

**THE TRADEPRENEUR**  
*show*



**A.I. FOR TECHS**

*Real Prompts for Real Techs*

## WHAT IS A.I.?

AI—Artificial Intelligence—is like a super-smart toolbox on your phone or computer. It’s a program that’s been trained on tons of info ( manuals, forums, data) to help you figure stuff out fast. For us techs, it’s like having a helper who can:

- Answer questions (“Why’s this condenser humming?”).
- Give steps (“How do I test a breaker?”).
- Explain things (“Tell the customer why their pipes froze.”). It’s not alive—it’s just code-crunching info to save you time on the job.

### What AI Isn’t

AI isn’t a magic fix-it robot. It’s not:

- A replacement for your skills (you still turn the wrenches).
- A mind reader (you gotta tell it what’s up—it won’t guess).
- Perfect (it might miss real-world quirks you’d spot). Think of it as a brainy sidekick, not the boss or a crystal ball.

## WHY IT MATTERS

AI’s here to back you up—like a quick-reference guide that talks back. It won’t climb into the crawlspace for you, but it’ll help you think straight when you’re knee-deep in a mess. That’s it!

## WHAT'S A PROMPT? A SIMPLE GUIDE FOR TECHNICIANS

If you’re new to AI tools like ChatGPT or Grok, you might be wondering how to make them help you on the job. That’s where a prompt comes in. Think of it like giving instructions to an apprentice who’s super smart but doesn’t know your job yet. A prompt is just the question or command you type into the AI to get it to spit out useful answers—like troubleshooting steps, customer explanations, or quick fixes.

The better your prompt, the better the answer. It’s not magic—it’s about telling the AI exactly what you need, plain and simple. Let’s break it down.

# WHAT'S A PROMPT, REALLY?

A prompt is what you say to the AI to get it working for you. For example:

- “Tell me how to fix a leaky pipe” is a prompt.
- “Why’s my condenser fan not spinning on a Lennox unit?” is another.

It’s like asking a coworker for help, but you’re typing it instead. The AI reads it, thinks (fast!), and gives you an answer based on what it knows.

## KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN CREATING PROMPTS

### Be Clear and Specific

- Bad: “My AC’s broke.” (Too vague—AI won’t know where to start.)
- Good: “My AC’s blowing hot air, but the fan’s running. What should I check?”
- Why?: The AI needs details to give you something useful. Tell it what’s happening—like you’d tell your boss or a customer.

### Add Context

- Throw in extras like the brand (Lennox, Kohler), the problem (no power, leaking), or where you’re at (crawlspace, rooftop).
- Example: “I’m fixing a Rheem condenser in 90°F heat, and it won’t start. What’s first?”
- Why?: Context helps the AI focus on your exact situation, not some generic textbook answer.

### Ask for What You Want

- Want steps? Say “step-by-step.” Want a customer explanation? Say “simple terms for a homeowner.”
- Example: “Give me a step-by-step to test a capacitor on a Trane unit.”
- Why?: The AI won’t guess—you’ve got to tell it if you need a checklist, a quick tip, or a deep dive.

### Keep It Short (But Not Too Short)

- Don’t ramble, but don’t skimp on the key stuff. One or two sentences usually do it.
- Example: “Water heater’s electric, no hot water, breaker’s fine—what’s next?”
- Why?: You’re busy. Make it fast to type, but give enough meat so the AI doesn’t waste your time.

### Experiment a Little

- If the answer’s off, tweak your prompt. Ask again with more detail or a different angle.
- Example: First try—“Why’s my outlet dead?” If it’s too broad, try “How do I test a dead outlet with a multimeter?”
- Why?: The AI’s smart, but it’s not you. Play with it ‘til it clicks.

## PRO TIP:

Think of the AI like a helper who's got every manual ever written in its head—but it only pulls out what you ask for. If you wouldn't say it to a buddy on the job, don't type it. Keep it real, keep it you, and it'll save you when you're stuck.

# PROMPTS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH CUSTOMERS

## HOW TO USE THESE

Just plug in the details of your job—like “a leaking pipe” or “a burnt-out compressor”—and the AI will give you a response you can tweak or say verbatim. These prompts keep things customer-friendly, cut the tech-speak, and help you sound like the pro you are.

