The Teen Entrepreneur's Guide to ChatGPT That Actually Gets You



Why Your Al Responses Are Basic (And How to Fix It)

Ever ask ChatGPT for help and get back something that sounds like it was written by your most boring teacher? Yeah, we've all been there. It's like asking your friend for outfit advice but forgetting to tell them whether you're going to a funeral or a pool party.

The secret sauce? **Context (means the background of the questions you're asking)**. Think of it like this: ChatGPT is like that really smart friend who can help with literally anything, but they have zero memory and know nothing about your life. Every time you talk to them, it's like meeting for the first time. So you gotta give them the tea about who you are, what you're building, and who you're trying to reach.

The Magic Formula: You + Your Business + Your Customers = Fire Responses

Instead of: "Give me a business name" (basic) Try: "I'm a 14-year-old who makes custom phone cases with anime designs for other teens at my school who are obsessed with Demon Slayer and Jujutsu Kaisen. I need a business name that sounds cool but not too tryhard." (chef's kiss)

See the difference? That extra context turns ChatGPT from a random answer generator into your personal business bestie who actually gets your vibe.

Why This Works (The Real Talk)

- Saves you time: No more asking 10 different ways to get one good answer
- Gets your personality: The Al can match your energy and style
- Knows your customers: Better suggestions because it understands who you're selling to
- Stops generic responses: No more "basic" energy

20+ Prompts That Actually Hit Different



PRO TIPS FOR BETTER PROMPTS

REPLACE WORDS INSIDE [BRACKETS] BEFORE SENDING PROMPT: In the prompts below you MUST enter your own information where there are brackets. For example copy and paste this prompt "I'm starting a [business type] called [name if you have one]" and make it work for you by updating brackets like this... "I'm starting a tshirt business called Grafix Tees."

Be Specific About Your Age: Saying "I'm 14" gets you age-appropriate advice instead of suggestions meant for adults with business degrees and trust funds.

Include Your Limitations: No budget? No car? Can only work after school? Tell ChatGPT your real limitations so it doesn't suggest anything unrealistic.

Mention Your Custome & Location Vibe: Urban school? Small town? Church customers? Suburban? Different environments need different strategies.

Use Follow-Up Questions: Don't settle for the first response. Ask "Can you make that sound more like how teens actually talk?" or "What if I can't use social media?" or "Don't use slang you think teens like."

Get Multiple Options: Always ask for several choices so you can pick what resonates with you.

Starting Strong: Business Foundation PROMPTS

- **1. Business Idea Validator** I'm a teen who wants to start a [your business idea, like custom sneaker cleaning service]. My target customers are [describe them, like students at my school who wear expensive shoes]. I have [amount] to start with and about [time] hours per week to work on this. Is this idea realistic? What should I watch out for?
- **2. One-Page Business Plan (Keep It 100)** I'm starting a [business type] called [name if you have one]. I'm selling [product/service] to [your people be specific about age, interests, location]. My goal is to make [amount] per month by [when]. Help me write a simple one-page business plan that doesn't sound like a textbook.
- **3. Mission Statement That Slaps** My business is [what you do] for [who]. I want my brand to feel [3 vibes, like "creative, authentic, and fun"]. Write me 3 short mission statements that sound like something I'd actually say, not something a corporation would put on their website.

Branding That Hits Different PROMPTS

4. Business Names That Don't Suck I'm starting a [specific business] that [what makes it special]. My customers are [age group and what they're into]. I want a name that's [vibe you want, like "catchy but not cringe"]. Give me 15 options that would sound cool when my friends talk about it.

Examples by business type:

- Clothing Brand: I design streetwear hoodies with positive mental health messages for teens who struggle with anxiety and depression...
- **Jewelry Business**: I make beaded bracelets and necklaces using crystals and charms for spiritual teens who shop at thrift stores...
- Recording Studio: I want to offer music recording services for young rappers and singers in my area who can't afford big studios...
- **5. Taglines That Actually Stick** *My business [name] sells [product] to [customers]. I need a tagline that's short enough for Instagram bio but memorable enough that people would put it on their story. Give me 10 options that sound like something my target customer would actually say.*
- **6. Brand Voice Guide** *I* want my brand to sound [3 personality traits]. Write me a "brand voice guide" that explains how *I* should talk to customers on social media, in texts, and on flyers. Use examples of what TO say and what NOT to say.
- **7. Logo Ideas (DIY-Friendly)** I need a simple logo for my [business type]. My brand is all about [main theme/value]. Describe 5 logo concepts I could actually create myself using Canva, including specific shapes, icons, and text styles that would work.
- **8. Color Palette That Speaks** My [business name] has a [describe your vibe] energy and sells to [target customer]. What colors would make my brand feel [desired emotion] without looking like every other business? Give me a palette with hex codes and explain why each color works for my audience.

