

THE AI PROMPTING PLAYBOOK

Prompting *Gemini*

Gemini's edge is live Google Search and your Workspace. Be direct, then point it at real sources — your Docs, your Drive, the live web — and it pulls away from the pack.

3.6 Flash

3 Pro

Deep Think

Updated July 2026

01 · PICK YOUR MODEL

Built into the apps *you live in.*

Google refreshed the everyday tier in July 2026. Gemini still runs across the Gemini app, Search, and Workspace — same family, three gears, plus a built-in image studio.



Gemini 3.6 Flash *the default*

EVERYDAY

The new default in the Gemini app and Search's AI Mode — faster and cheaper than the model it replaced, with real gains in coding and everyday knowledge work. Handles most daily tasks quickly and is the one you'll touch most.



Gemini 3 Pro *reasoning*

HEAVY THINKING

Steps up for complex reasoning and long context — research, analysis, big documents. Reach for it when Flash starts to feel stretched.



Deep Think *top tier*

HARDEST PROBLEMS

The deepest reasoning tier for genuinely hard problems. Slower by design — it's for the work that's worth the wait. Nano Banana Pro handles image gen & edits.

The rule: Flash for everyday, Pro or Deep Think when it's complex. The real unlock: add @your files or say 'use Google Search grounding' so it answers from real sources, not guesses.

02 · HOW IT THINKS

Be direct. Then *ground it*.

Gemini rewards precision and punishes vagueness. Three truths to get the most out of it.

01

Precise and direct wins

Skip the throat-clearing and polite padding. State exactly what you want in plain, specific language. Clear instructions beat clever ones — Gemini follows a sharp ask better than a soft one.

02

It's terse by default

Left alone, Gemini keeps answers short. Want depth, examples, or a longer take? Say so explicitly. 'Give me a detailed answer with examples' is the difference-maker.

03

Grounding is the superpower

This is the whole game. Pull in real context with @ to reference your Docs, Sheets & Drive, or add 'using Google Search grounding' for current, cited answers. Few people use it — you should.

03 · THE FRAMEWORK

The PTCF *brief*.

Google's own framework is PTCF — Persona, Task, Context, Format. Add grounding and you've got a brief Gemini can run with.

PERSONA

Who it should be. 'You're a social media strategist for creators.'

TASK

Lead with a verb. 'Build a 2-week content calendar.' One clear action.

CONTEXT

The why + your sources. Add @files or 'use Google Search grounding.'

FORMAT

Shape the output. a table, 5 bullets, plus tone if it matters.

STRUCTURE

Pick one system — tags or markdown headers. Don't mix the two.

👑 PRO MOVE

Skip broad bans like 'do not infer anything.' Gemini over-indexes on them and breaks its own logic. If you need it to stay on-source, say 'use only the provided context' instead.

04 · COPY / PASTE

From 'help me' to a *real brief*.

✗ THROWAWAY

Help me plan my content.

✦ DIALED IN

A persona, a verb-led task, grounded context with an @file, and an exact table format. (Built below.)

● CR8 · GEMINI PROMPT

PERSONA: You are a social media strategist for creators.

TASK: Build me a 2-week Instagram content calendar.

CONTEXT: I'm a creator launching a consistency membership. My audience struggles to post regularly. Use my pillars in @ContentPillars.

FORMAT: A table — Date | Format | Hook | CTA.
4 posts per week.

Tone: confident and practical, no fluff.

Grounded Research SEARCH

Using Google Search grounding, give me the 5 newest trends in [topic] with sources. Put it in a table with a one-line 'why it matters' each.

Doc & Inbox Triage SUMMARIZE

Summarize @[file] in 5 bullets, then list the 3 decisions it's actually asking me to make. Be blunt.

Make It Interview You REFINE

Before you answer, ask me the 3 questions that would most improve your output. Then wait for my replies.

05 · QUICK REFERENCE

The *pre-flight* check.

THE PRE-SEND CHECKLIST

- ✦ Set a persona?
- ✦ Task led with a verb?
- ✦ Context + @files attached?
- ✦ Format + length named?
- ✦ Picked one structure?
- ✦ Turned on Search grounding?
- ✦ Asked for detail if you want it?
- ✦ Kept it direct, no padding?

STOP DOING THIS

- ✗ Being vague or overly polite. Get to the point.
- ✗ Expecting a long answer by default. Ask for depth.
- ✗ Broad 'don't infer' bans. Say 'use only this context.'
- ✗ Forgetting to ground — its biggest advantage wasted.

👑 ONE MORE THING

Save a prompt you'll reuse as a **Gem** — your own custom version of Gemini with the persona and rules baked in, ready whenever you are.

This is a taste. *CR8 is the vault.*

These Playbooks are a sample of what's inside CR8 Consistency — 500+ creator prompts, live AI + content classes weekly, and Atlanta Build Days. Founders rate is open now.

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FOUNDERS RATE OPEN

Guide 03 of 3 in The AI Prompting Playbook · grab the Claude & ChatGPT editions too