

# The Complete Guide to **PROMPTING MIDJOURNEY**

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# Contents

<b>PART 01</b> The Essence of Midjourney Prompting .....	3
Descriptive Language Is Key .....	3
Mix and Match Styles for Unique Results .....	3
Resolution & Aspect Ratios .....	3
<b>Part 02</b> Mastering the Art Styles and Themes .....	4
Exploring Genre-Specific Styles: .....	4
Art Deco & Other Styles: .....	4
Pro-Tips for Unique Results: .....	5
Retrowave: .....	5
Naive Art: .....	5
Watercolor Sketch: .....	5
Cinema Directors' Styles: .....	5
Diagrammatic Drawing and Infographic Drawing: .....	6
Camera Lenses and Specifications: .....	6
<b>Part 3</b> Delving Deeper: Advanced Parameters and Techniques .....	7
Mastering Aspect Ratios: .....	7
Emulating Camera Lenses: .....	7
Advanced Coloring Techniques: .....	7
Combining Styles for Unique Outcomes: .....	8
Tweaking Details with Versioning: .....	8
Pro-Tip for Precise Details: .....	8
Dynamic Style Mergers: "A as B" Technique: .....	8
Color Restriction with DuoTon: .....	8
Interrupted Rendering with –stop: .....	9
<b>Part 4</b> Mastering the Midjourney Workflow for Optimal Results .....	10
Start Simple, Then Refine: .....	10
Mix and Match Styles and Themes: .....	10
Use Real-world References: .....	10
Harness the Power of 'A as B': .....	11
Always Experiment: .....	11
Feedback Loop: .....	11
Stay Updated: .....	11
<b>Appendix 1</b> Categorical Examples for Different Levels of Prompts .....	12
<b>Appendix 2</b> Few Shot Examples Used while RLHF Training .....	15
About the Author .....	19

# PART 01

## The Essence of Midjourney Prompting

At its core, Midjourney is a creative AI tool that takes written prompts to produce visual masterpieces. Like a skilled artist who needs direction, Midjourney thrives on clear and descriptive instructions.

### Descriptive Language Is Key

The level of detail you provide can transform the result.

For example:

- Basic: "a cat"
- Better: "a cat looking on top of the world"
- Good: "An image of a cat looking at it and 'on **top** of the world', in the style of cyberpunk futurism"
- PRO: "Galaxy whirlpool that swallows a cat looking on top of the world, mixed with styles like Erik Jones, cyberpunk futurism, vibrant color fields, and hyper-detailed."

### Mix and Match Styles for Unique Results

The beauty of Midjourney lies in its ability to combine different artistic styles. For instance:

- Merging "retro games" with "surrealism" might produce an old-school pixelated dreamscape.
- Integrating "cubism" with "phantasmal iridescent" could result in geometric shapes with iridescent lights.

### Resolution & Aspect Ratios

- Don't just think of these as technical details. They influence the composition and quality of your result.
  - **8K** - Ultra-high definition, perfect for large prints or detailed views.
  - **--ar 16:9** - A widescreen format, ideal for desktop wallpapers or TV displays.

# Part 02

## Mastering the Art Styles and Themes

One of Midjourney's most notable features is its vast library of art styles and themes. This section will delve into how to expertly navigate these styles to create unique and engaging visual content.

### Exploring Genre-Specific Styles:

- **Retro Games:** Feel nostalgic with pixelated designs. For instance, a "**1990s point and click 16bit adventure**" will evoke the essence of old-school gaming.
- **Surrealism:** Dreamy, whimsical landscapes are the hallmark of this style. Imagine a "**15th century priest driving a spaceship under the sea**" - that's the power of surrealism!
- **Cubism:** Characterized by vibrant colors and geometric shapes. Envision a "**labrador dog in a spacesuit on the moon**".
- **Cyberpunk:** Dive into a futuristic metropolis influenced by classics like Blade Runner. A "**street-food seller selling popcorn to a robot in a rainy city**" would be a fitting representation.

