

ACT NORMAL AND DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THESE FIVE MINUTE CREATIVE WRITING PROMPTS

25 easy tasks designed to kickstart creativity

I'm Christian Darkin, a writer for young people. My books are mostly about science, technology, and animals (especially dinosaurs). I hope you enjoy getting creative with these prompts!

1. You didn't do your homework. Give three excuses - each one more ridiculous than the last.

2. Write three different feelings you get when you are angry (e.g., "I felt my fists clenching" or "I wanted to scream" - but don't use either of those!)

3. There is a tiger in your science lab. Give two clever ways you could escape. Then give two different, clever ways the tiger could escape.

4. Play this game and post your result. Your sentence must make sense!
<https://www.languageisavirus.com/fadeout/index.php#.YiswIHrP2Uk>

5. Describe a party. Use two sentences and three adjectives, but make the party a weird one.

6. Say what you liked about the last book you read in a tweet (less than 140 characters).

7. Here are the lyrics to "The Joker and the Queen" by Ed Sheeran:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyE9x5HETkY>

How many card game references can you spot in the lyrics?

(to help out here's a link to some card game terms

<https://web.stanford.edu/~kenro/lessonmodules/IdiomsinActionPoker.html>)

Here are the lyrics to "Poker face":

<https://www.google.com/search?channel=fs&client=ubuntu&q=poker+face+lyr>

Are there more or fewer analogies to card games than in "The Joker and the Queen"?

How about in "Ace of Spades" by Motorhead?

<https://genius.com/Motorhead-ace-of-spades-lyrics>

Which do you think is the best lyric? Why?

Why do you think so many love songs use gambling metaphors?

8. Search up the lyrics of your favourite three songs.

Paste them into this link to create a word cloud:

<https://monkeylearn.com/word-cloud/>

Now write a new verse using words from the word cloud.

For inspiration, here's one somebody did with Ed Sheeran:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4IJsE_vrMs

9. This website gives a new word each day.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/word-of-the-day>

What's today's word? Now use it in a sentence.

10. Write a poem by playing this game:

<https://www.languageisavirus.com/letterlink-poetry/index.php#.Yisv5XrP2Uk>

11. Here are some tweet-stories by famous writers. Which is your favourite and why?

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2012/oct/12/twitter-fiction-140-character-novels>

12. Write your own one-tweet story.

13. Describe yourself in exactly thirty words.

14. I asked an artificial intelligence (an automatic computer writer) to describe a forest. What impression do you get of this forest - and how has the Artificial Intelligence made you feel this way? What kind of story would you put this description in?

"The trees were dark and rough, and every now and then a small animal, such as a mouse or a rat, would run past, but they never stopped. You were walking through a dark, gloomy, windy, old forest, with the wind whistling in the trees, the clouds rushing across the sky, and the shadows of the trees flitting before your eyes. You could see the white mist rising from the lake, and it seemed to you that you could even hear the voice of the water, as it moaned and whispered in the hollows of the mountains."

15. I asked the computer to describe the forest again. What impression do you get of this forest - and how has the AI made you feel this way? What kind of story would you put this description in?

"The trees are new, the sun is bright, the air is sweet and fresh, the sunbeams dance among the foliage, and the birds sing in the leafy shade, while the winds are soft and sweet, and the forest a song of delight."

16. Here is a link to the computer writer I used: <https://6b.eleuther.ai/>

Use it to create your own description of a forest. You'll need to write the first few sentences yourself, and you'll probably need to run it a few times to get a good result.

Now re-write your description. How can you make it better? Are there words or sentences that aren't needed? Are there different adjectives (describing words) you can use to improve the way it sounds?

17. Watch this video... it's about writing suspense:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjKruwAfZWk>

Where would you set a sinister story? What would a possible secret be?

18. Here's today's top news story. Tell the whole story in one tweet (140 characters).

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

19. List three different places you could be lost (make one a realistic one, one a magical or sci-fi one and one a silly one).

20. Plan a story about you being lost. Write a sentence to summarise each of the beginning, middle and end.

21. Watch this - it's about writing comedy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNTxSBgDNp4>

Why are the characters in your favourite programme funny?

22. Play reversle - <https://reversle.net/>

How would you describe the game to someone?

23. Give five words that describe shouting.

How are your words different from each other? Pick two of your words. Write a sentence one of them works, but not the other.

24. I told an artificial intelligence to describe a teacher. Here's the result - I think it's too long and there are lots of wasted sentences that don't add anything. Copy and paste the description and delete some of it so it is a better paragraph:

"Mr. Smith was a tall, thin, bald man who wore thick horn-rimmed glasses. He was the only teacher who could remember where everything was located in the school. As a matter of fact, Mr. Smith was the only person who could tell you exactly what was where in the school. He was considered one of the most knowledgeable teachers at the school. He was very popular with students, and he was respected by the administration. Mr. Smith had a passion for learning. He loved to teach and was never happier than when he was teaching. His love for learning was so great that he was willing to put up with all kinds of treatment in order to make sure that he could teach. Mr. Smith was never absent from school. He never missed a day of school in the five years he was a teacher. He had an incredible memory and could never forget a student's name, even if he had to remember it for the rest of his life. Mr. Smith had a talent for remembering names. When he asked students what their name was, they always knew and never forgot it."

25. A good way to come up with characters is to think of opposites. Here are a few examples:

- 1) A giant who is very small (the BFG)
- 2) A wizard who can't do magic (Harry Potter)
- 3) A lion who is a coward (The Wizard of Oz)
- 4) A toymaker who hates toys (Chitty Chitty Bang Bang)

Think of a couple of characters of your own.

BONUS QUESTION:

Make up two creative tasks for your friends to try.

Swap tasks with each other and check the instructions are clear enough.

Then try all the tasks!