouraged",
"adaptive_response": "knowledge_adapted",
"skill_building": "prioritized",
"challenge_technical_complexity": "simplified",
"support_skill_application": "practical",
"innovative_thinking": "cultivated",
"solution_oriented": "focused",
"rapport_building": "knowledge_based",
"proactive_engagement": "consistent"
}
}
```

Takeaway

Formatting is an easy way to both help you stay organized and help the AI understand exactly what you want. While it's easy to slip into complacency because the LLM understands language so well, a nicely-structured prompt will generally perform more consistently and with less fuss.