### Art Deco & Other Styles:

- Immerse in the 1920s-30s aesthetics with "**The Eiffel Tower surrounded by floating islands in the style of Art Deco**".
- Other styles to explore:
  - **Retrowave** for neon lights: "**A retrowave portrait of a dormouse mouse**".
  - **DuoTon** for two-colored designs.
  - **Infographic drawing** to create detailed schematic illustrations.

### Pro-Tips for Unique Results:

- For a softer look, use the **-stop parameter** to blur the rendering slightly before its completion. It's especially handy as Midjourney can sometimes struggle with rendering text perfectly.
- Specifying camera lenses or emulating styles of renowned cinema directors can also refine your result.

### Retrowave:

- Dive into the neon-soaked aesthetics reminiscent of the 80s with this style.
- Example: "**A retrowave portrait of a lion against a neon cityscape**".

### Naive Art:

- This style is playful and childlike, perfect for illustrations that require a sense of wonder and simplicity.
- Example: "**A group of animals having a picnic in the style of Naive Art**".

### Watercolor Sketch:

- Combining the delicate strokes of watercolors with sketch details, this style is both subtle and intricate.
- Example: "**A bustling city street in the rain as a watercolor sketch**".

### Cinema Directors' Styles:

- Capture the unique visual storytelling techniques of famous directors.
- Example: "**A deserted highway at dusk in the style of Quentin Tarantino**".

### Diagrammatic Drawing and Infographic Drawing:

- Turn complex ideas into simple, engaging visuals with this illustrative style.
- Example: **"An infographic drawing showcasing the lifecycle of a butterfly"**.

### Camera Lenses and Specifications:

- Emulate the effects of specific camera lenses for ultra-realistic, high-definition images.
- Example: **"A majestic mountain range shot with a Nikon D850, 50mm lens, f/1.8"**.

## Part 3

# Delving Deeper: Advanced Parameters and Techniques

Midjourney's power lies in its adaptability, letting you tailor your creative experience. This section will guide you through advanced parameters and techniques to elevate your prompts.

### Mastering Aspect Ratios:

- Aspect ratios (`--ar`) dictate the width-to-height proportions of your image. For example, `--ar 3:2` produces an image three units wide by two units high.
- Utilizing aspect ratios can help ensure that the final image perfectly fits the desired medium, be it a widescreen monitor, mobile screen, or print canvas.

### Emulating Camera Lenses:

- You can evoke different moods and perspectives by specifying certain camera lens characteristics. For instance, a **"photorealistic image shot with Canon EOS R5"** can yield a specific clarity and detail depth.

### Advanced Coloring Techniques:

- **Phantasmal Iridescent**: This technique introduces a unique mix of iridescent, white, blue, and pinkish hues, apt for niche illustrations. For instance, **"A close-up portrait of an elegant female vampire in a library staring at the moon by the window, phantasmal iridescent"** results in a moody, ethereal tone.
- **Layered Paper**: For textured outcomes, **"Layered paper of bubbles, pastel tones, sparkles of blue paint"** creates a layered, crafty effect.

### Combining Styles for Unique Outcomes:

- Blend multiple styles or themes to produce distinctive visuals. "**Galaxy whirlpool that swallows astronauts and cats, 32-bit isometric combined with cyberpunk futurism**" is a fascinating blend of retro gaming and futuristic themes.

### Tweaking Details with Versioning:

- The versioning parameter (`--v`) lets you iterate on a theme, providing slight variations with each version. For instance, if you're unsure about the exact appearance of an "**eccentric Japanese flower guy**", use `--v 5.2` to get a slightly different take than `--v 5.1`.

### Pro-Tip for Precise Details:

- Combine art styles with detailed descriptions for pinpoint accuracy. "**A wooden cabin in an oak forest in Bauhaus style, hyper realistic, volumetric lighting --ar 3:2**" gives Midjourney explicit instructions on the design, style, lighting, and aspect ratio.

