

Systems Thinking Mindset for AI

Outcome, input, context, review, and update loops instead of prompt hacks.

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If prompts feel random, do not blame yourself. Start with a small loop: clear input, useful output, review, and one update for next time.

The six questions

1. What outcome do I want?
2. What inputs does the AI need?
3. What process should it follow?
4. What constraints and red lines apply?
5. How will I review the output?
6. What should update for next time?

The practical loop

Outcome → input → context → draft → review → update.

That loop works for notes, content, research, decisions, weekly reviews, and learning practical subjects.

The learning prompt

Teach me this like a practical system.

Topic/workflow: [what I want to learn]

Outcome I want: [what I should be able to do]

My current level: [beginner/intermediate/what I already know]

Constraints: [time, tools, budget, platform, risks]

Please:

1. explain the mental model;
2. show the workflow step by step;
3. give 3 examples;
4. quiz me to find gaps;
5. correct my understanding;
6. give me one small practice task;
7. define how I verify whether I did it correctly;
8. suggest how to update my notes/prompts after the attempt;
9. keep risky actions draft-only and flag anything that needs owner approval.

Do not make therapy, counselling, diagnosis, treatment, medical, legal, financial, tax, crisis, regulated-advice, or guaranteed-outcome claims.

Better than “be smarter”

Instead of: “Make this better.”

Say:

- Here is the audience.
- Here is the goal.
- Here is what must not happen.
- Here are examples.
- Here is what a good answer looks like.
- Here is how I will review it.

Update after use

After every serious use, add one small instruction to your context card or prompt menu. Remove stale instructions weekly.

Important boundary

DWAI shares practical AI and AI-developer-path resources for thinking, drafting, organizing, researching, reviewing, learning, coding, debugging, testing, building small AI apps, and shipping owner-controlled projects. This is not therapy, counselling, diagnosis, ADHD or addiction treatment, medical advice, legal advice, financial advice, tax advice, crisis support, regulated professional advice, or a guarantee of clarity, productivity, income, saved time, business results, jobs, clients, or any personal outcome. AI outputs are drafts. The owner approves risky action.

How to use this download

Use this resource for: Outcome, input, context, review, and update loops instead of prompt hacks.

- If you are new, start with the 20-Minute AI Starter Workflow, then use the full book and workbook as your main path.
- Keep the Owner Approval Checklist nearby before acting on anything risky.
- Use PDF for reading/printing, HTML for browser reading, and Markdown/TXT for AI study sources where available.
- Treat AI outputs as drafts. Use PASS / HOLD before money, accounts, public posts, deletes, deploys, customer/private data, code changes, or regulated claims.

Optional: learn it with NotebookLM

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4. If your NotebookLM account has **Video Overview**, generate one for a video-style walk-through. If Video Overview is not available, use Audio Overview, briefing docs, study guides, or source-grounded Q&A instead.
5. Check NotebookLM's answer against the source citations before acting. AI study aids are drafts, not owner approval.

Do **not** upload completed workbook pages, context cards, customer/private data, private business records, passwords, API keys, 2FA or recovery codes, medical, legal, financial, tax, crisis, or sensitive personal details unless you have intentionally replaced them with placeholders and accept the tool's data terms.

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