

Crafting effective prompts for AI image generators

Question conducted and posed to a chatbot:

What's the best way to write a prompt for an image-based AI platform like Midjourney or Leonardo.Ai?

Answer:

The best prompts for image-based AI platforms like **Midjourney** or **Leonardo.Ai** are **structured, specific, and layered**. They combine **subject + style + details + parameters** in a clear hierarchy. Think of it as writing a **cinematographer's shot list**, not a casual sentence.

The Ultimate Prompt Formula (5-Part Structure)

[Subject] + [Action/Scene] + [Style/Artistic References] + [Lighting & Mood] + [Technical Parameters] --ar [ratio] --v [version] --stylize [0-1000] --chaos [0-100]

1. Subject (Who/What)

Be **hyper-specific**. Avoid vague terms.

✗ "A warrior"

✓ "A cyber-samurai with glowing red katana, chrome armour, rain-soaked, neon reflections on visor"

Use **adjectives sparingly but powerfully**:

- Material: *obsidian, rusted, translucent, molten*
- Era: *Victorian, retro-futuristic, prehistoric*
- Emotion: *melancholic, euphoric, haunted*



2. Action/Scene (Context)

Set the **environment** and **moment**.

- ✓ *“standing on a crumbling skyscraper edge, Tokyo skyline burning at golden hour”*
- ✓ *“floating in zero gravity inside a bioluminescent coral reef spaceship”*

Use **cinematic framing**:

- *close-up portrait, Dutch angle*
- *wide aerial shot, fish-eye lens*
- *over-the-shoulder POV*

3. Style & Artistic References

Name **artists, movements, games, films** (stack 2–3 max).

- ✓ *“in the style of Syd Mead, Beeple, and Alphonse Mucha”*
- ✓ *“Studio Ghibli + Blade Runner 2049 + Art Nouveau”*

Midjourney loves:

- `--stylize 750` (artsy) vs `250` (literal)
- `--v 6` (latest model)
- `--chaos 30` (more variation)

Leonardo.Ai loves:

- **Prompt Magic v3, Alchemy, PhotoReal**
- Negative prompts: `blurry, low quality, text, watermark`

4. Lighting & Mood

This is **80% of the vibe**.

- ✓ *“volumetric god rays, rim lighting, cinematic blue-orange color grade”*



✔️ “moody fog, neon pink under glow, high contrast chiaroscuro”

Keywords:

- golden hour, overcast, bioluminescent, candlelit, starlight
- high key, low key, backlit, silhouette

5. Technical Parameters

Tailor to platform.

Midjourney

--ar 16:9 --v 6 --stylize 600 --chaos 20 --quality 2

Leonardo.Ai

- **Model:** Leonardo Vision XL, Absolute Reality, Anime Pastel Dream
- **Steps:** 30–50
- **CFG Scale:** 7–12
- **Negative Prompt:** distorted hands, extra limbs, lowres

Pro Tips by Platform

Platform	Best Practice
Midjourney	Use :: weights → cyberpunk city::2 neon lights::1 Use image prompts (upload ref + text) Remix with /remix
Leonardo.Ai	Use ControlNet (pose, depth, canny) Enable High Contrast for punchy art Use Prompt Magic v3 for smarter interpretation

Golden Prompt Examples

Fantasy (Midjourney)

Ancient dragon librarian, scales made of glowing runes, perched on floating books in a vast celestial library, bioluminescent dust, art by Studio Ghibli and James Jean, soft rim lighting, golden hour --ar 3:2 --v 6 --stylize 800

Photoreal (Leonardo.Ai)

Hyper-realistic portrait of a female astronaut, cracked helmet visor reflecting Earth, micro-scratches on glass, sweat on brow, dramatic side lighting, shot on 70mm IMAX --ar 9:16 --style photoreal --negative blurry face, cartoon

Bonus: The “Prompt Sandwich”

Start and end with **core intent**.

[CORE SUBJECT], [DETAILS], [STYLE], [MOOD] :: [WEIGHTS] --params

Example:

A lone astronaut::2, torn spacesuit, red Martian dust storm, cinematic, inspired by Denis Villeneuve --ar 16:9 --v 7

TLDR: Write like a **film director commissioning concept art**. The AI isn't guessing — you're *directing the shot*.