Marketing Without the Cringe PROMPTS

- **9. Content Ideas That Don't Feel Like Ads** *I run a [business type] and my followers are mostly [age/interests]. Give me 10 Instagram post ideas that will show off my business without looking like I'm desperately trying to sell something. Include captions that sound like how I actually talk.*
- **10. First Customer Game Plan** *I'm launching my [product/service] next week and I know literally nobody. What are 5 realistic ways I can get my first customers without spending money or being annoying? My target customers are [specific description].*
- **11. School/Community Event Ideas** *I want to promote my [business] at school/in my community but most events are boring. Help me brainstorm 3 creative, low-cost event ideas that would actually get people excited about what I'm doing and wouldn't get me in trouble.*

Examples by business:

- Skincare Line: Host a "self-care Sunday" workshop in the library...
- Sports Media: Organize a pickup basketball tournament and livestream it...
- Bible Study: Plan a game night with discussion questions built into the activities...
- **12.** Collaboration Pitch There's this [influencer/creator/student] at my school who [what they do] and has [rough follower count/influence level]. Write me a DM I can send them to collaborate with my brand [name]. Make it sound genuine and not like I'm using them.
- **13. Word-of-Mouth Strategy** How can I get my first customers to actually tell their friends about my [product] without being pushy? Give me 3 specific things I can do or offer that would make people want to share my business naturally.
- **14. Social Media Content Calendar** *Create a 2-week content plan for my [business type] Instagram. I can post every other day and want a mix of behind-the-scenes, product showcases, and engaging posts. Make sure each post has a purpose and sounds like my generation.*

Money Moves: Pricing & Business Strategy PROMPTS

- **15. Pricing That Makes Sense** *I* make [specific product] and it costs me [material cost] per item, plus about [time] to create each one. I'm selling to [customer type with their budget reality]. What should I charge to actually make money but not price out my customers?
- **16. Unique Selling Proposition (What Makes You Different)** My business idea is [describe it]. There are probably other people doing similar things. Help me figure out what makes my version special and different. Give me 5 unique selling points that would make someone choose me over competitors.
- 17. Customer Avatar Deep Dive Help me create a detailed profile of my ideal customer. I'm selling [product/service] and I think my customer is [basic description]. Ask me 10 questions that will help me understand them better, then create a detailed customer profile I can reference.

Problem-Solving & Growth PROMPTS

- **18. Overcoming Objections** When I tell people about my [business], they usually say [common objection]. How can I address this concern in a way that doesn't sound defensive but actually makes them more interested?
- **19. Scaling Without Losing Your Mind** My [business] is starting to get busy and I'm feeling overwhelmed. I'm making [current revenue] but working [hours] per week. How can I grow without burning out? Give me specific systems I can put in place.
- **20.** Seasonal Strategy My [business type] probably sells better during [season/time]. How can I plan my marketing and inventory around these patterns? Also, what can I do during slower periods to keep money coming in?

Advanced Moves: Next Level Stuff

- 21. Partnership Opportunities What businesses or organizations in my area might want to partner with my [business type]? Give me 5 specific types of partnerships and how to approach them without seeming desperate.
- 22. Building Your Email List (But Make It Cool) I know I need to collect customer emails, but "sign up for my newsletter" sounds boring. Give me 5 creative lead magnets I could offer that my [target customer] would actually want.
- 23. Crisis Management If something goes wrong with my business (bad review, product issue, drama), how should I handle it? Give me templates for responding to different situations in a way that shows maturity and professionalism.
- 24. Exit Strategy Planning I might not want to run this business forever. What are some ways I could eventually transition out while still making money from what I built?

Quick Safety Note



Remember that AI tools are powerful but not perfect. Never share personal info like your address, phone number, or financial details in your prompts. For more comprehensive guidance on staying safe with Al tools, check out Common Sense Media's Al Safety Guide for Teens.

Your Turn

Pick one prompt from this guide and try it right now. Copy it, fill in your details, and see what happens. Remember: the more specific you are about your situation, the better your results will be.

You've got this. Your business idea deserves prompts that are just as unique and creative as you are.

Now go make ChatGPT work for YOUR success story.