

Lesson 2: Role

Who you tell the AI to be changes the perspective it works from.

Prompt Engineering Basics · Lesson 2 of 10

The Big Idea

The **Role** tells the AI what perspective or expertise to work from. The same question answered by "a financial educator," "a skeptical auditor," or "a high school teacher" produces three very different answers.

How Role Changes the Answer

Role	What You Tend to Get
<i>No role</i>	A general, average answer
"You are a personal finance educator."	Clear teaching, step-by-step guidance
"You are a skeptical auditor."	Questions, risks, and weak points
"You are a high school teacher."	Simple language, examples, and checks for understanding

Using Role Well

- Be specific: "an experienced small-business accountant" beats "an expert."
- Match the role to the job: teaching, critiquing, planning, or explaining.
- Use a challenging role when you want honesty: "Your job is not to flatter my ideas, but to pressure-test them."

Try It

Take your "Explain budgeting" prompt and add one role. Run it three times with three different roles. What changed?

Learn the principle. Then practice it.