### Explaining the Problem Simply

- "Give me a plain-English explanation of why [specific issue, e.g., a clogged drain, a tripped breaker] is happening, so I can tell the customer without confusing them."
- "The [system/equipment] isn't working because of [technical cause]. How do I explain it to a customer in 2-3 sentences using an everyday analogy?"

### Justifying the Repair

- "The customer's asking why fixing [specific issue] takes so long. Help me explain the steps involved in a way they'll understand and appreciate."
- "I need to tell the customer why [part/system] needs replacing instead of repairing. Give me a short, convincing explanation that avoids jargon."

### Managing Expectations

- "This [job/repair] is going to take [time estimate] and cost [rough amount]. How do I break that to the customer so they don't freak out?"
- "The [system/equipment] might fail again if [condition persists]. What's a polite way to warn the customer and suggest a bigger fix?"

### Calming an Upset Customer

- "The customer's mad because [specific issue] keeps happening. What can I say to calm them down and show I'm fixing it for good this time?"
- "I'm dealing with a frustrated customer who says [specific complaint, e.g., 'it's too expensive']. Give me a response that's friendly and builds trust."

## Educating the Customer

- "How do I explain to a customer why [maintenance task, e.g., changing filters, flushing a water heater] prevents [specific problem] in a way they'll remember?"
- "The customer wants to know how to spot [issue, e.g., a leak, a short] early. What's a simple tip I can give them that doesn't sound like a lecture?"

## Post-Job Wrap-Up

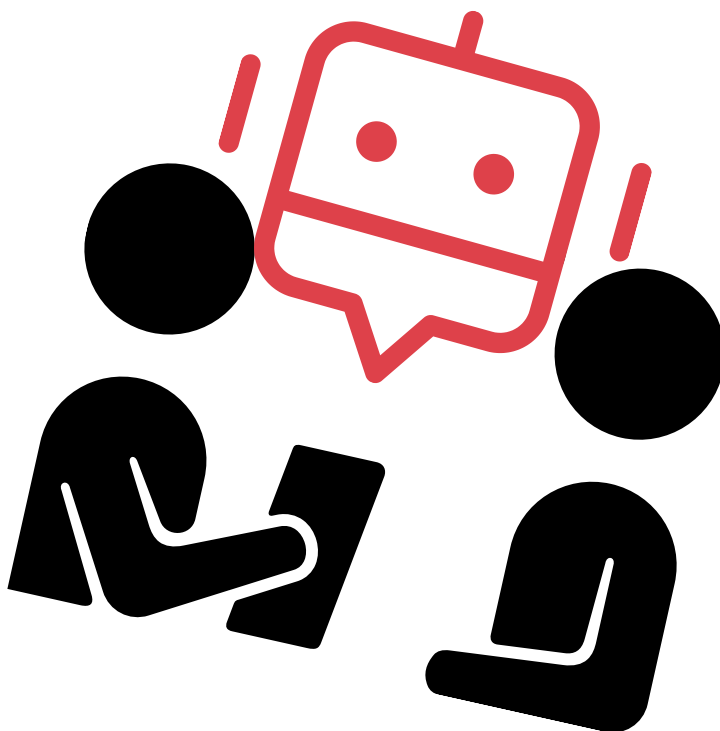
- "I just finished [specific repair]. What's a quick summary I can give the customer about what I did and why it's fixed now?"
- "Help me write a short note for the customer explaining [repair details] and what to watch for if [system/equipment] acts up again."

## Handling Pushback

- "The customer thinks [repair/task] should be cheaper. How do I explain the value of [labor/parts] in a way that feels fair to them?"
- "They don't want [recommended fix] and just want a Band-Aid solution. What's a tactful way to say that might not hold up long-term?"

## Emergency Situations

- "There's a [urgent issue, e.g., flooding, sparking wires]—what's a calm, clear way to tell the customer what's happening and what I'm doing right now?"
- "The customer's panicking about [emergency]. Give me a 1-2 sentence explanation to reassure them while I work on [specific fix]."



# UNIVERSAL TROUBLESHOOTING PROMPTS

## HOW TO USE THESE

Pick one that fits your situation, swap in your details (e.g., “The water heater isn’t heating” or “The breaker keeps tripping”), and fire it off to the AI. If you’ve got a brand, model, or weird condition (like “it’s 20°F outside”), toss that in too. These are your starting points; tweak them as you go to keep the answers sharp.

