

# Cheat Sheet: Give AI a role

The **Role** defines *from which perspective* AI responds. A role gives direction and makes the result more consistent.

## Why it matters

AI can perform the same task very differently depending on the chosen role: an expert explains precisely, a coach encourages, a comedian makes it light-hearted. In our training sessions we see: once participants add a role, the answers become much more concrete and useful.

## START in focus

S – Situation → who, where, when

T – Task → what should AI do?

A – Attention points → audience, tone & style

**R – Role** → from which perspective does AI respond

T – Type of output → in what form should the answer come

👉 Here the **R in START** takes centre stage: giving AI a role makes responses sharper.

## Examples

❌ “Explain photosynthesis.”

✅ “Explain photosynthesis as a biology expert, with 2 examples from nature.”

## Role vs. Tone

- **Role** = who AI plays (expert, teacher, writer, advisor).
- **Tone/Style (Attention points)** = how it sounds (formal, informal, humorous).  
👉 Memory aid: *Role = who speaks, Tone = how it sounds*

## Same task, different roles

Task: “*Explain photosynthesis.*”

- **As a biology expert** → precise, with technical terms.
- **As a coach** → step by step, motivational.
- **As a storyteller** → vivid, with a storyline.
- **As a comedian** → light, with jokes.
- **As a pirate** → “Arrr! Plants drink sunlight like it’s rum, matey!”
- **As Cleopatra** → majestic, with historical grandeur.

💡 Creative roles like *pirate* or *Cleopatra* are optional. They show that role prompting can also unlock playful or surprising perspectives.

## Tips

1. Choose a role that matches your goal (expert, coach, writer, advisor).
2. Combine role + task for clarity.
3. Don’t confuse **Role (R)** with **Attention points (A)**: R = perspective, A = tone.

## ✅ Checklist

- ☑ Perspective – from whose viewpoint does AI speak?
- ☑ Function – expert, coach, advisor, comedian, character
- ☑ Direction – role helps AI focus on relevant detail

## ❌ Don’ts

- Only giving a role without a task: “*You are a teacher.*” (too open).
- Vague role without direction: “*Pretend to be someone.*”
- Combining too many roles: “*Be a philosopher, clown and project manager all at once.*”

## Basic formula

“*In [situation] you are [role]. Do [task] for [audience], in [style], as [type of output].*”

## Try this: one task, different roles

Topic: *Give 3 tips for healthy eating*

- **As a nutritionist** → with nutritional values.
- **As a sports coach** → linked to training.
- **As a comedian** → with humour and exaggeration.
- **As a chef** → focused on flavour.

👉 Same topic, completely different angles.

### Also try



- *“Give feedback on a text as an experienced teacher.”*
- *“Write a summary as a consultant for a management team.”*
- *“Explain quantum physics as a stand-up comedian.”*
- *“Create a schedule as a personal coach.”*

## Learn & apply

“A good cheat sheet is not a copy, but your own version. The most valuable learning comes from making one yourself!”

👉 **Tip:** *Rewrite this cheat sheet using three different roles. Compare which role gives the best result for you.*

## Discover more

-  Podcast – Episode 2: [The Magic Touch – Few-Shot & Role Prompting Made Simple](#)
-  More cheat sheets on prompting: [symbio6.nl/en/sheets](https://symbio6.nl/en/sheets)

