
Seven things your AI can do that you have **never asked it to**

...and the ones it gets dangerously wrong. A
field manual for India.

01

Stop telling it to “think step by step”

DO THIS

On any model that shows its thinking, delete the phrase. State the goal and the constraints, nothing about how to reason. Keep it only for the fast, cheap models.

WHY IT WORKS

Reasoning is now trained into these models. Scripting an external path competes with the internal one, and forces padding that opens fresh mistakes.

[ChatGPT Thinking](#)[Claude](#)[Gemini](#)

COPY THIS

Goal: [what you want]. Constraints: [budget, length, audience, deadline].
Give me your best answer. Do not explain your process unless I ask.

02

When it goes wrong twice, **start over**

DO THIS

Do not keep correcting a chat that has drifted. Open a new one and paste a single message containing everything you have learned about what you actually want.

WHY IT WORKS

Across fifteen models, answers in a long back-and-forth were measured about 39% worse than the same question asked once, cleanly. They latch onto an early wrong assumption and never let go.

Every assistant

Free

COPY THIS

Here is the full picture in one go: [goal]. [Everything you already know]. [What you have ruled out and why]. Give me your best single answer.

22

Give it permission to say “I don't know”

DO THIS

Add the permission explicitly, every time accuracy matters.
Without it, silence is not an option it considers available.

WHY IT WORKS

It is built to always produce something, because a confident guess scores better than an admission of ignorance. Saying you would rather have the gap changes the behaviour.

Every assistant

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COPY THIS

If you do not know, say “I don't know”. Do not guess and do not fill gaps with something that sounds right. I would rather have a short answer than a complete one.

30

Photograph your notes and ask it to **find the holes**

DO THIS

Photograph every page of a term's handwritten notes and upload the lot. Ask for a study guide, and specifically for the places your notes are incomplete or contradict themselves.

WHY IT WORKS

The gaps are the point. Notes written in a hurry have holes in exactly the places you were struggling to keep up, which is where the marks go.

Gemini

Free

COPY THIS

These are photos of my handwritten notes. Build a study guide from them. Separately, list every place where my notes are incomplete, contradict each other, or look copied down wrong.

67

Ask for the **formula**, never the answer

DO THIS

Describe what you want in plain English and ask for the spreadsheet formula. Paste it in and let the spreadsheet calculate. Also ask what would break it.

WHY IT WORKS

It genuinely cannot be trusted with arithmetic, and errors climb sharply with longer numbers. The spreadsheet can. Use each for what it is good at.

Every assistant

Free

COPY THIS

Column A has dates, column D amounts, column F vendor. Give me a formula for total spend per vendor in the last 90 days – and tell me what breaks if the dates are stored as text.

83

“Are you sure?” is the weakest check

DO THIS

Never verify by challenging the same chat. Ask the identical question in a brand new chat, or ask a different assistant. If the two disagree, trust neither.

WHY IT WORKS

These models are trained to please you. Pushed, they abandon correct answers to agree with you — so challenging one often turns a right answer wrong.

Every assistant

Free

COPY THIS

Answer this on its own, with no memory of any earlier conversation: [paste the exact question]. If you are not confident, say so plainly instead of guessing.

99

“Digital arrest” does not exist

DO THIS

No Indian agency arrests anyone over a video call, keeps them on camera, or asks for money into a verification account. End the call. Report it on 1930.

WHY IT WORKS

If money has gone, the first hour decides whether it can be stopped, so the order below matters more than getting the paperwork right on the first attempt.

1930

cybercrime.gov.in

IN THE FIRST HOUR

- 01 Call **1930**, the national cyber-fraud helpline
- 02 File the complaint at cybercrime.gov.in
- 03 Tell your **bank** to block the card or UPI

Do this part today, not on the day it happens: save 1930 in your phone, and tell the oldest person in your family what this scam looks like.

There are **92 more** where those came from

NO EARNINGS, NO PROMISES

Nothing here claims you will make money, get a job, or pass an exam. Anyone selling you that with a number attached is guessing.

NUMBERS WE REFUSED TO PRINT

Several popular statistics — AI detector accuracy, how many CVs get screened out, national fraud totals — trace back to companies selling the tools being measured. They are not in this book.

AND ONE HONEST LIMIT

This is written in English, for India, in September 2026. The tools will move. The habits in section one and the warnings in section seven will outlast the product names.

IF YOU WOULD RATHER NOT WORK THIS OUT YOURSELF

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