

Exercise Set: The "Think Step-by-Step" Technique

Welcome to the third workbook in the "Prompt Master's Workshop" series! You've just learned one of the most important techniques that allows you to look "behind the scenes" of AI's thinking – the **Chain of Thought**. Now it's time for you to take on the role of a director and guide the AI step-by-step to its goal.

The following exercises will help you solidify when and how to ask the AI to write out its reasoning process. As always, you'll find an answer key with my suggested solutions at the end. Good luck!

Exercise 1: A Simple Task, Two Approaches

Imagine you need to decide which of two phones to buy. You have the following data:

- **Phone A:** Costs 799 USD, has a great camera, but the battery only lasts for one day.
- **Phone B:** Costs 1179 USD, has an average camera, but the battery lasts for two days.
- **Your priorities:** Long battery life is the most important factor for you. The budget is flexible, but you'd prefer not to overpay. The camera is less important.

Your task:

Write two separate prompts:

1. **A standard (Zero-shot) prompt:** Ask the AI for help in choosing a phone.
2. **A prompt using the "Chain of Thought" technique:** Ask the AI for help, but with a clear instruction to analyze the problem step-by-step, taking your priorities into account.

Exercise 2: Creating a Complex Strategy

You are the owner of a small, local pizzeria and you want to increase the number of online orders within the next 3 months.

Goal: To create a simple marketing plan.

Your task:

Write one, complete prompt that uses the "Chain of Thought" technique to guide the AI through the process of creating a strategy. Your prompt should ask the AI to:

1. First, identify potential target audiences.
2. Next, propose 3 specific marketing actions.
3. Finally, for each action, briefly describe how its effectiveness can be measured.

Exercise 3: Improving a Weak Response

Let's say you asked the AI the following question:

What are the pros and cons of remote work?

Exercise Set

The "Think Step-by-Step" Technique

Prompt Master Workshop

And you received this answer:

The pros of remote work are flexibility and saving time on commuting. The cons are feelings of isolation and difficulty separating professional and private life.

The answer is correct, but very superficial.

Your task:

Rewrite the original prompt, adding a "Chain of Thought" instruction to get a much more in-depth and structured analysis. The idea is for the AI not just to list the points, but also to expand on and justify them.

Answer Key

Remember, these are just my suggestions. Your prompts can be just as good (or even better!) as long as they effectively utilize the "step-by-step thinking" technique!

Answer to Exercise 1:

- **Standard prompt (example):** Hi, help me choose a phone. Phone A costs 799 USD, has a great camera, but a weak battery. Phone B costs 1179 USD, has a weaker camera, but a very good battery. The battery is the most important thing for me. Which phone should I choose?
- **"Chain of Thought" prompt (example):**

I have a dilemma about which phone to choose. Please analyze my problem step-by-step and help me make a decision.

Data:

- Phone A: 799 USD, great camera, 1-day battery.
- Phone B: 1179 USD, average camera, 2-day battery.

My Priorities:

1. Battery life (most important).
2. Price (the lower, the better).
3. Camera (least important).

Your Task:

1. Compare both phones based on each of my priorities.
2. Evaluate which phone better meets my most important criterion.
3. Based on this analysis, provide a final recommendation.

Answer to Exercise 2:

Example prompt:

Exercise Set

The "Think Step-by-Step" Technique

Prompt Master Workshop

Act as a marketing consultant for a small gastronomy business. My goal is to increase the number of online orders for my local pizzeria within the next 3 months. Create a simple marketing plan for me, analyzing the problem step-by-step.

Step 1: Identify and describe two main target audiences for a local pizzeria.

Step 2: For these target audiences, propose 3 specific and budget-friendly marketing actions that can be implemented online.

Step 3: For each of these three actions, explain in a simple way how I can measure if it is effective.

Answer to Exercise 3:

Example revised prompt:

I want an in-depth analysis of the pros and cons of remote work. Please analyze this topic step-by-step.

Step 1: List 3 main advantages of remote work. For each one, briefly explain what it involves and for whom it is most beneficial.

Step 2: List 3 main disadvantages of remote work. For each one, briefly explain the risks involved and how they can be counteracted.

Step 3: Based on the analysis above, write a short summary of which type of employee and company remote work is the best model for.