No. 136

AI MASTERY SERIES · THE METHOD

Your Chat Refined

The AI's first answer is rarely its best: the real result is won in the exchanges that follow.

Ten follow-ups ready to copy, to turn an average answer into exactly what you need, without ever starting over.

Free for the SYSTINFO community

SYSTINFO · 2026

GOOD TO KNOW

Good to know

By 2026, AI assistants are more powerful than ever, but their first answer is still a draft. Quality does not come from the perfect prompt on the first try, it comes from the exchange: sharpen, correct, reshape. Most people stop too soon, settle for an average answer or start again from scratch. Three cues to get the best out of the conversation.

1. **The first answer is a draft, not a verdict.**
   The AI expects you to react. Instead of taking it or binning it, tell it what works and what does not: the second answer is almost always better.

2. **AI does not guess what it is missing.**
   A vague answer often comes from a vague request. Give it the forgotten detail, an example or your real situation, and it adjusts at once.

3. **It all happens in the same thread.**
   The AI remembers the current conversation, not the others. Follow up in the same thread to refine, and open a new one only when you change subject.

Good reflex: instead of starting over, tell the AI what is wrong and what you want instead.

THE METHOD

The Method

Five moves, ten follow-ups ready to copy. Start from the AI's answer, give it what it was missing, reshape the result to the right format and tone, correct its mistakes, then keep what works. Each follow-up is typed in the same thread, right after its answer.

1 **Re-ask**
01 The Targeted Redo · 02 The Notch Higher

2 **Sharpen**
03 The Context Added · 04 The Example Given

3 **Reshape**
05 The Right Length · 06 The Tone Adjusted

4 **Correct**
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5 **Lock in**
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THE RCTFE RECIPE

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

FOLLOW-UP 01 · RE-ASK

The Targeted Redo

FOLLOW-UP TO COPY

```
Role: you are still the assistant who just answered me.
Context: your answer almost works for me, except [the part to redo].
Task: keep everything else exactly as is and redo only that part.
Format: the full corrected answer, and in one line what you changed.
```

WHAT YOU GET

You keep what works and only rework the weak spot, without starting over or rereading everything.

The Notch Higher

FOLLOW-UP TO COPY

```
Role: you are a demanding expert on [my subject].
Context: your answer is correct but too general to be
useful to me.
Task: redo it sharper, with concrete details and an
example.
Format: the same outline, each point developed and
illustrated, plus what you might have missed.
```

WHAT YOU GET

An answer that moves from a flyover to something usable. The question “what did you miss” surfaces the missing essentials.

FOLLOW-UP 03 · SHARPEN

The Context Added

FOLLOW-UP TO COPY

```
Role: you are the assistant helping me with [my task].
Context: here is what you did not know and it changes
everything: [my real situation, my constraints].
Task: redo your answer taking these into account.
Format: an answer fitted to my case, flagging what changes
from your previous version.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A tailored answer instead of a one-size-fits-all. A vague answer often comes from a request that was missing the essentials.

FOLLOW-UP 04 · SHARPEN

The Example Given

FOLLOW-UP TO COPY

```
Role: you are the assistant who must match my taste.
Context: here is an example of what I expect: [model, excerpt, style].
Task: redo your answer so it resembles this example.
Format: the same result, but in the format, tone and level of detail of my example.
```

WHAT YOU GET

AI aims true when it sees the target. One example beats a long explanation of what you want.

FOLLOW-UP 05 · RESHAPE

The Right Length

FOLLOW-UP TO COPY

```
Role: you are the assistant who sets my answer to the right format.
Context: your answer is [too long, too short] for my use.
Task: give it back in [three sentences, one page, five points].
Format: only the text resized, with no extra introduction or conclusion.
```

WHAT YOU GET

The same substance, at the size you need. You choose the length, the AI complies in one follow-up.

The Tone Adjusted

FOLLOW-UP TO COPY

```
Role: you are the assistant who adapts the tone to the reader.
Context: this answer will be read by [a manager, a client, a loved one].
Task: rewrite it in a [simpler, more formal, warmer] tone.
Format: the same message, tone adjusted, without changing the facts or the figures.
```

WHAT YOU GET

The same content, dressed for the right person. The substance stays, the form adapts to who will read you.

FOLLOW-UP 07 · CORRECT

The Error Flagged

FOLLOW-UP TO COPY

```
Role: you are the assistant who corrects without bristling.
Context: there is an error in your answer: [what is wrong,
what I meant].
Task: fix that point and check the rest still holds.
Format: the corrected answer, the changed line highlighted,
and what the error implied elsewhere.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A clean fix instead of a misunderstanding that lingers. Saying exactly what is off beats a bare “no, redo it”.

FOLLOW-UP 08 · CORRECT

The Counter-Check

FOLLOW-UP TO COPY

```
Role: you are your own harshest critic.
Context: before I use your answer, I want its weak spots.
Task: list what could be wrong, debatable or incomplete,
and give the opposite view.
Format: the limits of your answer, a skeptic's objections,
and what to check elsewhere.
```

WHAT YOU GET

Your answer put through the wringer by the AI itself. The flaws surface before they cost you, the rest is checked at the source.

FOLLOW-UP 09 · LOCK IN

The Options Compared

FOLLOW-UP TO COPY

```
Role: you are the assistant who offers me options.
Context: I have no preferred version and I want to choose.
Task: offer three clearly different versions of [the
answer, the message, the plan].
Format: three short variants, a title each, and one line on
when to pick which.
```

WHAT YOU GET

Three paths to compare instead of one to take or leave. Often, the right answer is a blend of the three.

FOLLOW-UP 10 · LOCK IN

The Recipe Saved

FOLLOW-UP TO COPY

```
Role: you are the assistant who saves me time next time.
Context: this answer finally works for me and I will make
this kind of request again.
Task: turn our exchange into a reusable instruction, ready
to paste again.
Format: a template prompt with the brackets to fill, and
the list of details to give upfront.
```

WHAT YOU GET

The good result becomes a template to reuse. You no longer reinvent the request every time.

No. 136

YOUR TURN

The Next Round

You now know how to turn an average answer into exactly what you need: re-ask on one point, add the missing context, reshape to the right format and tone, correct the mistakes, and keep what works for next time.

The quality of an answer does not rest on the perfect first prompt, but on the two or three follow-ups that come after.

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