### Dynamic Style Mergers: "A as B" Technique:

- This technique allows you to reimagine an object or entity as something entirely different, merging the characteristics of both.
- Example: "**A rabbit as a train conductor**". Here, the AI will generate an image of a rabbit embodying the characteristics or attire of a train conductor.

### Color Restriction with DuoTon:

- If you're aiming for a minimalist or specific palette, the "DuoTon" style helps craft designs using only two colors.
- Example: "**A serene lakeside sunset, DuoTon with shades of blue and orange**".



## Interrupted Rendering with `-stop`:

- The `-stop` parameter can be employed to deliberately halt the rendering process, giving images a slightly unfinished or blurred effect. This is especially useful when text rendering gets too precise, making it look unnatural.
- Example: "**Infographic drawing of a medieval warrior armor - stop at 90% completion**". This will halt the rendering just before full completion, lending a slightly rough finish.

## Part 4

# Mastering the Midjourney Workflow for Optimal Results

The final part of our guide focuses on integrating all that you've learned and creating a seamless workflow. As you venture further into Midjourney's realm, these tips and practices will ensure you harness the platform's full potential:

### Start Simple, Then Refine:

- Begin with a basic prompt. Analyze the result, then add or adjust parameters based on what you desire. This iterative approach often yields the best outcomes.
- Example: Start with "**Countryside landscape**". If it's too vague, refine: "**Countryside landscape at dawn with fog --ar 16:9**".

### Mix and Match Styles and Themes:

- Don't be afraid to combine seemingly unrelated styles or themes. Sometimes, the most unexpected combinations produce the most captivating results.
- Example: "**A medieval knight in a cyberpunk cityscape, Cubism meets Steampunk**".

### Use Real-world References:

- If you're aiming for a specific look, it can be helpful to reference real-world artists, directors, or periods.
- Example: "**A bustling marketplace in the style of Quentin Tarantino**".

### Harness the Power of 'A as B':

- One of Midjourney's unique features is its ability to reinterpret one thing as another. This can lead to some fascinating and whimsical creations.
- Example: "**A cat as a Victorian-era detective**".

### Always Experiment:

- The beauty of Midjourney is the vastness of possibilities. Don't hesitate to try wild or unconventional prompts. Even if they don't produce the desired result initially, they can lead you to unexpected gems.

### Feedback Loop:

- After receiving an image, evaluate what you like and dislike about it. Use this feedback to tweak your next prompt. Over time, this iterative process will sharpen your prompting skills.

### Stay Updated:

- Platforms like Midjourney are continuously evolving. Keep abreast of updates, new features, and community tips. The platform's community often shares new findings, styles, and prompt hacks that can be invaluable.

# Appendix 1

## Categorical Examples for Different Levels of Prompts

Delving deeper into crafting effective prompts helps harness the full potential of Midjourney's AI capabilities. Let's break down the prompts into detailed categories:

### 1. Basic Prompts:

- Introduce style, emotion, or a specific scenario.
  - **Mountain Landscape:** Rocky landscape bathed in the golden hues of sunset, rendered in watercolor.
  - **Urban Cat:** A calico cat perched on a brick wall, staring intently at a butterfly, with graffiti art in the backdrop.
  - **City Ambience:** A bustling downtown scene during the rainy evening, streets gleaming with the neon lights of signboards.
  - **Determined Explorer:** A young woman with a leather jacket and a map, navigating a dense rainforest, in comic-book style illustration.

