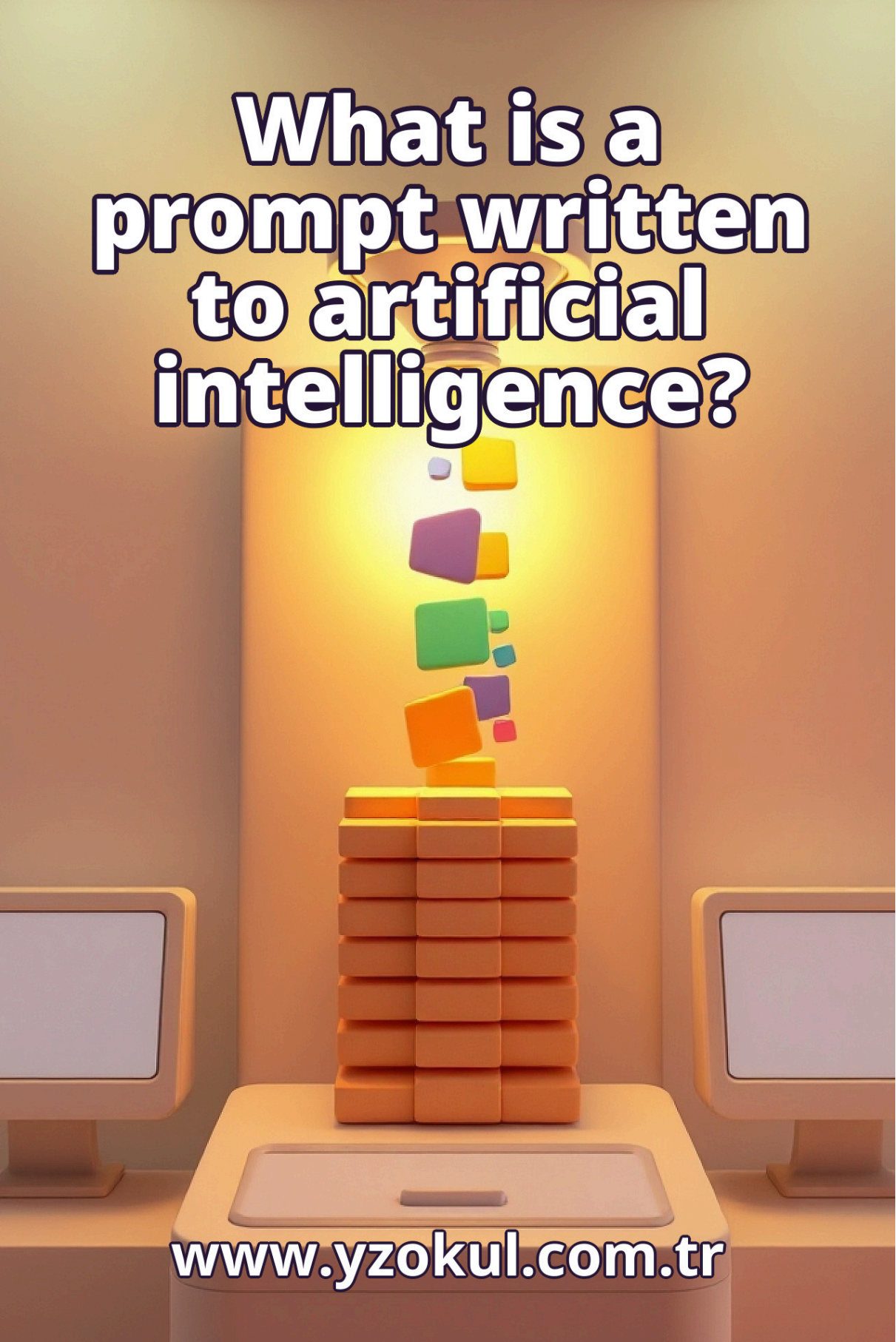
What is a prompt written to artificial intelligence?



