

11 dead simple ChatGPT prompts that make everyday tasks easy

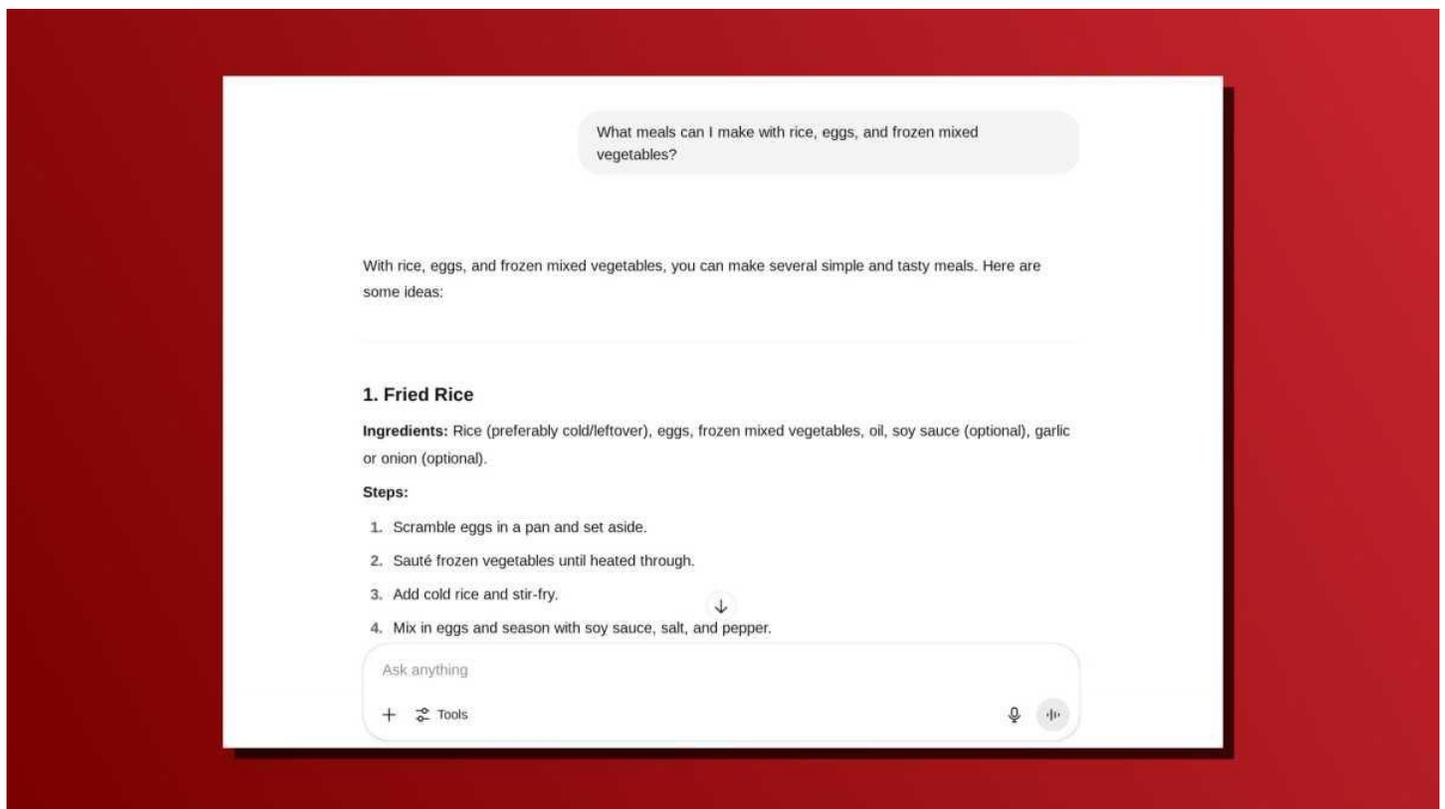
By Dave Parrack, Contributor, PCWorld Jul 29, 2025

ChatGPT doesn't always need to be fed complex prompts with tons of context. Try these one-liners!

If you've spent any amount of time using ChatGPT, you already know that it often requires lengthy explanations, prompt tweaks, and/or extra context to get it doing what you actually meant. Often, but not always.