### 2. Advance Prompts:

- Comprehensive prompts blending styles, emotions, colors, and specific scenarios.
  - **Winter Wonderland:** Snow-covered town square, children building snowmen, vendors selling hot cocoa, under the glow of vintage street lamps, evoking nostalgia and in the style of 1950s Christmas postcards – ar 4:3.
  - **Haunted Mansion:** A grand, dilapidated mansion, overgrown with ivy, ghosts peeking from broken windows, a full moon casting eerie shadows, in Tim Burton's whimsical and gothic style – ar 16:9.
  - **Cyber Bazaar:** A futuristic market street, vendors selling robotic parts, holograms advertising exotic wares, crowds with augmented reality glasses, in a vibrant, cyberpunk aesthetic – ar 21:9.

- **Mystical Forest:** Dense forest with trees bearing luminous fruits, mythical creatures like unicorns and griffins roaming, a crystal-clear stream reflecting the starry night sky, in a blend of Art Nouveau and fantasy styles – ar 3:2.

### 3. Professional Level:

- Extremely detailed prompts that merge multiple styles, scenarios, and intricate specifics.
  - **Steampunk Seashore:** A coastal town where the beach meets cobbled streets, Victorian buildings with steam-powered gears and rotating signs, children flying kites shaped like airships, fishermen reeling in clockwork fish, all painted in the detailed strokes reminiscent of Jules Verne's book covers, bathed in the warm sepia tones of sunset – ar 18:9.
  - **Surreal Space Odyssey:** A juxtaposition of ancient Greek temples floating in space, astronauts having philosophical debates with holographic philosophers like Plato, galaxies swirling in patterns mirroring Van Gogh's Starry Night, all set against a backdrop of a nebula bursting with colors from phantasmal iridescent palette – ar 21:9.
  - **Renaissance Reimagined:** A bustling 15th-century market, but with hover stalls, Leonardo da Vinci showcasing a new drone invention, citizens in period attire clicking selfies, all rendered in meticulous detail that would rival the Sistine Chapel, with a touch of modern, digital art flair – ar 4:3.
  - **Post-apocalyptic Utopia:** A world recovering after a catastrophe, nature reclaiming cities, skyscrapers covered in vines with waterfalls cascading from them, tribes of humans and humanoid robots farming together, all depicted in a hybrid style of Cubism and Manga, conveying a sense of hope amidst despair – ar 16:10.
  - **Ancient City Underwater:** Dive deep into an underwater city resembling ancient Rome. Colossal stone structures, half-eroded statues, and mysterious inscriptions – all illuminated by shafts of sunlight piercing through the water's surface. Render this in hyper-realistic detail with a Canon EOS R5-

like lens effect focusing on the algae-covered columns and a school of fish darting past, using a depth-of-field technique to blur the background ruins – ar 18:9.

- **Safari at Dawn:** The golden hour at an African safari. Elephants, lions, and zebras roam the savannah, while acacia trees cast long shadows. The beauty of this scene should be captured in a photorealistic style akin to a shot from a Nikon D850, using a wide-angle lens perspective to encompass the vastness of the landscape. Add a lens flare effect from the rising sun in the horizon, and a slight mist to give depth – ar 21:9.
- **Metropolitan Nightlife:** A bustling New York street at night. Neon signs, yellow taxis, crowds in fashionable attire, and street performers. Crafted in a hyper-realistic style, mimicking a shot from a Sony Alpha A7 III. Use a bokeh effect for the distant city lights, creating a vibrant yet slightly blurred backdrop, with a crisp foreground focus on a jazz musician playing a saxophone on the sidewalk – ar 16:9.
- **Enchanted Forest Glade:** A secluded forest clearing bathed in moonlight, where mythical creatures like elves and fairies gather. An ancient stone altar stands in the center, surrounded by luminous flowers. Capture this magical moment in an ultra-realistic style, emulating a long-exposure shot taken with a Fujifilm X-T4, where the glowing wings of fairies appear as soft luminescent trails, and the night sky showcases star trails circling the North Star – ar 3:2.