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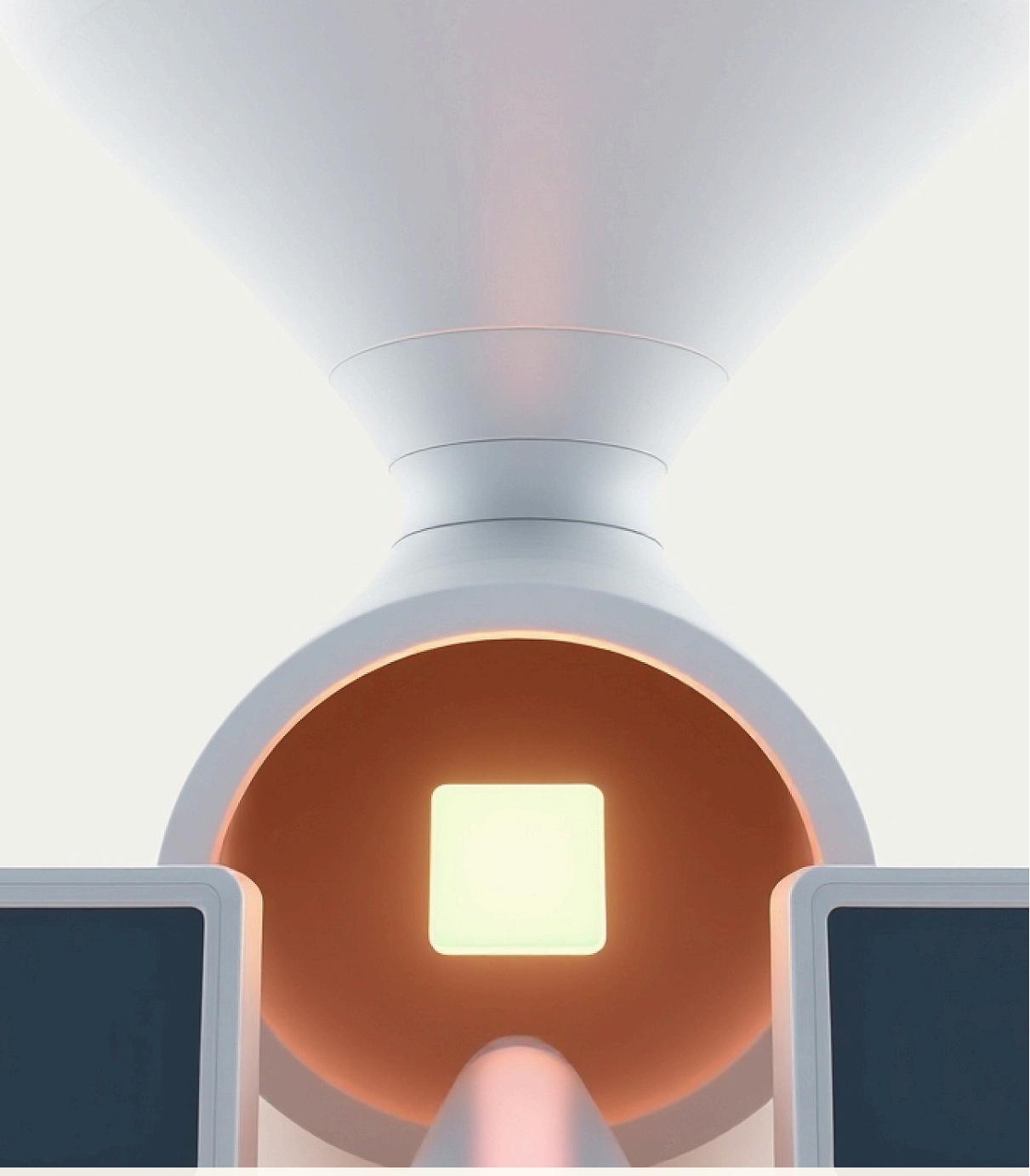
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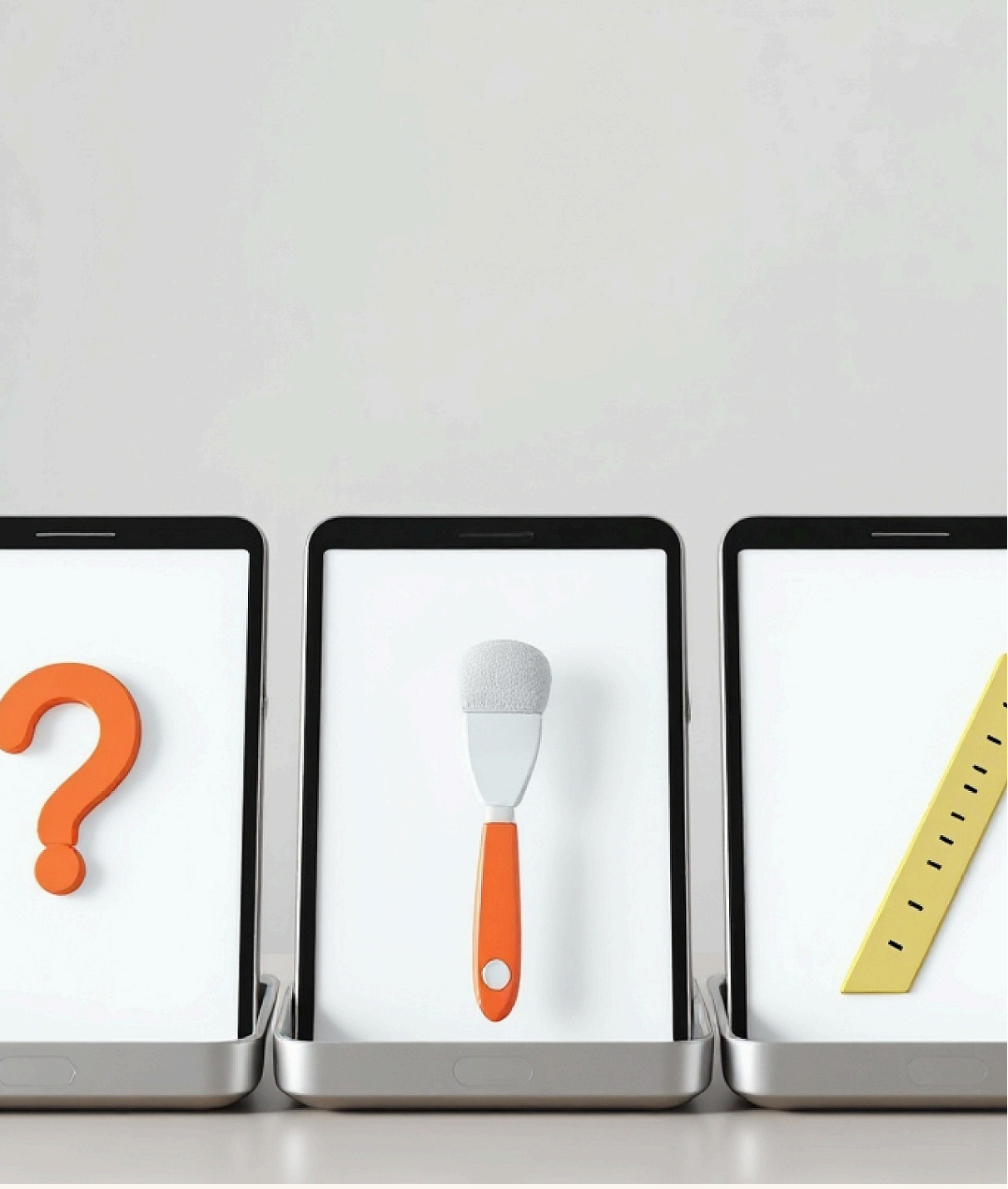
What is a prompt written to artificial intelligence? The short answer is simple: a prompt is a question, task, or instruction you give to an AI system. For example, when you type a request into a chat program, that text is the prompt. The AI reads it and produces a response. This book explains step by step what that means.



