

Ask AI Without Shame

AI can be a useful learning partner when you ask honest, specific questions. You can ask about anything you are struggling with - no matter how basic it seems. The goal is not to sound smart. The goal is to understand.



Still confused?
Say: "I still don't get it. Make it even simpler."

Use it. Question it. Grow with it. You are not getting dumber. You are getting clearer.

1

Make It Simpler

A correct answer can still be too complicated.



**I STILL DON'T GET IT.
THAT'S A COMPLETE PROMPT.**

TRY THESE PROMPTS

- Explain this using 5th-grade grammar or simpler.
- That still does not make sense. Make it even simpler.
- Break this concept down to its bare essence.
- Explain this without technical words. Define any you must use.
- Explain it one step at a time.

2

Connect It to Something You Already Understand

Ask for an analogy or familiar example.



**MAKE THE
EXPLANATION COME TO YOU.**

TRY THESE PROMPTS

- Use an analogy that you think I would understand.
- Ask me a few questions about things I already understand, then use one to create an analogy.
- Explain this using an everyday situation.
- What is something familiar that works in a similar way?
- Give me a real-world example.

3

Find the Exact Place You Got Lost

If you understand 90%, find the 10% that is missing.



**THE MORE CLEARLY YOU CAN NAME
YOUR CONFUSION, THE EASIER IT
BECOMES TO WORK ON IT.**

TRY THESE PROMPTS

- I understand _____, but you lose me when _____. Explain only that part.
- Ask me questions to figure out exactly where my understanding breaks down.
- Here is what I think I understand: _____. What am I missing?
- What do I need to understand before this part will make sense?
- What assumption might I be making that is causing confusion?

Keep Going: Build the Foundation

There is no shame in starting at zero and no shame in stopping to define a word.

4

Start From Zero

You are allowed to know nothing about it.



ZERO IS JUST WHERE YOU'RE STARTING.

TRY THESE PROMPTS

- Assume I know absolutely nothing. Start from the beginning.
- Do not give me the advanced explanation yet. Give me the foundation first.
- Show me the big picture before we get into the details.
- What are the three things I need to understand first?

5

When a Word or Term Means Nothing to You

One unfamiliar word can make an entire subject feel impossible.



DON'T NOD YOUR WAY PAST A WORD YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

TRY THESE PROMPTS

- I have no understanding of this term or when it applies. Break it down for me.
- Define this in plain language and give me an example.
- Why does this term matter?
- Show me when I would actually use this.
- What is the difference between this term and _____?

6

Make What You Are Reading Make Sense

Give AI the actual material when possible.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO UNDERSTAND DIFFICULT WRITING JUST BECAUSE SOMEBODY WROTE IT DIFFICULT.

TRY THESE PROMPTS

- Explain the core idea of this passage in plain language.
- What is the author basically trying to tell me?
- Separate the main idea from the supporting details.
- What background knowledge am I missing?

7

Do Not Just Get the Answer - Make AI Help You Think

Sometimes the best next step is a question, not an answer.



NOW AI ISN'T JUST ANSWERING. YOU'RE USING IT TO LEARN.

TRY THESE PROMPTS

- Do not give me the answer yet. Ask questions that help me figure it out.
- Give me one hint at a time.
- Ask what I already know first, then help me build from there. Do not move to the next step until I understand this one.

Make Understanding Stick

Explain it back. Let AI test you. Then check the answer beyond AI when accuracy matters.

8

Reformulate - Tell It Back

A good-sounding explanation does not prove you understand it.



**THINK YOU GET IT?
PROVE IT TO YOURSELF.**

TRY THESE PROMPTS

- Here is how I understand it in my own words: _____. Tell me what I misunderstood or skipped.
- Do not explain it again yet. Tell me exactly where my understanding is weak.
- Ask me to explain this without using the terminology from your explanation.

9

Now Make AI Test You

Move from recognition to real understanding.



**I DON'T KNOW → HELP ME
UNDERSTAND → LET ME EXPLAIN
→ TEST ME**

TRY THESE PROMPTS

- I think I understand this now. Test me.
- Quiz me one question at a time. Do not give the answer until I try.
- Start easy. Make the questions harder if I am getting them right.
- Give me a situation where I have to apply what I just learned.
- Test whether I understand the idea, not just the words.

10

Don't Stop at AI

AI can help you get unstuck. It should not automatically be where learning ends.

OBSERVE MULTIPLE TRUSTED SOURCES. AI can misunderstand, be outdated, hallucinate, or sound confident while being wrong.

USE AI TO GET UNSTUCK.

USE TRUSTED SOURCES TO KEEP LEARNING.

AI REMOVED THE SHAME FROM ASKING.

**A CLEAR-SOUNDING ANSWER IS NOT
AUTOMATICALLY A CORRECT
ANSWER.**

**IT DIDN'T REMOVE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO
CHECK THE ANSWER.**

NEXT: TOOL 7B

One prompt that turns this whole process into a guided learning session.