ChatGPT *is* capable of performing useful tasks with single, one-line prompts. When worded correctly, ChatGPT will perform the following tasks without hesitation, without extra context, and without issue — though as always, AI can sometimes suffer from inaccurate “hallucinations,” so be sure to double check ChatGPT's work for critical or sensitive needs. Let's dig in!

Get meal ideas from available ingredients



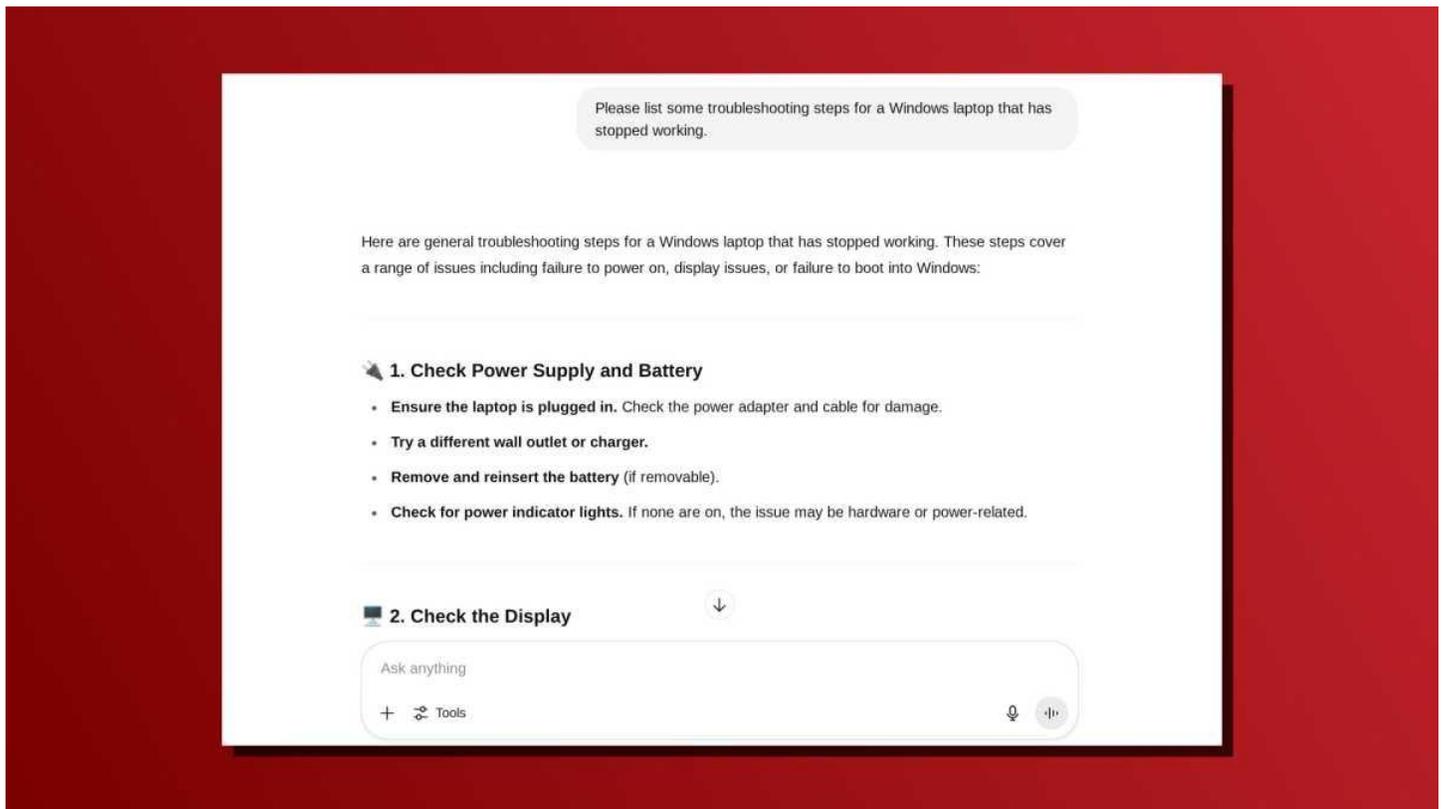
Dave Parrack / Foundry

Most of us endure busy working lives these days, which leaves little time for doing much of anything else—and that can include grocery shopping for the ingredients needed for home-cooked meals. Thankfully, if you ever find yourself with a small set of ingredients and no idea what to make with them, ChatGPT can help.