### Start with the Basics

- "The [system/equipment] isn’t working at all. Walk me through a basic checklist to rule out power, connections, or simple fixes for [specific symptom, e.g., no response, no flow]."
- "I’ve got a [system/equipment] that’s completely dead. What are the first 5 things to check, starting with the easiest?"

### Symptom-Specific Diagnosis

- "The [system/equipment] is running but [describe symptom, e.g., not cooling, leaking, tripping breaker]. What are the top 3 causes, and how do I test each one?"
- "I’m seeing [specific symptom, e.g., smoke, odd smell, vibration] from [system/equipment]. What’s likely wrong, and what’s the safest way to troubleshoot it?"

### Partial Function Issues

- "The [system/equipment] is working but not fully—[describe issue, e.g., weak output, slow response]. What could be limiting it, and how do I narrow it down?"
- "Only part of the [system/equipment] is functioning—like [specific part, e.g., fan but not compressor]. What’s a step-by-step way to find the disconnect?"

### Intermittent or Tricky Problems

- "The [system/equipment] fails off and on with [specific symptom]. How do I track down an intermittent issue when it’s working fine right now?"
- "I’ve got a [system/equipment] that stops after [time period or condition, e.g., 10 minutes, high load]. What’s a process to test for overload or wear?"

## No Clear Starting Point

- "Something's wrong with [system/equipment], but I can't see anything obvious—no error codes, no damage. What's a systematic way to dig into this?"
- "The [system/equipment] isn't doing [its job, e.g., heating, pumping], but all the usual suspects check out. What's the next set of things to investigate?"

## Tool-Limited Scenarios

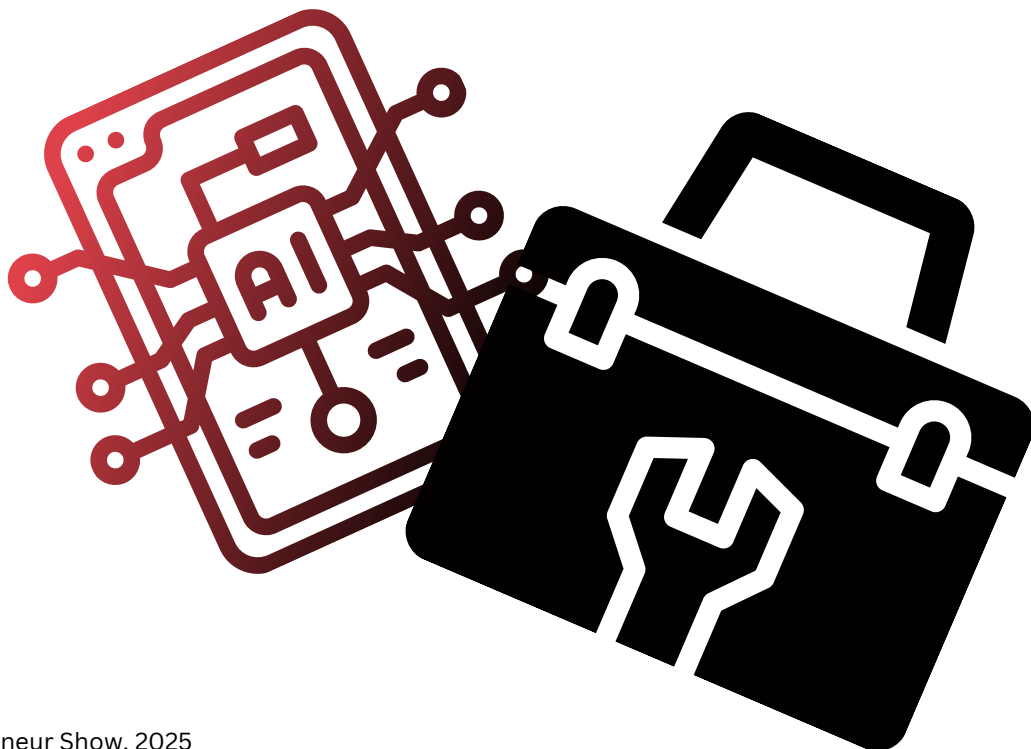
- "The [system/equipment] is down, and I've only got [list tools, e.g., a multimeter, screwdriver]. How do I troubleshoot [specific symptom] with what I have?"
- "I don't have [specific tool, e.g., pressure gauges, thermal camera] on hand. What's an alternative way to diagnose [system/equipment] showing [symptom]?"

