

Lesson 7: Success Criteria

If you don't define what good looks like, you can't tell whether you got it.

Prompt Engineering Basics · Lesson 7 of 10

The Big Idea

Success Criteria define what a satisfactory result looks like, so it can be judged. Without them, you're accepting whatever comes back.

Examples

Task	Success Criteria
A budgeting guide	"A reader can build a working budget in 15 minutes."
A meeting summary	"Someone who missed the meeting knows every decision and who owns each next step."
A study guide	"A student can answer the ten practice questions using only this guide."

Two Benefits

1. **The AI aims higher.** It knows the standard it's working toward.
2. **You can judge the result.** You have a clear test: did it meet the standard or not?

Try It

Write one success sentence for your budgeting prompt that starts with "*A reader should be able to...*" Then check the AI's answer against it.

Learn the principle. Then practice it.