Just list the staple (and otherwise) ingredients you have available and ask ChatGPT for some meal ideas using them. As an example, I asked, “What meals can I make with rice, eggs, and frozen mixed

vegetables?” ChatGPT suggested egg fried rice, a vegetable rice omelet, and baked egg fried rice muffins, among others. Pretty nifty in a pinch.

Troubleshoot tech and home repair problems



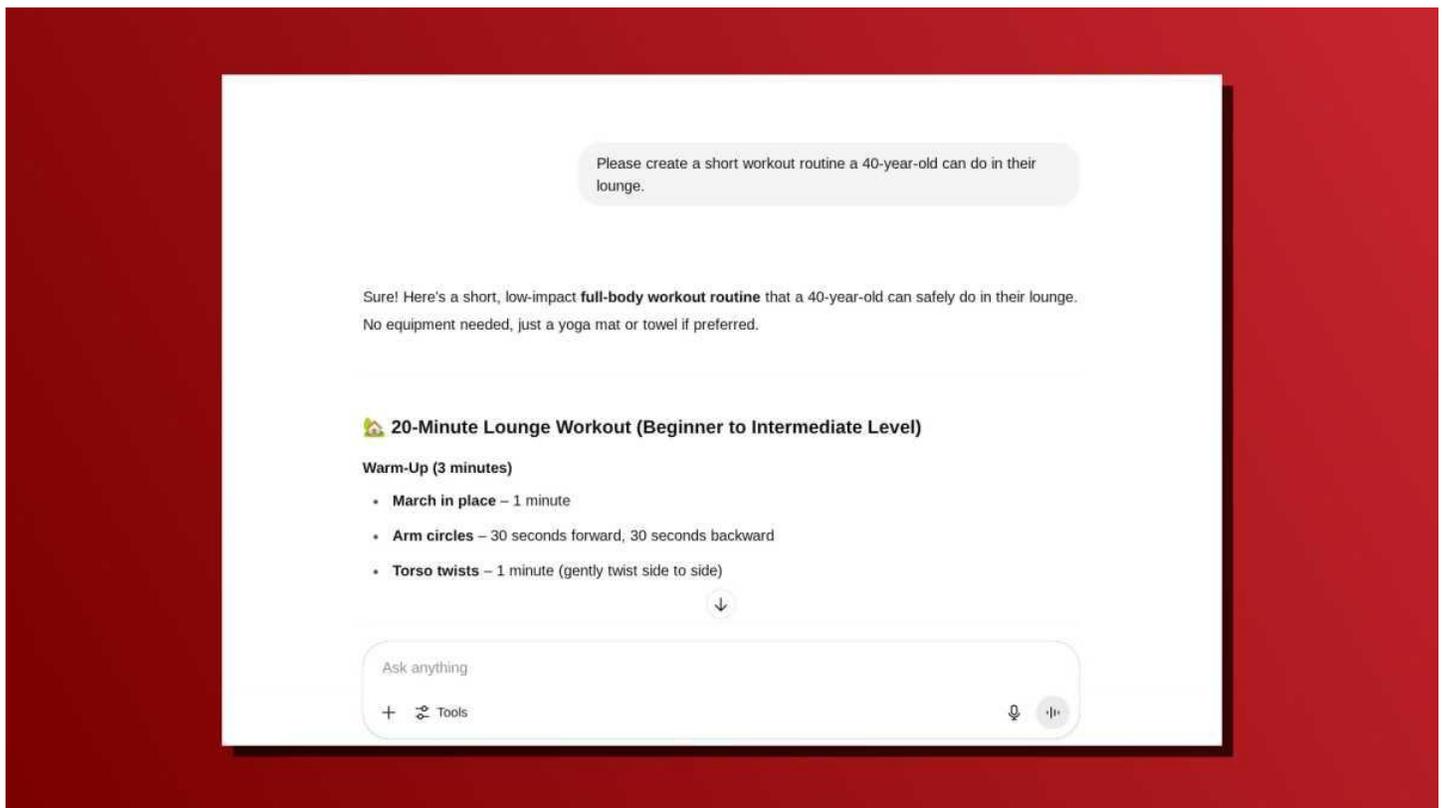
Dave Parrack / Foundry

When something goes wrong, your first instinct might be to panic or shut down—but maybe it should be to ask ChatGPT for help instead. ChatGPT can provide troubleshooting help whenever you’re stuck dealing with an unknown or unexpected issue.

