

Tips for Asking Follow-up Questions to AI Chatbots

Effective communication with AI chatbots involves more than just asking initial questions. To ensure you get the most accurate, helpful, and comprehensive responses, it's crucial to ask follow-up questions that clarify, expand, and refine the information provided. This tip sheet offers practical advice on how to craft effective follow-up questions, helping you obtain relevant responses that are tailored to your needs.



1. Ask for Clarification or Expansion

If a response is too general or too brief, request further explanation or detail, as well as information about the sources accessed. For example:

- "Can you go into more detail about how photosynthesis impacts the oxygen levels in the atmosphere, and include source citations?"
- "I'm not really sure what you mean by 'neural connections.' Can you explain what neural connections are and how they relate to neuroplasticity?"
- "You talked about executive function. Can you expand on that some more? How would an activity like that help build students' executive function skills?"

2. Ask Additional Questions to Dive Deeper

Dig deeper into specific points to uncover more detailed information. For example:

- "You mentioned the water cycle includes evaporation. Can you explain how evaporation contributes to the overall cycle?"
- "I like the second idea you mentioned. Can you tell me more about how that might look?"
- "How can you connect that to real-world situations or problems that second-graders would be interested in?"

3. Provide Feedback to Help Revise Its Response

If the response isn't what you wanted or envisioned, say so! Give the chatbot feedback and tell it what you'd like to see changed. For example:

- "You wrote the rubric so that it reads *expert to novice* reading left to right. Can you switch the columns so that it reads *novice to expert* instead?"
- "Thanks for those activity ideas, but all of them require reading a text. Can you give me some ideas for activities that would be good for more auditory or kinesthetic learners?"
- "You're writing this as if the audience is the teacher. Can you rewrite it so that the audience is (grade-specific) students?"