

AI Prompt Engineering Progression

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Introduction

For this project, I chose Adobe Express as my AI image generation tool because it offers an accessible, beginner friendly environment while still providing enough creative control to explore how prompt refinement affects visual outcomes. Unlike more advanced or technical AI art platforms, Adobe Express integrates image generation directly into a familiar design workspace, which makes it easier to focus on the writing and iteration of prompts rather than navigating complex settings. Its interface is intentionally streamlined, allowing users to quickly adjust prompts, compare variations, and observe how small wording changes influence composition, color, and style. This makes Adobe Express especially useful for studying prompt iteration as a communication process—one where clarity, specificity, and intentional phrasing directly shape the resulting images. By using this tool, I can demonstrate how thoughtful prompt refinement leads to more predictable and purposeful visual results, aligning with the goals of technical communication: precision, usability, and audience centered design.

Sun Sequence





Prompt 1: Create an image of the sun sitting on a house, smiling and waving

Prompt 2: Create a photographic image of the sun sitting on a house, smiling and waving

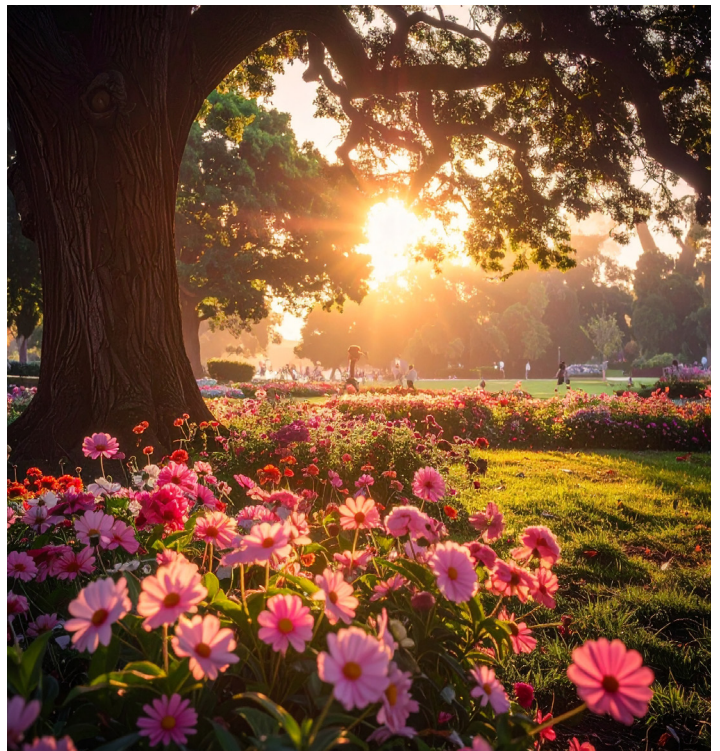
Prompt 3: Create an 80s-style photographic image of the sun sitting on a house, smiling and waving

Prompt 4: Create a photographic image of the sun smiling and waving on the beach

Prompt 5: Create a photographic image of the sun smiling and waving in a snow storm

The sun sequence demonstrates how prompt refinement gradually shifts an image from playful illustration to more realistic, stylistically controlled scenes. Beginning with a simple imaginative prompt, the images become more detailed once “photographic” and “80s style” modifiers are added, showing how specificity influences lighting, texture, and mood. Changing the setting—from a house to a beach and finally a snowstorm—creates dramatic differences in tone and composition, even though the smiling, waving sun remains the central character. While the AI handles environmental changes well, it sometimes struggles with the literal idea of the sun “sitting,” and extreme weather can obscure facial details. Overall, the results are more whimsical and character like than expected, revealing the limits of realism when the subject itself is fantastical.

Flowers Sequence





Prompt 1: Create an image of flowers dancing on the beach

Prompt 2: Create a photographic image of flowers dancing on the beach

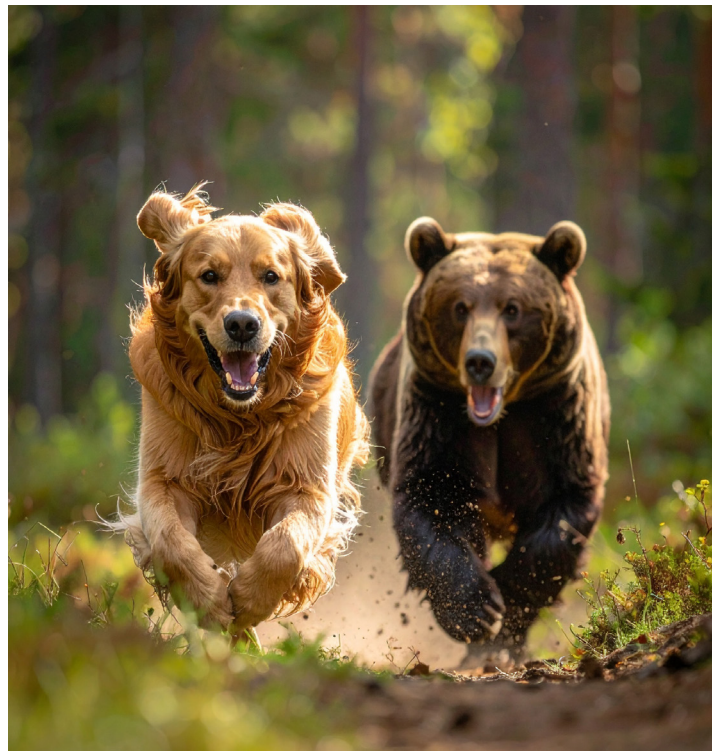
Prompt 3: Create an 80s-style photographic image of flowers dancing on the beach