Just ask ChatGPT to provide a list of troubleshooting steps for whatever has gone wrong. In my case, I’ve asked what I can do about [a Windows laptop that has stopped working](#)—my short prompt of “Please list some troubleshooting steps for a Windows laptop that has stopped working” resulted in a solid list of 10 things I could try.

This is equally useful for all kinds of other problems, like if your toilet randomly flushes on its own every so often, if your car starts making a weird noise, or if your wireless router is on the fritz. Just make sure you [never share sensitive personal data with ChatGPT!](#)

Create tailor-made workout routines

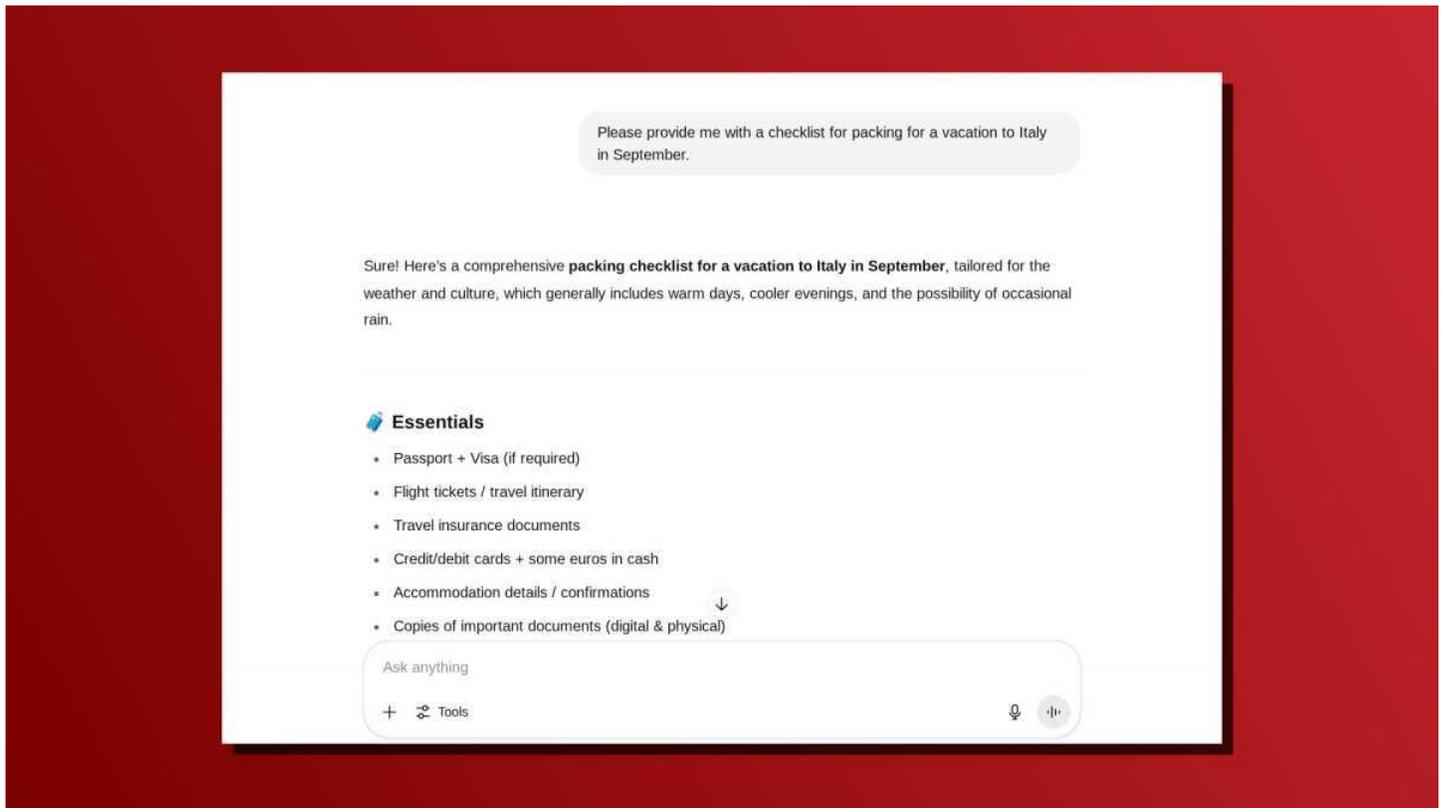


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While YouTube remains an option when looking for a workout routine, ChatGPT can provide you with ones that are as general or as specific as you need them to be. Want exercises for people your age? Or stretches for an aching lower back? Or simple workouts you can do at home without any equipment? Ones you can do at your desk? No worries!

I personally asked ChatGPT, "Please create a short workout routine a 40-year-old can do in their lounge." (I'm a bit older than 40, but what better way to stay young than to work out as a younger person would?) ChatGPT came through for me with a 20-minute low-impact workout routine that I found challenging but doable. It's one of the many ways you can [use ChatGPT to actually improve your life](#).

