

Microsoft 365 Copilot: Prompting do's and don'ts

Get the most out of Copilot and avoid common pitfalls by learning **what to do** and **what not to do** when writing prompts.

Do's

- ✔ **Be clear and specific.**
Provide specific instructions to Copilot, such as topic, purpose, tone, and required length.
- ✔ **Keep it conversational.**
Give feedback to Copilot based on the quality of its responses to help the AI learn and match your preferences.
- ✔ **Give examples.**
Use clear and specific keywords or phrases when asking Copilot to write a piece of text for you. This helps it generate more relevant and creative copy.
- ✔ **Ask for feedback.**
Requesting feedback from Copilot helps it to understand your needs and preferences, and to provide you with more relevant, helpful responses.
- ✔ **Write legibly.**
Use correct punctuation, capitalization, and grammar when writing prompts, as this will help the AI produce better quality text and responses.

- ✔ **Check for accuracy.**
Occasionally, Copilot may make mistakes. Always check Copilot's responses for accuracy, grammar, and style, and watch out for irrelevant or inappropriate content.
- ✔ **Provide details.**
Provide Copilot with contextual details to help it generate more accurate, consistent responses. For example, the genre, characters, and plot to a story.
- ✔ **Be polite.**
Using kind and respectful language when chatting with Copilot helps foster collaboration and improves the AI's responsiveness and performance.

Don'ts

- ✘ **Be vague.**
When prompting Copilot, avoid using vague language, and be as clear as possible to receive better-quality responses.
- ✘ **Request inappropriate or unethical content.**
Copilot is not responsible for the content or the consequences of your writing. You should respect local laws, rules, and the rights of others.
- ✔ **Use slang, jargon, or informal language.**
This may cause Copilot to give low-quality, inappropriate or unprofessional responses.
- ✘ **Give conflicting instructions.**
Prompting Copilot to perform a task that includes multiple or conflicting pieces of information in the same request can confuse the AI and result in lower quality responses.
- ✔ **Interrupt or change topics abruptly.**
This could disrupt Copilot's writing process. Always close or finish a task before starting a new one. When starting a new task, write "New task."