

# AI Prompt Guide for Image Editing

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**Prompts** are English commands written by you to describe what you want AI to perform on your image. These are the keys to good results.

**Clear and concise.** Don't worry about grammar or punctuation – think of it like a conversation with another person. We tend to talk in run-on sentences with little punctuation. That is ok, AI understands us, but it cannot read minds. If you are unclear, AI's mandate is still to do something, even if it is wrong.

## Avoid Hallucinations

The biggest challenge is that the AI program may change critical portions of an image. The most frequent problem is changing a person's face, even replacing it with another. Occasionally, a new element might be added. These occurrences are known as *hallucinations*, and they are most likely to occur when the image to be restored is severely damaged, low-resolution, blurry, or otherwise difficult to fix.

## Using Negative (or Restrictive) Statements

One way to reduce the unwanted changes is to specify that original elements (e.g., faces) are not to be replaced. Some applications give up too quickly during face restoration and substitute one from their database. A *negative* prompt tells the program NOT to do something. Specifying that the original face must be kept makes the application work harder, which is its job. See a list of negative prompts below.

## Sample Prompts

These are common restoration tasks. Include multiple commands in a script if the restoration is complex.

### General Restoration Prompts

*Keep original faces, expressions, and clothing.*

*Keep the current scene and background.*

*Remove scratches, creases, and blemishes from this image.*

*Increase contrast, sharpen.*

*Restore and enhance this old, damaged photo.*

*Recreate missing corners or other pieces of the photo.*

*Restore natural colors.*

*Remove noise and dust from image. [Note: this can smooth an image too much sometimes.]*

### Sketch Prompts

*Create a Pencil Sketch of this photo.*

*Apply Hatching Sketch style to this photo.*

*Create a PhotoRealism Sketch of photo.*

### Painting Prompts

*Paint in the Frederic Remington style. [Use any artist name]*

*Apply a Norman Rockwell style of painting to the portraits, do not change scene. [Use any artist]*

*Apply Renaissance painting style. [Use any style]*

*Create a colorized version with 1950s colors. [Specify any timeframe]*

## Add-on Commands to Any Prompt

*Lighten [or darken] image, restore natural lighting.*

*Remove dark background from photo.*

*Increase contrast.*

*Apply [or remove] a sepia tone. [or any color]*

*Convert to a rich gray-scale tone.*

[Add custom prompts to address a specific problem or desire]

## Negative (or restrictive) Commands

*Keep (or retain) current faces, expressions, and clothes.*

*Keep the current scene and background.*

*Do not change people and clothing.*

*Do not add new image items or props.*

## Compound Prompt Examples (Typical)

*Repair large cracks in the photo, reduce sepia tint, increase contrast, sharpen image.*

*Restore tintype photo, lighten and increase contrast, remove noise,.*

## Construct Your Own Prompt

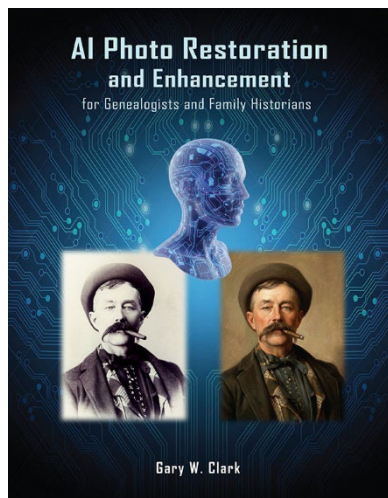
Here are some keywords used in prompts.

**Verbs:** restore, apply, create, enhance, reconstruct, increase, decrease, remove, correct, sharpen

**Objects:** scratches, noise, blemishes, cracks, fading, colors, contrast

## Gallery Examples

[Phototree.com's AI galleries](https://www.phototree.com) feature before-and-after image treatments and their prompts. Three galleries include **Restoration**, **Sketches**, and **Painting**. [www.phototree.com](https://www.phototree.com)



*AI Photo Restoration and Enhancement – For Genealogists and Family Historians*

Available on Amazon.com.

*Beware of AI Effects,  
Your Author*

(Created with ChatGPT)