# Appendix 2

## Few Shot Examples Used while RLHF Training

Few-shot learning is a method where the model is trained with a limited dataset. For this guide, specific prompts were provided to teach the model the intricacies of Midjourney's prompting mechanism. Here are some of the example RLHF:

- 1) **Command 1:** Generate an image of a futuristic cityscape reminiscent of a world where technology has overtaken nature.
  - a) **Prompt 1.1:** `"/imagine A sprawling metropolis where skyscrapers touch the sky and neon lights replace the stars, technology has overpowered nature, in the style of cyberpunk futurism --ar 16:9"`
  - b) **Prompt 1.2:** `"/imagine A city in the year 3000, where greenery is scarce and tall buildings with holographic ads dominate, echoing the rise of technology over nature, cyberpunk style --ar 16:9"`
  - c) **WINNER:** Prompt 1.1
  
- 2) **Command 2:** Design an artwork capturing the essence of a serene Japanese garden during springtime.
  - a) **Prompt 2.1:** `"/imagine A tranquil Japanese garden, with cherry blossoms in full bloom, koi fish swimming in a pond, and traditional stone lanterns casting a gentle glow, in the style of watercolor sketch --ar 3:2"`
  - b) **Prompt 2.2:** `"/imagine A peaceful setting in Japan, where sakura petals fall gently onto a still pond, surrounded by moss-covered rocks and ancient trees, capturing the essence of spring, Naive Art style --ar 3:2"`
  - c) **WINNER:** Prompt 2.2
  
- 3) **Command 3:** Create a visual representation of a mystical forest where mythical creatures coexist.
  - a) **Prompt 3.1:** `"/imagine An enchanted forest bathed in moonlight, where unicorns graze near shimmering lakes and dragons soar above the treetops, Surrealism style --ar 4:3"`
  - b) **Prompt 3.2:** `"/imagine A magical woodland realm, alive with faeries dancing on leaves, griffins guarding hidden groves, and centaurs wandering the trails, in the style of phantasmal iridescent --ar 4:3"`

- c) **WINNER:** Prompt 3.2
- 4) **Command 4:** Illustrate a bustling 1920s New York street with vintage cars, flapper dresses, and jazz musicians.
- a) **Prompt 4.1:** "/imagine A lively New York avenue in the 1920s, with vintage cars honking, women in flapper dresses laughing, and jazz bands playing on street corners, in the style of Art Deco --ar 3:2"
- b) **Prompt 4.2:** "/imagine The heart of NYC during the Roaring Twenties, echoing with the rhythms of jazz, streets lined with Model T cars, and dancers swaying to the music, captured in Retrowave style --ar 3:2"
- c) **WINNER:** Prompt 4.1
- 5) **Command 5:** Create a lifelike portrait of a young woman from the Renaissance era, adorned with intricate jewelry and an elaborate headdress.
- a) **Prompt 5.1:** "/imagine A young woman from the Renaissance period, her gaze serene, wearing ornate jewelry and a detailed headdress, in a style that captures the essence of historical portraits, hyper-realistic details --ar 4:5"
- b) **Prompt 5.2:** "/imagine A photorealistic portrait of a lady from the 16th century, her skin illuminated by candlelight, draped in pearls and gold, with a richly embroidered headpiece, reminiscent of classic oil paintings --ar 4:5"
- c) **WINNER:** Prompt 5.2
- 6) **Command 6:** Craft a hyper-realistic image of a modern-day male entrepreneur, dressed in a sharp suit, looking confidently into the distance.
- a) **Prompt 6.1:** "/imagine A modern male entrepreneur, impeccably dressed in a tailored suit, gazing ahead with determination, shot with Canon EOS R5 for a hyper-realistic effect --ar 16:9"
- b) **Prompt 6.2:** "/imagine An ultra-realistic depiction of a contemporary businessman, in a sleek suit, his expression filled with ambition and foresight, captured as if through a professional camera lens --ar 16:9"
- c) **WINNER:** Prompt 6.1



