No. 141

AI MASTERY SERIES · THE METHOD

Compare, Then Choose

Two plans, three quotes, five schools: instead of dithering, turn it into a clear table. The AI compares, you decide.

Ten prompts ready to copy to turn any hard choice into a sharp, numbers-based comparison with the traps removed.

Free for the SYSTINFO community

SYSTINFO · 2026

GOOD TO KNOW

Good to know

In 2026, assistants compare for you: they list the options, line up the features and build a table in seconds. A real help to decide without losing an evening, as long as you keep three cues in mind.

1. **The AI compares, but you set what matters.**
   Price, length, distance, reliability: it is up to you to say what weighs most. Without your criteria, the table means nothing.

2. **A comparison is only as good as its facts.**
   A wrong price or an invented feature skews the whole ranking. Demand sources and check the two or three figures that decide.

3. **The 'best' does not exist in the absolute, only for you.**
   Beware ready-made 'top 10' rankings: the right choice depends on your budget, your use and your constraints.

Good reflex: before you decide, check for yourself the two or three figures that tip the balance (real price, commitment, hidden fees).

THE METHOD

The Method

Five moves, ten prompts ready to copy. Frame the decision, choose your criteria, gather comparable facts, build the table, defuse the traps, then decide. Each prompt is typed to your AI assistant, and you keep the final say on the choice.

1 Frame
01 The Decision Set · 02 The Criteria That Matter

2 Gather
03 The Options Listed · 04 The Card For Each Option

3 Compare
05 The Comparison Table · 06 The Weighted Score

4 Defuse
07 The Marketing Trap · 08 The Hidden Cost

5 Decide
09 The Doubt Test · 10 The Owned Decision

THE RCTFE RECIPE

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

PROMPT 01 · FRAME

The Decision Set

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are an adviser helping me set a decision clearly.
Context: I must choose between several [products, offers,
schools] for [use, budget].
Task: rephrase the decision in one sentence and say what
makes it hard.
Format: the decision in one sentence, then the two or three
trade-offs to settle.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A sharp decision instead of fuzzy dithering. You can only compare well what you have first named clearly.

PROMPT 02 · FRAME

The Criteria That Matter

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are an adviser helping me list my real criteria.
Context: for this choice, here is what matters to me:
[price, length, quality, distance...].
Task: offer five to seven criteria and help me give each a
weight out of 100.
Format: a table: criterion, weight, why it matters to me.
```

WHAT YOU GET

The lens for everything else. Giving each criterion a weight is deciding in advance what will tip the balance.

PROMPT 03 · GATHER

The Options Listed

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are an investigator drawing up a list of serious options.
Context: my decision is [paste the decision] and my budget is [amount].
Task: offer four to six realistic options, neither too pricey nor off topic.
Format: a short list: option name, one line, and its indicative price.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A realistic spread instead of two famous names. Keeping three to five options avoids comparing in a void or drowning.

The Card For Each Option

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are a librarian filling in comparable cards.
Context: here are my options [the list] and my criteria
[the chosen criteria].
Task: for each option, fill every criterion with a sourced
fact.
Format: one card per option, one criterion per line, each
fact followed by its source.
```

WHAT YOU GET

The raw material, option by option. Demanding a source per fact is how you can check before trusting the table.

PROMPT 05 · COMPARE

The Comparison Table

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are an analyst putting it all in one table.
Context: here are the option cards and the list of
criteria: [paste them].
Task: lay it all in a table: options as columns, criteria
as rows.
Format: a readable table, an empty cell if info is missing,
no making things up.
```

WHAT YOU GET

The whole choice on one screen. An empty cell is useful information: it shows where you still lack a fact.

PROMPT 06 · COMPARE

The Weighted Score

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are an analyst who computes an honest score.
Context: here is the table and the weight of each
criterion: [paste them].
Task: rate each option per criterion, apply the weights and
rank it all.
Format: the ranking, each option's score, and the rating
rule you used.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A ranking built on your priorities, not a hunch. The score does not rule, it informs: keep the last word for yourself.

PROMPT 07 · DEFUSE

The Marketing Trap

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are a wary consumer advocate.
Context: here are the sales pitches for my favourite
option: [paste them].
Task: spot the misleading phrases, the fake 'best value'
and the vagueness.
Format: a short list: the claim, what it hides, the
question to ask.
```

WHAT YOU GET

The marketing gloss scraped off. An offer that shines mostly in its own ad deserves one more question before you pick it.

PROMPT 08 · DEFUSE

The Hidden Cost

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are an adviser who computes the real total cost.
Context: here is my favourite option and how long I plan to use it: [details].
Task: list the hidden fees, the commitment and the total cost over time.
Format: a simple sum: list price, added fees, total cost, per year.
```

WHAT YOU GET

The real price, not the window one. The cheapest to buy is sometimes the dearest to use, once the fees add up.

PROMPT 09 · DECIDE

The Doubt Test

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are a kind devil's advocate.
Context: my ranking puts [option] first: [summary of the table].
Task: give me the best reasons not to choose it.
Format: three objections, and for each what would confirm or lift it.
```

WHAT YOU GET

Your choice put to the test. A good choice withstands its own objections; a weak one falls at the first.

PROMPT 10 · DECIDE

The Owned Decision

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are an adviser helping me decide and own it.
Context: here is my table, my ranking and my doubts
cleared: [paste them].
Task: recommend one option, in a sentence, and say what
would change my mind.
Format: the recommendation, the reason in one line, and the
signal that would reopen it.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A clear decision, and the tipping point that would say to revisit it. To choose is also to know in advance what would change your mind.

No. 141

YOUR TURN

Your Choice, Clarified

You now know how to compare any options with AI: frame the decision, choose your criteria, gather sourced facts, build a weighted table, defuse the traps, and decide with confidence.

The AI lines up the options and computes; you set what matters and you decide. The table lights the choice, it does not make it for you.

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