

Guide to AI Prompts for Image Editing

Tips for Editing Photographs and Images

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Prompts are English commands written by you to describe what you want AI to perform on your image. These are the keys to good results.

Clear and concise. Don't worry about grammar or punctuation – think of it like a conversation with another person. We tend to talk in run-on sentences with little punctuation. That is ok, AI understands us, but it cannot read minds. If you are not clear, AI's mandate is still to do something even if it is wrong.

Avoid Hallucinations

The biggest challenge, especially for novices, is that the AI program may change critical portions of an image. The most frequent problem is changing the face of a person, even substituting a different one. Occasionally, a new element might be added, particularly in the background. These occurrences are known as *hallucinations*, and they are most likely to appear when the image needing restoration is badly damaged, has low resolution, is blurry, or is otherwise challenging to fix.

Using Negative Statements

One way to reduce the unwanted changes is to specify that original elements (e.g. faces) are not to be replaced. Some applications give up too quickly in restoring a face and substitute one from their database. Use a *negative* prompt; that is, tell the program to **NOT** do something. By specifying the original face must be kept, it simply makes the application work harder – which is its job. See a list of negative prompts below.

Sample Prompts

These coincide with typical types of processes you might perform on an image. There can be many more types of action and details in the prompt. These are not strict in their listed content; combinations can be created for a single prompt. Prompts can range from simple to complex.

Tip: You can add several commands into one script if you need to perform complex restoration. For instance, several of the prompts listed below can be combined into a single command prompt.

General Restoration Prompts

Remove scratches, creases, and blemishes from this image.

Restore and enhance this old, damaged photo.

Recreate missing corners or other pieces of photo.

Remove red [or any color] tint from photo, restore natural colors.

Restore image to its original color, enhance faded colors, increase saturation.

Remove noise and dust from image. [Note: this can smooth an image too much sometimes.]

Sketch Prompts

Create a Pencil Sketch of this photo.

Apply Hatching Sketch style to this photo.

Create a Photo-Realism Sketch of photo.

Create a pencil sketch of this photo, keep original faces and people, do not substitute.

Painting Prompts

Paint in the Frederic Remington style.

Apply a Norman Rockwell style of painting to the portraits, do not change scene.

Apply Renaissance painting style, classical composition, soft natural lighting.

Paint in American Gothic style by Grant Wood.

Create a colorized version typical of the 1950s, with soft colors.

Paint this image in the American Gothic style by Grant Wood, do not change faces.

[Use any artistic concept you like]

Add-on Commands to Any Prompt

Lighten [or darken] image, restore natural lighting.

Remove dark background from photo.

Increase contrast.

Apply a sepia tone. [or any color]

Remove sepia tone.

Convert to a gray-scale tone.

[Add custom prompts to address a specific problem or desire]

Negative Commands (included with above prompts.)

Keep original faces, do not substitute.

Do not change people and faces.

Do not change the scene.

Compound Prompt Examples

Repair large cracks in the photo, reduce sepia tint, increase contrast, sharpen image

Restore tintype photo, lighten and increase contrast, remove noise, keep original face

Construct Your Own Prompt

Here are some elements used in prompts.

Verbs: apply, create, enhance, reconstruct, increase, decrease, remove, correct, sharpen

Objects: scratches, noise, blemishes, cracks, fading, colors, contrast

Gallery Examples

[Phototree.com's AI galleries](#) feature before-and-after image treatments, each accompanied by their respective prompts. Three galleries include Restoration, Sketches, and Painting – **Browse them Freely.**

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