- 7) **Command 7:** Illustrate a real-looking image of a 1950s jazz musician, with a trumpet in hand, performing under dimmed stage lights.
- a) **Prompt 7.1:** `"/imagine A 1950s jazz musician, immersed in his performance, trumpet at his lips, bathed in the subtle glow of stage lights, creating an atmosphere of nostalgia and passion, hyper-realistic --ar 16:9"`
- b) **Prompt 7.2:** `"/imagine A photorealistic rendition of a jazz artist from the mid-20th century, passionately playing his trumpet, with dim, moody stage lighting illuminating his figure, evoking the golden age of jazz --ar 4:5"`
- c) **WINNER:** Prompt 7.1
- 8) **Command 8:** Construct a lifelike representation of an elderly female librarian, surrounded by towering bookshelves, peering through her glasses at an old manuscript.
- a) **Prompt 8.1:** `"/imagine An elderly librarian, the lines of age telling stories of wisdom, amidst colossal bookshelves, examining an ancient manuscript through her spectacles, captured with the depth and detail of a Canon EOS R5 --ar 3:4"`
- b) **Prompt 8.2:** `"/imagine A hyper-realistic portrayal of a seasoned librarian, surrounded by literary treasures, her attention captivated by a timeworn manuscript, her glasses reflecting the written words, evoking a sense of history and knowledge --ar 3:4"`
- c) **WINNER:** Prompt 8.1

### Appendix 3: Examples Used for Training

Few-shot learning is a method where the model is trained with a limited dataset. For this guide, specific prompts were provided to teach the model the intricacies of Midjourney's prompting mechanism. Here are some of the example prompts:

#### 1. Good Prompts:

- A print, featuring a pink and black image of a man with a knife, in the style of intense emotion, detailed science fiction illustrations, celebrity-portraits, high resolution, dynamic line work, digital illustration, dye-transfer – ar 119:144.

- Spider man into the spider verse poster, in the style of neon installations, harmonious compositions, motion blur panorama, figura serpentinata, illusory, cabincore, light black and crimson – ar 133:75.

## 2. Pro Prompts:

- /imagine Galaxy whirlpool that swallows random things and objects, like people, astronauts, cats, monkeys, aliens, chemists wearing protective suits, animals, beautiful young women, cars, planets, ninjas, superheroes, and food. Use a mix of styles for each element, like 32 bit isometric, style of Erik Jones, vibrant color fields, street art, cyberpunk futurism, style of Mike Mignola, hyper-detailed, 8K, +1990s style, explosive and chaotic, meticulous military scenes, illusory, cabincore, style of radiant neon patterns, energy-filled illustrations, konica auto s3, detailed ink, style of shintaro kago, style of van gogh, quietly morbid, 32k cel shading, fluid formation, hyper – realistic details, kawaii aesthetic, kelly sue deconnick, 35mm film, detailed architecture paintings, pixar disney animation, epic, dramatic, photorealistic, hyper ornate details, Pete knifton line art style, style of marko manev, richard billingham, – seed 1 – aspect 3:2.
- /imagine photorealistic image shot with Canon EOS R5, close up shot of a woman looking directly at the camera with a slight smile, wearing professional attire and leaning on a glamorous art nouveau style wall, ultra realistic --ar 16:9.

## 3. Art Styles & Themes:

- Surrealism: A 15th century priest driving a spaceship under the sea, Surrealism.
- Cubism: A labrador dog in a space suit on the moon, Cubism.
- Steampunk: Flying cars in Times Square in steampunk style --ar 3:2.
- Art Deco: The Eiffel Tower surrounded by floating islands in the style of Art Deco.

## About the Author



👋 Hey, I,m Puneet.

I'm a prompt expert who built platforms like [YLC](#) and the [Midjourney Prompt Generator](#). If you're intrigued by the idea of tailored advanced prompts for your workflows or LLM app, feel free to connect with me on [LinkedIn](#) for a friendly chat.