Artificial intelligence, or AI, here means a computer program that produces text when you give it input. You do not need to know how it works inside. Think of the AI as the system that receives your words and replies. It is not a person and does not think like you. It simply processes the text you provide.



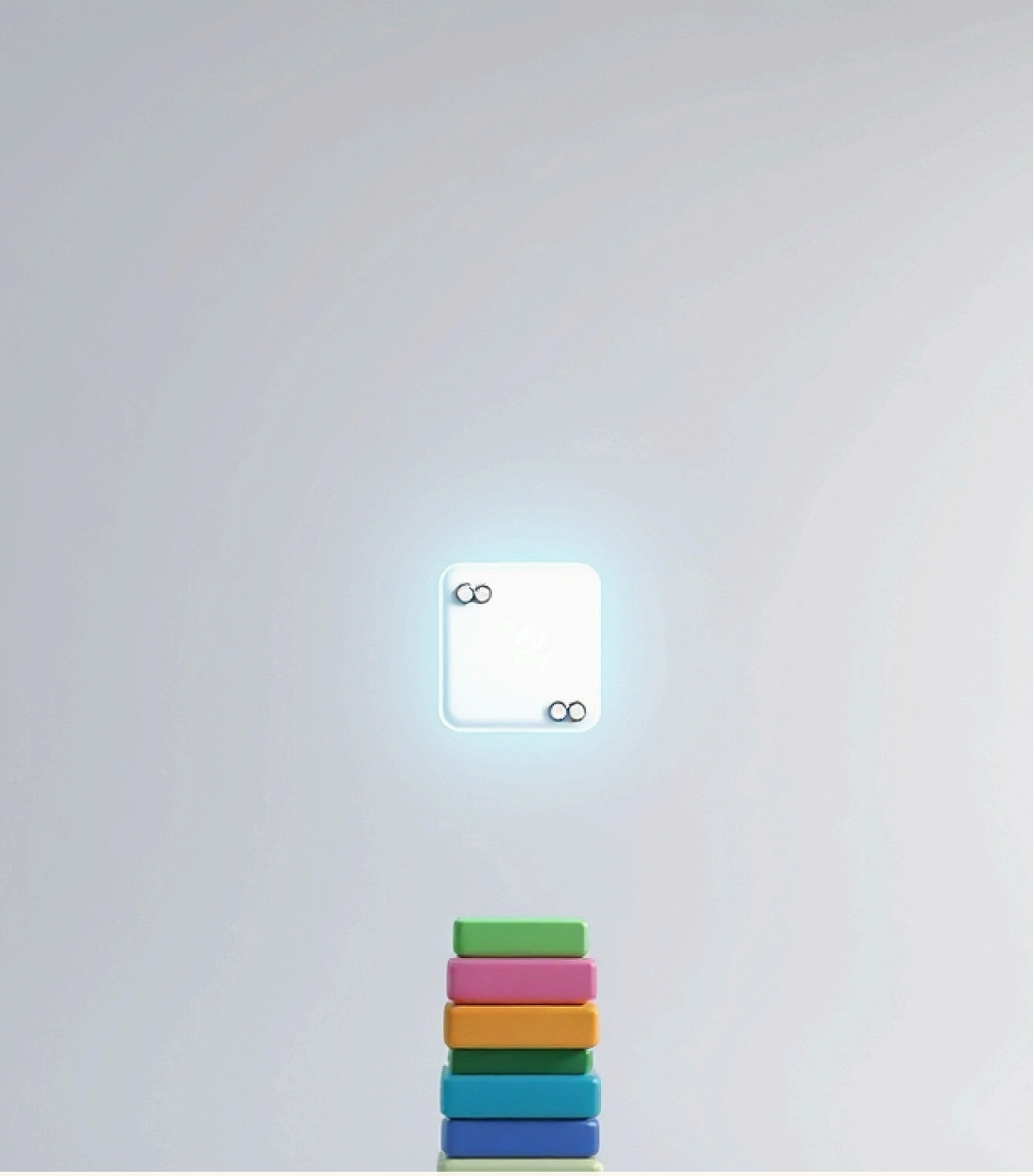
The prompt is your input. It is the text a person types or says to the AI. It is the starting message the system works from. For example, if you type the words explain how rain forms, that sentence is your prompt. The AI then uses that starting message to generate its answer. Without a prompt, the system has nothing to respond to.



