

Crafting Better Prompts

Prompt engineering techniques with a Disney itinerary example

Aug. 12, 2025



TL;DR: Strong Prompt Essentials

- Spell out constraints – dates, start time, resort, mobility/heat needs
- Name exact events – include the year and party/parade names
- State paid options – Lightning Lane Single Pass, Minnie Van
- Dictate output format – land clusters, A/C breaks every 60–90 min, transfer method, timestamps
- Require corrections & risks – fix outdated items and highlight alternatives

What Your Prompt Was Missing



- Ambiguity on time & events: include the year and exact party/parade names
- Mobility & heat constraints: ask for minimal walking; A/C breaks every 60–90 minutes; specify willingness to use Minnie Vans
- Paid LL stance: mention Lightning Lane Single Pass for specific headliners; request return window targets
- Correction clause: direct the assistant to fix outdated items (e.g. Electrical Parade, virtual queues)
- Output contract: demand a timestamped, land-clustered itinerary with transport options, backup plans, shopping & snack stops
- Acceptance criteria: define success metrics – no backtracking, shop first, return by midnight

Gold Standard Prompt Template

Date	Reserved Park(s)	Key Must-Dos
Aug 29, 2025	EPCOT & MK	EPCOT: Guardians, Test Track MK: Arribas, AP merch, TRON, Space Mtn, Haunted, Pirates, PeopleMover, Country Bears, Dole Whip, MNSSHP fireworks & parade
Aug 30, 2025	MK, AK & DHS	MK: tap-in check-in AK: AP magnet, PB&J S'more, FoP, Everest, DINOSAUR, Dole Whip DHS: Villains show, RnRC, Rise of Resistance MK: Starlight parade & fireworks

- Party & start time: 2 guests; start ~1 PM
- Mobility & weather: August heat/humidity; sensitive knee; build in A/C breaks
- Paid options: Single Pass (TRON, Guardians, FoP, Rise), Minnie Van, Friendship Boat
- Park reservations: Aug 29 – EPCOT; Aug 30 – MK

Plan Requirements & Deliverables

- Propose Single Pass windows: suggest ideal return windows (FoP ~2:45–3:45; Rise ~7:15–8:15; TRON after fireworks)
- Correct outdated items: call out changes (e.g. Electrical Parade ended; new Starlight parade)
- Schedule MNSSHP flow: 4 PM entry; shop first; ride during first parade; fireworks; second parade
- Insert cooling breaks & snacks: name indoor attractions/shops; mobile-order options; water refill points
- Weather contingencies: provide indoor substitutes when Test Track or coasters close
- Group by land & minimize walking: cluster Tomorrowland → Liberty/Frontierland → Adventureland to avoid zig-zags
- Least-walking exit: recommend pick-up points and Minnie Van usage each night
- TL;DR – brief 3–5 line summary
- Aug 29 timeline – timestamps, land clusters, Single Pass windows, A/C breaks, transfers
- Aug 30 timeline – same detail as above
- Buy-Now & transport list – Single Passes, party ticket, transport playbook
- Gotchas & backups – mention risks, old VQ rules, and contingency options

Structured Outline & Quick Checklist

- Day 1 – Aug 29
- Arrival & transfer: BoardWalk → EPCOT → MK
- World Discovery block: Guardians, Test Track
- Cooling break: Connections, Creations Shop
- MK transfer & shopping: Arribas, AP merch
- Tomorrowland block: PeopleMover, TRON, Space Mountain
- Liberty/Frontier/Adventure: Haunted, Pirates, Country Bears, Dole Whip
- Fireworks & parade: MNSSHP fireworks & late parade
- Day 2 – Aug 30
- MK tap-in: quick check-in
- AK block: magnet, PB&J S'more, FoP, Everest, DINOSAUR, Dole Whip
- DHS block: Villains show, RnRC, Rise
- MK nighttime: Starlight parade & Happily Ever After fireworks
- Exact dates with year
- Resort & start time
- Walking/A-C needs & paid options
- Full must-do list per park
- Correction clause & replacements
- Expected deliverables

What the Prompt Should Have Been

- Persona & start: Expert Disney guide; low-walking, heat-smart itinerary for 2 guests; start ~1 PM
- Dates & reservations: Aug 29 – EPCOT; Aug 30 – Magic Kingdom
- Preferences & constraints: August heat; sensitive knee; Minnie Van & Friendship Boat; Lightning Lane Single Pass
- Must-dos (Day 1): Guardians, Test Track, Arribas, AP merch, TRON, Space Mountain, Haunted, Pirates, PeopleMover, Country Bears, Dole Whip, MNSSHP fireworks & parade
- Must-dos (Day 2): MK tap-in; AP magnet; PB&J S'more; FoP; Everest; DINOSAUR; Dole Whip; Villains show; RnRC; Rise; Starlight parade & fireworks
- Plan requirements: propose Single Pass windows; correct outdated items; schedule party flow; insert A/C breaks & snacks; weather contingencies; cluster by land; least-walking exit
- Deliverable format: TL;DR; Aug 29 & Aug 30 timelines; buy-now list & transport playbook; gotchas & backup plans

