

Lesson 6: Boundaries

Limits don't restrict good work. They define it.

Prompt Engineering Basics · Lesson 6 of 10

The Big Idea

Boundaries set the limits — length, format, scope, and what to avoid. Boundaries don't make the result worse. They make it fit.

Common Boundaries

Boundary	Example
Length	"Under 400 words."
Format	"As a table with three columns."
Scope	"Only cover monthly expenses, not investing."
Language	"Plain language, no jargon."
Sources	"Use only the document I attached."
Exclusions	"No product recommendations."

Format Is a Boundary Too

A paragraph may be correct — but useless. Sometimes a table, checklist, step-by-step plan, or comparison is far more valuable. Asking for the right format is one of the fastest ways to get a usable result.

Try It

Add three boundaries to your budgeting prompt: one for length, one for format, and one exclusion.

Learn the principle. Then practice it.