A prompt can be a question, a task, or an instruction. A question asks for information, such as what is the capital of France. A task asks for something to be made, such as write a poem about the sea. An instruction tells the AI how to behave, such as answer in one short sentence.



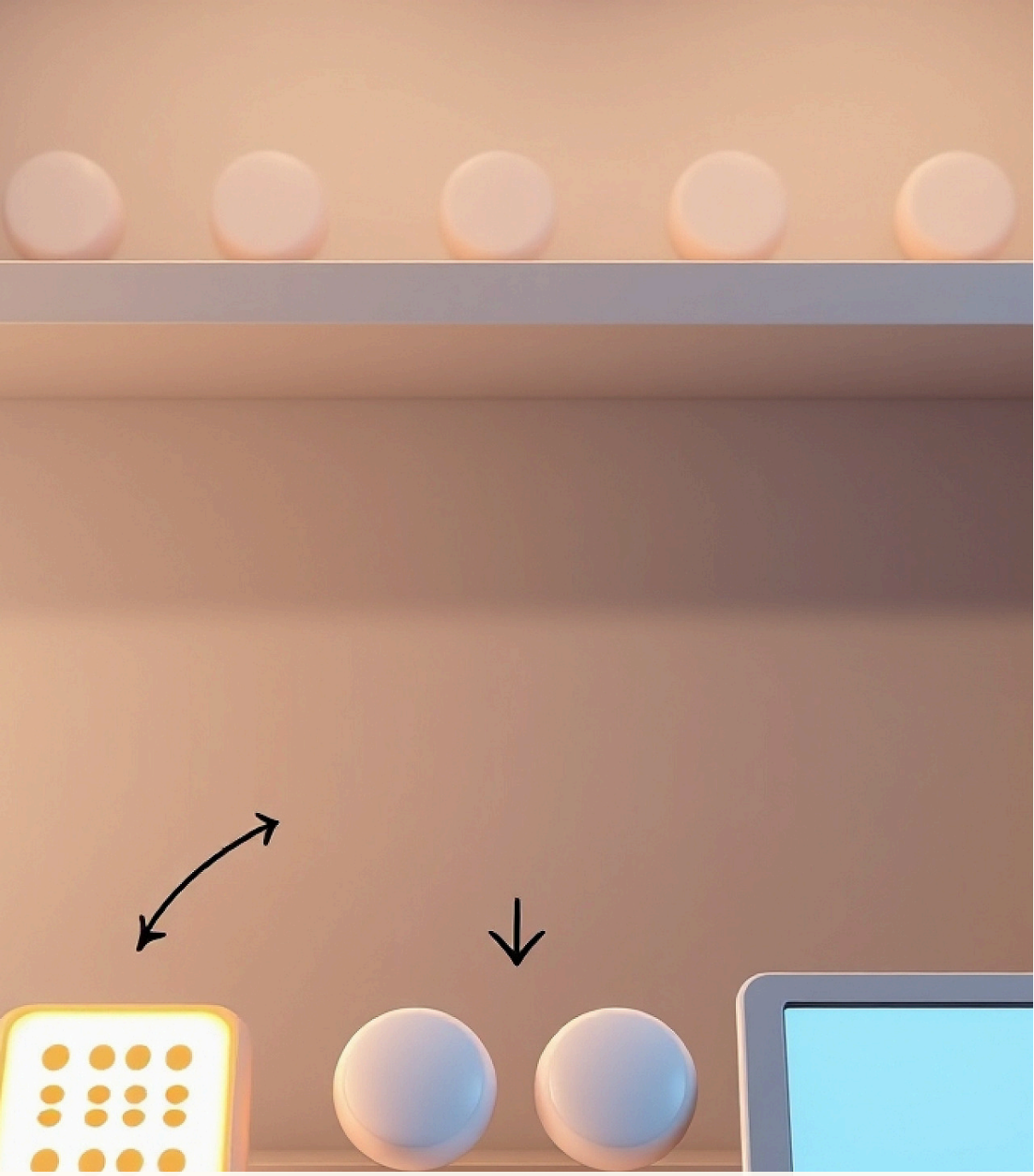
A general prompt example is the phrase write a story. It is short and leaves many choices open to the AI. The AI must decide the length, the topic, the tone, and the audience on its own. It might produce a long story, a short one, a sad one, or a funny one. The result can vary a lot each time.



