

Exercise 1: role, context and what the machine fills in

Pick one tool and stay with it for the whole bootcamp: ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Le Chat, whichever you prefer. Work through these steps in order and keep every answer, because the comparisons are the point of the exercise.

Part 1 · The same question, three different ways

Start a new conversation and run the plainest possible version first. This is your control.

STEP 1 · BASELINE

explain how the EU makes laws.

Read it. Keep it. Now give the model a role, and change nothing else.

STEP 2 · ROLE A

you are an excellent communications trainer.
you're known for explaining complicated political processes in language that ordinary people can understand and remember.
explain how the EU makes laws.
keep it clear, conversational and under 120 words.

STEP 3 · ROLE B

you are an EU civil servant with 30 years of experience working with EU institutions.
you know the legislative process in great detail, you value technical precision, and you love institutional terminology and acronyms.
explain how the EU makes laws.
keep it under 120 words.

Same model. Same question. Different role. Put the two answers side by side and look at the vocabulary, the level of detail, the acronyms, what the model decided was important, and the way it speaks to you.

01 Write down three differences.

Part 2 · What the model assumes when you do not tell it

Start a new conversation. Two words are about to do a lot of work.

STEP 4

explain how the EU makes laws to my grandmother.

Read it carefully, then interrogate it. Paste this into the same conversation.

STEP 5 · THE ASSUMPTION AUDIT

analyse the answer you just gave me.

what did you assume about my grandmother even though i never told you?

look for assumptions about her age, education, literacy, profession, political knowledge, knowledge of the EU, digital literacy, where she lives, nationality, cultural background, socioeconomic background, interests, cognitive ability and the type of language she needs.

for every assumption, show me what in your answer suggests you made it.

separate reasonable inferences from unsupported assumptions.

be specific.

Sit with that answer. All you gave it was the word grandmother. Yours might be a professor, or have left school at 14, or have worked in EU affairs for thirty years, or run a company, or live in Indonesia, or Kenya, or a rural town near Cordoba, or understand the legislative process better than you do. The word carries almost no information, and the system filled the gap anyway.

02 Which assumption surprised you most, and why?

Part 3 · Replace the assumptions with information

STEP 6

explain how the EU makes laws to my grandmother.

she is 76, lives in a rural town near Cordoba, Spain, has a university education, reads the newspaper every morning and follows Spanish politics closely.

she has very little knowledge of how EU institutions work.

keep it warm and respectful.

use familiar comparisons only when they genuinely make the process clearer.

simplify based on her knowledge of the EU.

keep it under 120 words.

03 Compare the two grandmother answers.

What changed? What disappeared? What became more specific? What did the model stop assuming once you gave it real information?

The takeaway: the role you give a model shapes the answer, and the context you give it about a real human being shapes it further. Where you leave a gap, the system fills it with an assumption, and it will not tell you it did.