## Multiple Symptoms

- "The [system/equipment] has [list symptoms, e.g., noise and no output]. What's a logical order to check things when I've got more than one issue?"
- "I'm dealing with [system/equipment] showing [symptom 1] and [symptom 2]. Could they be related, and how do I figure out the root cause?"

## Post-Fix Verification

- "I think I fixed [system/equipment]—it's running after [describe repair]. What should I double-check to make sure the [specific symptom] won't come back?"
- "The [system/equipment] is back on after [fix], but I'm not 100% sure. What's a quick test to confirm it's fully sorted?"

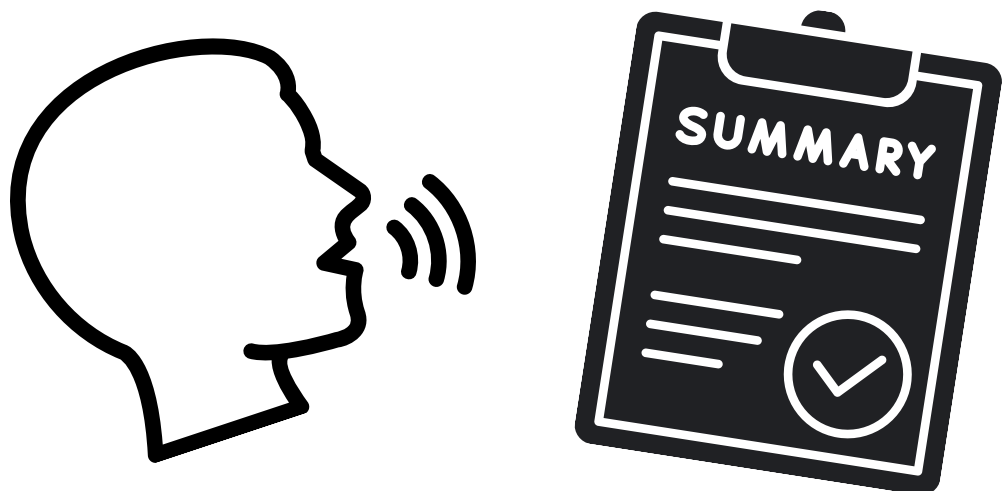


# UNIVERSAL PROMPT FOR A LAYPERSON JOB SUMMARY

## HOW TO USE

"Write a short, simple job summary for a customer explaining what I found and recommend after working on [equipment/age]. Include:

- What I checked and the problem I diagnosed: I did a full check of [describe system and issue, e.g., a unit not running, making noise], found [specific observation, e.g., power's on but a part isn't working].
- What I found wrong: [Describe the issue in plain terms, e.g., a part's worn out, something's broken].
- My recommendation to fix it: List a 'must do' fix (urgent), a 'could do' option (extra improvement), and a 'should do' choice (best long-term solution, like replacement), with a clear reason why [e.g., safety, cost savings, reliability]. Keep it clear, friendly, and easy to read for someone who doesn't know technical terms. Use everyday language, avoid jargon, and stay professional but not overly casual."



# UNIVERSAL PROMPT FOR A 7-DAY MEAL PLAN

"Create a 7-day meal plan designed to maximize weight loss and muscle gain, targeting a weight loss of 1-1.5 lbs. per week. Calculate my daily calorie needs based on my current weight of **[insert your current weight]** lbs. and my goal weight of **[insert your goal weight]** lbs., assuming moderate activity (e.g., 3-5 workouts per week). Each day should include 4 meals, with at least 2 meals per week featuring protein shakes. Exclude these foods: [list foods to avoid, e.g., dairy, gluten, pork].

For each meal, list:

- Total calories
- Macros (grams of protein, carbs, and fat)
- Fiber (grams)

For each day, provide:

- Total daily calories
- Total daily macros (protein, carbs, fat in grams)
- Total daily fiber (grams)

Finally, generate a shopping list with specific items and quantities needed to prepare all 7 days of the meal plan, based on the recipes and portion sizes. Keep the meals simple, high-protein, and easy to prep for someone with a busy schedule. If assumptions are made (e.g., activity level or specific ingredients), note them clearly."

## HOW TO USE

- Plug in your current weight and goal weight (e.g., "current weight of 200 lbs. and goal weight of 175 lbs.").
- List any foods you want to avoid (e.g., "Exclude dairy, peanuts, and soy").
- Paste it into your AI tool, and it'll crank out a plan with all the details—calories, macros, fiber, and shopping list.