A specific prompt example is write a short and funny children's story set in space. It adds details about length, tone, audience, and setting. The AI now knows the story should be short, funny, for children, and set in space. These details guide the AI toward a particular kind of result. The prompt is still one sentence, but it carries much more information.



Comparing the two prompts side by side shows the difference is the amount of detail given to the AI. The general prompt write a story gives little guidance. The specific prompt gives length, tone, audience, and setting. More detail means the AI has more to work with. The specific prompt is more likely to produce something close to what you want.



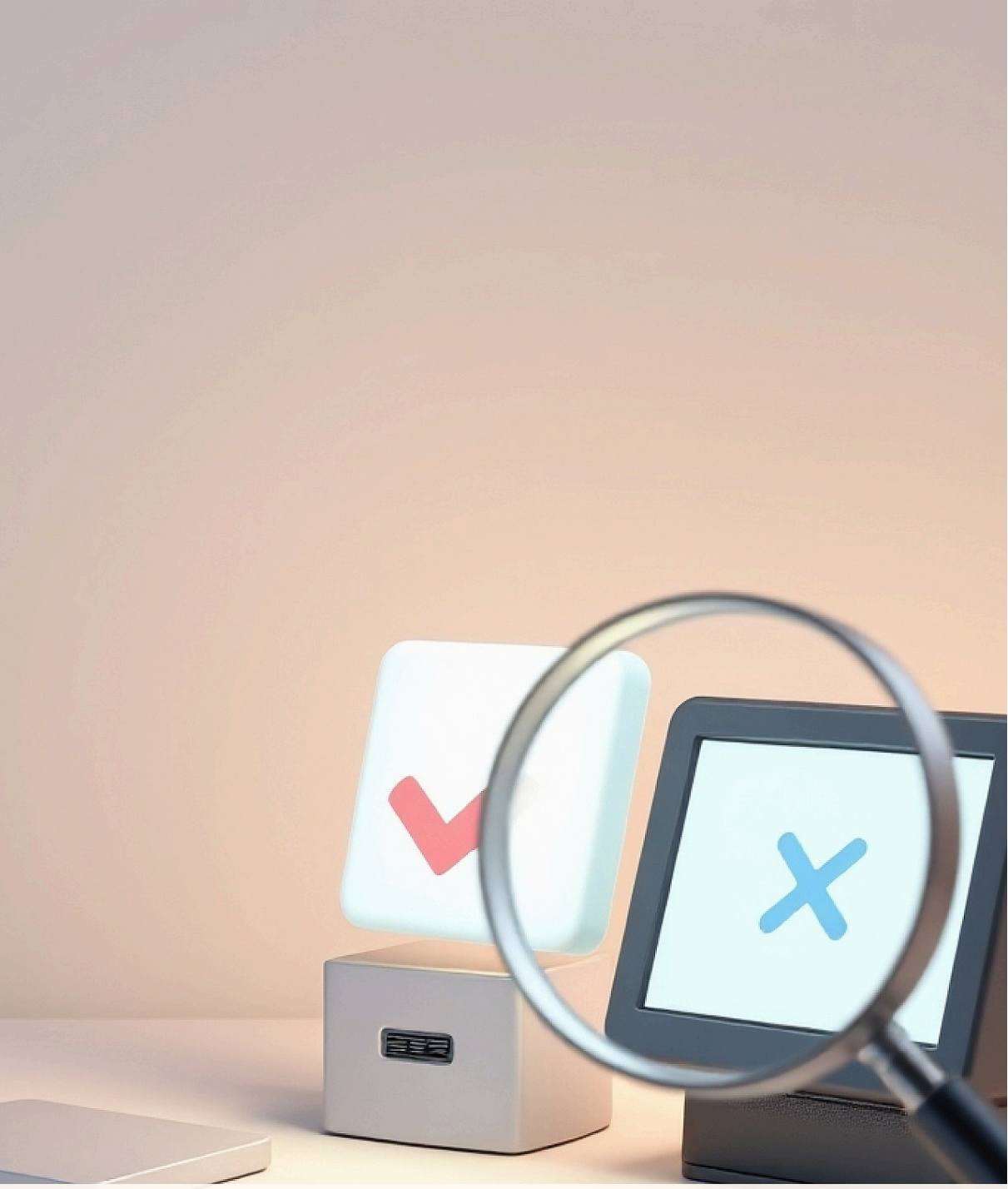
The prompt shapes the format of the output. If you ask for a list, the AI is more likely to produce a list. If you ask for a short answer, it is more likely to be brief. For example, a prompt that says list three colors will usually produce a list, not a paragraph. Asking for a format makes the result match it more often.



