No. 127

AI TOOLKIT SERIES · THE METHOD

Your Tool Chosen

Choose the right AI tool for each need, trial it and decide, without getting lost or wasting a subscription.

Ten prompts to frame your need, draw a shortlist, compare, test in ten minutes and make the call.

Free for the SYSTINFO community

SYSTINFO · 2026

GOOD TO KNOW

Good to know

In 2026, more than 50,000 AI tools are listed on sites like There's An AI For That, with new ones every day. The hard part is no longer finding one, it is choosing the right one. Three cues before you decide.

1. **The newest or most hyped tool is rarely the best for you.**
   A trendy tool may do nothing for your real need. Always start from the task you want to get done, not from the tool everyone is talking about.

2. **A free trial teaches you more than any ranking.**
   Reviews and top lists give a direction, not a proof. Ten minutes testing on your own task beat ten comparison articles.

3. **A free tool is often paid for with your data.**
   Before you upload a document or sensitive information, read what the tool does with it. Free almost always has a catch.

Good reflex: start from your need, test on a real task, and check what the tool does with your data before you subscribe.

THE METHOD

The Method

Five moves, ten prompts ready to copy. Frame, search, compare, test and decide, step by step, to find the tool that fits you.

1 **Frame**
01 The Need, Clarified · 02 The Criteria, Set

2 **Search**
03 The Shortlist · 04 The Tool, Decoded

3 **Compare**
05 The Clear Comparison · 06 Reviews Untangled

4 **Test**
07 The Ten-Minute Test · 08 The Trap, Avoided

5 **Decide**
09 Free or Paid · 10 The Choice, Made

THE RCTFE RECIPE

Every prompt follows the same recipe: Role, Context, Task, Format. Copy the structure, change the brackets.

PROMPT 01 · FRAME

The Need, Clarified

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are an AI-tools expert.
Context: I am looking for an AI tool to [the task, in one sentence]. I do not know where to start.
Task: help me describe my need precisely before I search for a tool.
Format: the need in one sentence, the expected result, how often I will use it, and 3 keywords to search with.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A clear need instead of a vague wish. You know what to look for and how to name your task.

PROMPT 02 · FRAME

The Criteria, Set

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are a tool-selection advisor.
Context: I want to compare AI tools for [my need], but on
solid ground.
Task: help me set my non-negotiable criteria.
Format: 5 ranked criteria (budget, language, privacy,
device, simplicity), each with my minimum threshold.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A decision grid of your own. You rule out tools that miss the essentials right away.

PROMPT 03 · SEARCH

The Shortlist

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are an AI-focused researcher.
Context: for [my need] and my criteria, I want a selection from trusted directories (There's An AI For That, for one), not 50 links.
Task: suggest a shortlist of tools to study.
Format: 5 tools maximum, one line each (what it does, free or paid), and where to check the facts.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A shortlist cut down to human size. You go from the jungle to five serious options to compare.

PROMPT 04 · SEARCH

The Tool, Decoded

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are a digital-tools analyst.
Context: I am looking at [tool name], but its sales page stays vague.
Task: help me understand what it really does.
Format: what it does in plain words, its limits, what it costs, and who it is not made for.
```

WHAT YOU GET

The real face of a tool behind its marketing pitch. You know whether it deserves a test.

PROMPT 05 · COMPARE

The Clear Comparison

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are a comparison analyst.
Context: I hesitate between [tool A], [tool B] and [tool C]
for [my need].
Task: compare them on my criteria, no jargon.
Format: a simple table (price, language, privacy, ease),
each one's strong point, and your provisional verdict.
```

WHAT YOU GET

Three tools laid side by side. You see at a glance which one fits your criteria best.

PROMPT 06 · COMPARE

Reviews Untangled

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are an online-review investigator.
Context: reviews of [the tool] run from genius to scam, I
do not know who to believe.
Task: help me tell real feedback from hype.
Format: the complaints that recur, the credible praise, the
signs of a fake review, and 2 questions to ask a real user.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A clean split between lived experience and disguised advertising. You decide on facts, not noise.

PROMPT 07 · TEST

The Ten-Minute Test

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are a tool-onboarding coach.
Context: I want to try [the tool] on a real task: [the task], without spending the day on it.
Task: give me a fast test protocol.
Format: the real task to submit, 3 things to watch, the result that says yes, and the one that says no.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A framed trial instead of a random click. In ten minutes, you know if the tool keeps its promises.

PROMPT 08 · TEST

The Trap, Avoided

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are a digital-subscription expert.
Context: before I commit to [the tool], I want to spot the hidden traps.
Task: list the costs and risks I will not see at first glance.
Format: hidden fees and auto-renewal, use of my data, how hard it is to leave, and the questions to check before paying.
```

WHAT YOU GET

The pitfalls brought to light before the credit card. You avoid the subscription you can never cancel.

PROMPT 09 · DECIDE

Free or Paid

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are a tool-budget advisor.
Context: [the tool] has a free version and a paid one, I am not sure I should pay.
Task: help me decide free or paid for my use.
Format: what the free version is enough for, what paid truly adds, and the usage threshold that justifies paying.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A costed decision on the right level of plan. You pay only if your use earns it.

PROMPT 10 · DECIDE

The Choice, Made

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are a decision advisor.
Context: I have compared and tested tools for [my need], I
want to settle it.
Task: help me make my choice and start well.
Format: the tool chosen and why, the plan to take, the
first 3 actions, and when to review again.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A choice owned rather than endless hesitation. You adopt a tool and actually use it.

No. 127

YOUR TURN

Need First

You now know how to choose an AI tool end to end: frame your need and criteria, draw a shortlist, compare, test in ten minutes, then decide free or paid. Ten prompts, one recipe to reuse.

Start from the need before the tool, test on a real task, and check the true price and the fate of your data before you subscribe.

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