Generate comprehensive checklists

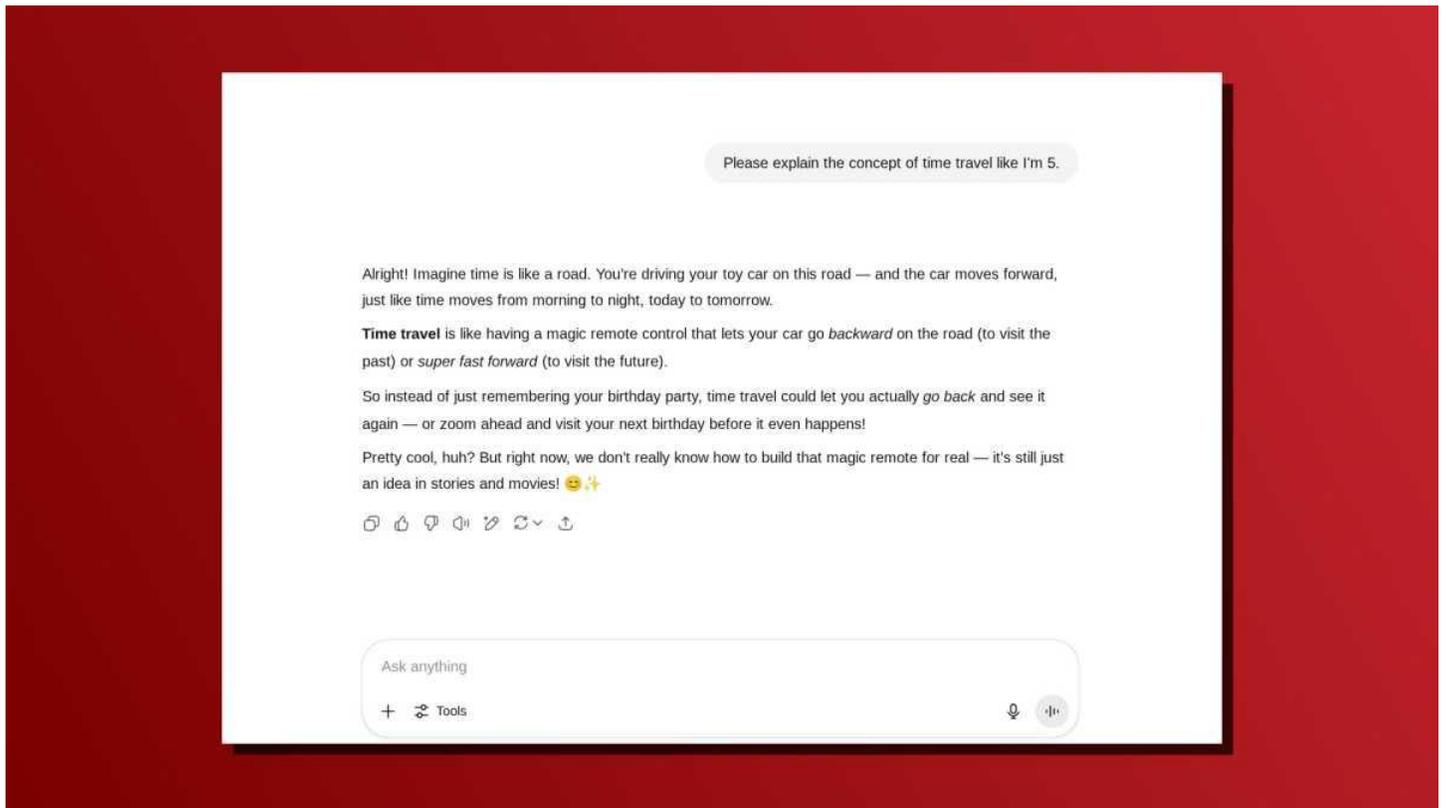


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Checklists are so useful for when you absolutely don't want to forget an important step, like when you're packing for vacation, hosting a party, or spring cleaning your home. ChatGPT can help by creating checklists for lots of different scenarios—and for best results, you'll want to include specific details to clue ChatGPT into your specific needs.

I asked ChatGPT to "Please provide me with a checklist for packing for a vacation to Italy in September." Note that I mentioned both the location and time of year I was visiting! The more context you can provide in your prompt, the more accurate and helpful the checklist will be.

Explain concepts (like I'm 5)



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With a single, one-line prompt, ChatGPT can explain even the most complex concepts in a way that you can grasp. Want to understand nuclear fission? Or how EV batteries work? Or what kind of engineering goes into modern data centers? Just ask!

But make sure to tack on the “like I’m 5” to your prompt—taken from the ELI5 trope on Reddit—so that ChatGPT dumbs down the subject enough to be digestible no matter your background. As an example, I asked ChatGPT to explain the concept of time travel like I’m 5. (Feel free to change the age or add any other qualifiers you want.)

Summarize online articles

Please provide a summary of the following web article:
<https://www.pcworld.com/article/2799246/9-mundane-chores-chatgpt-can-handle-in-seconds-saving-you-hours.html>

Here's a refined summary of the **PCWorld** article "9 mundane chores ChatGPT can handle in seconds; saving you hours" by Dave Parrack (published July 9, 2025):

🕒 9 Time-Saving Chores ChatGPT Can Do

1. Write your emails

Draft polished personal or professional emails—just provide context and tone, then refine as needed