The prompt also shapes the scope of the answer. Scope means how broad or narrow the answer is. A broad prompt like tell me about animals can produce a wide range of information. A narrow prompt like name three animals that live in cold places limits the answer to a small set. A specific prompt narrows the scope of what the AI produces.



Adding useful details makes the expected output easier to picture. The prompt acts like a description of the result you want. For example, instead of saying write about food, you can say write three sentences about healthy breakfast foods for children. The more clearly you describe the target, the easier it is for the AI to aim at it.



Even a clear prompt does not always produce a correct result. The prompt is important, but it is not the only factor. The AI might misunderstand, or it might not have the needed knowledge. A well-written prompt improves your chances, but it is not a guarantee. Always check the answer you receive.



The AI system's own capabilities also affect the result. A prompt cannot make the system do more than it can. If the system has limited knowledge or cannot perform a certain task, a perfect prompt will not change that. The model's abilities set the limits of what any prompt can achieve. The prompt works within those limits.



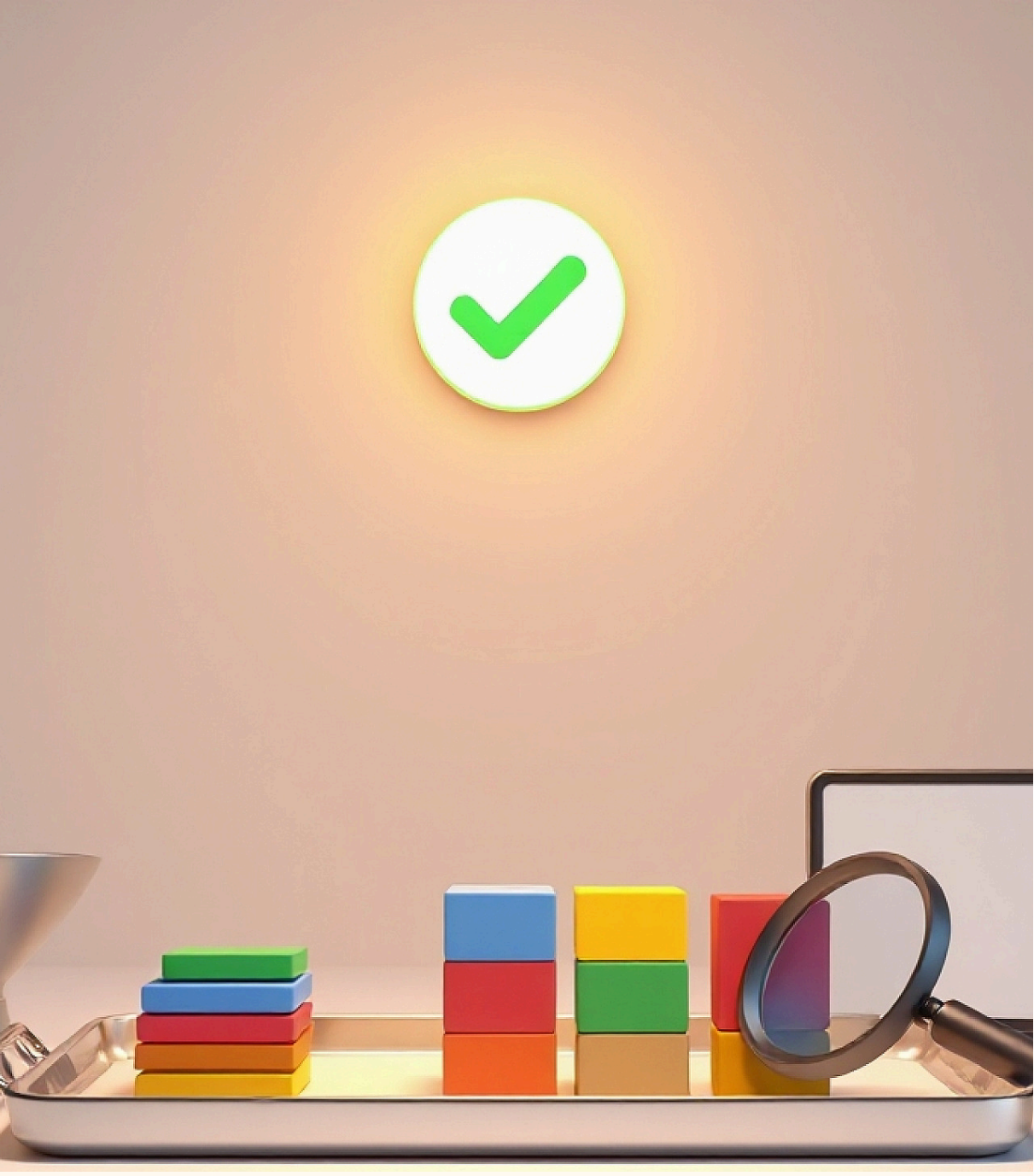
The information provided to the AI also matters. This includes details inside the prompt and any text you supply alongside it. If you ask for a summary but do not provide the text to summarize, the AI must guess or ask for more. Missing information can lead to a weaker or incorrect result. Give the AI what it needs to answer well.



A common mistake is writing a prompt so vague that the AI must guess. For example, saying tell me about it without saying what it refers to leaves the AI unsure. The fix is to add the details that matter for your goal. State the topic, the length, and the format you want. Clear details reduce guessing.



Another common mistake is expecting perfection. A good prompt does not always give a correct answer. Remember that the model and the given information also play a role. The AI might still make errors or miss your point. Treat the answer as a draft and check it. A clear prompt helps, but it is one part of the process.



A prompt is a question, task, or instruction given to an AI system. A specific prompt shapes the format and scope of the output, making the result closer to what you want. But a clear prompt alone does not guarantee a correct result. The model's capabilities and the information you provide also matter. Keep these points in mind when you write prompts.