

# Cheat Sheet: Deep Research

Complex questions call for systematic inquiry — through smart prompting and, where available, the deep research function.

## Why this matters

Quick answers are fine for simple queries. But in policy, science, or strategy, **reliability** is what counts.

- **As a function** (available in some Pro or Enterprise models), AI can fetch and compare current or external sources.
- **As a prompting style**, you can always make AI work more systematically: perspectives, assumptions, completeness.

👉 Together, function and prompting reinforce one another: the function retrieves sources, your prompting sets the depth.

## Dimension: Application

**Deep Research** = using AI as a research assistant.

- **Function:** works with techniques such as Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), browsing, or document search.
- **Prompting style:** research-oriented prompts (“Investigate this in detail...”, “Compare experts...”, “List limitations”).

## Example

### Superficial answer

✗ Q: “What are the causes of inflation in Europe?” → short list, no context or sources.

### Deep Research Prompting

✓ Q: “Give an overview of the causes of inflation in Europe, cite at least 3 sources and name counterarguments.”

→ More perspective and nuance (but note: always verify the sources yourself!).

### Deep Research Function

✓ Q: “Compare the recent approaches to AI regulation in the EU, US, and China.”

→ AI retrieves up-to-date policy documents, compares legal frameworks, and discusses geopolitical implications.

## Tips

- Switch **Deep Research ON** if your model supports it.
- Always ask for **limitations and counterarguments**.
- Combine with [Chain-of-Thought \(CoT\)](#) for transparent reasoning.
- Use [multi-role prompting](#): e.g. “Answer as a researcher *and* a critic, then compare the outcomes.”
- Always **check sources yourself** — not everything is reliable.
- Use deep research only for **complex or current questions** — for simple tasks it mostly adds delay.

## ✓ Checklist – Do’s & Don’ts

Do’s	Don’ts
Ask for sources and limitations	Assume sources are correct
Use multiple roles or perspectives	Treat AI as the only truth
Request nuance and bias checks	Accept only a quick summary



## 🚫 Not to be confused with...

- **Quick search** → superficial answers without evidence.
- **Fact-checking tools** → deep research ≠ checking a single fact, but broad analysis.
- **Brainstorming** → generating ideas is not the same as systematic investigation.

## Try this

Formulate a complex research question: “*Compare the recent approaches to AI regulation in the EU, US, and China.*”

1. Let AI answer with **Deep Research ON**.
2. Ask for legal frameworks, recent debates, policy trade-offs, and geopolitical implications.
3. Check: which perspectives differ, which sources, which assumptions?

👉 This shows how Deep Research produces a structured, multi-layered analysis instead of a superficial summary.

## Learn & Apply

The real difference doesn't come from reading an AI summary, but from splitting questions, switching roles, and checking sources yourself.

## Explore more

🔗 More cheat sheets on prompting: [symbio6.nl/en/sheets](https://symbio6.nl/en/sheets)

🚀 In our workshops you'll experience how AI works as a research assistant — retrieving, comparing, and deepening.