Prompt 4: Create a photographic image of flowers dancing in a park

Prompt 5: Create a photographic image of flowers dancing in the shower

The flowers sequence highlights how the AI interprets anthropomorphic actions and how setting changes influence the believability of surreal concepts. As the prompts shift from a simple image to photographic and 80s style versions, the flowers gain more texture and detail, though the idea of “dancing” remains loosely interpreted through motion blur or human like poses. Moving the flowers from a beach to a park and then to a shower introduces increasingly unusual contexts, which affects how natural or humorous the results appear. The AI handles outdoor environments well, but indoor scenes like the shower tend to produce awkward proportions or unclear backgrounds. Overall, the images often look more humanlike or whimsical than expected, showing how realism becomes harder to maintain when the action itself is imaginative.

Golden Retriever Sequence





Prompt 1: Create an image of a golden retriever standing in front of a waterfall

Prompt 2: Create a photographic image of a golden retriever standing in front of a waterfall

Prompt 3: Create a photographic image of a golden retriever on a motorcycle, wearing sun shades

Prompt 4: Create a photographic image of a golden retriever being chased by a bear

Prompt 5: Create a photographic image of a golden retriever on top of a car with a bear behind him

The golden retriever sequence shows how quickly prompt changes can shift an image from natural realism to humorous or dramatic storytelling. The early prompts involving a waterfall produce convincing, detailed images, but adding props like a motorcycle and sunglasses introduces a playful, stylized tone. As the prompts escalate into action scenes—such as being chased by a bear or standing on a car with a bear behind—the AI attempts more dynamic compositions, though these sometimes result in distortions or unrealistic motion. The dog remains recognizable throughout, and outdoor lighting is handled well, but interactions between animals or complex poses can confuse scale and perspective. Overall, the results are entertaining but occasionally exaggerated, differing from expectations by leaning more toward staged or cartoonish interpretations.

Lion Sequence





Prompt 1: Create an image of a lion standing on top of a mountain

Prompt 2: Create a photographic image of a lion standing on top of a mountain

Prompt 3: Create a photographic image of a lion walking down a mountain

Prompt 4: Create a photographic image of a lion running in the jungle with the sun shining

Prompt 5: Create a photographic image of a lion sitting in the jungle at night

The lion sequence illustrates how changes in action, lighting, and environment shape the mood and realism of AI generated images. Starting with a simple mountain pose, the prompts evolve into walking, running, and nighttime scenes that require the AI to adjust camera angles, motion, and atmosphere. Photographic instructions enhance fur texture and environmental detail, while shifts from mountain to jungle settings introduce richer lighting and color. However, running poses can appear stiff, and nighttime scenes sometimes obscure important facial features. The images generally capture the lion's presence well, but stylistic elements—such as the bright “sun shining” jungle scene—may appear more stylized than expected. Overall, the sequence shows how action and lighting dramatically influence the final image's tone and clarity.

Giraffe Sequence





Prompt 1: Create an image of a giraffe in a car

Prompt 2: Create a photographic image of a giraffe in a car

Prompt 3: Create a 50s-style photographic image of a giraffe in a car

Prompt 4: Create a photographic image of a giraffe roller skating at a park

Prompt 5: Create a photographic image of a giraffe roller skating in the rain at a park

The giraffe sequence emphasizes how the AI handles humorous, surreal scenarios involving large animals in human environments. The early prompts involving a giraffe in a car become more detailed and visually cohesive once photographic and 50s style modifiers are added, with the retro prompt introducing vintage tones and film like textures. As the sequence shifts to roller skating scenes, the AI attempts more imaginative poses, though proportions and limb details sometimes become distorted. Adding rain increases the complexity of the final prompt, affecting clarity and mood while occasionally blurring the giraffe's features. Throughout the sequence, the giraffe remains the focal point, but the results often differ from expectations by leaning toward advertisement like compositions or exaggerated cartoonish elements. Overall, the sequence demonstrates how whimsical actions challenge the AI's ability to maintain realism.

Final Reflection

Working through these five prompt iteration sequences helped me understand how deliberate, precise prompting can dramatically shape the outcomes of AI generated images. One of the most successful strategies was adding clear modifiers—such as “photographic,” specifying a decade, or changing the setting—because these details consistently pushed the AI toward more intentional lighting, texture, and mood. I also learned that whimsical or surreal actions, like flowers dancing or a giraffe roller skating, require even more careful phrasing, since the AI tends to interpret anthropomorphism loosely. The biggest challenge was balancing realism with imagination; the more fantastical the concept, the more likely the AI was to produce distortions or unexpected interpretations. This project showed me that AI image generation is not just about creativity—it’s a communication task. The prompt acts like instructions to a very literal reader, and even small wording changes can shift the entire visual narrative. This connects directly to technical communication because it reinforces the importance of clarity, specificity, and audience awareness. Just as a well crafted prompt leads to more predictable images, well crafted technical documents lead to more predictable user outcomes. Overall, this assignment strengthened my understanding of how language guides technology, and how intentional phrasing can transform abstract ideas into concrete, usable results.