[PCWorld](#) [Facebook](#)

2. Generate itineraries and schedules

Tell it your destination and preferences, and ChatGPT will craft a detailed trip plan customized to your needs

[PCWorld](#) [LinkedIn](#)

3. Break down difficult concepts

Ask it to explain complex topics—like blockchain or large language models—with analogies or visuals to

Ask anything

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Do you feel like you're inundated with so much information that you just can't keep up or absorb it all? You aren't alone. There are *billions* of web pages out there—no one has the time or energy to read every single thing that catches their eye. Thankfully, ChatGPT can help by analyzing *any* online article and spitting out the most important bits.

In the example above, I asked ChatGPT to summarize my own article about [mundane tasks ChatGPT can handle for you](#)—and it accurately broke it down, correctly citing PCWorld as the source throughout. In testing, I found that ChatGPT sometimes even pulls info from other sources to fill in details and provide more context.

See what happened on a day in history

Please describe what happened on this day in history.

Thought for 4 seconds >



Here are some significant events that happened on July 11 throughout history:

📅 Major Historical Events

- 1804 – Burr–Hamilton Duel

Vice President **Aaron Burr** fatally shot former Treasury Secretary **Alexander Hamilton** in a duel at

Ask anything

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It's important to not only know what has happened in the past, but to understand why those things happened. You *could* work your way through encyclopedias and history books, spending years of your life absorbing facts and putting them together... or you could put ChatGPT to work and get it to do all the heavy lifting for you.

With a simple prompt, ChatGPT can list all the major historical events that have happened on a particular day. You can ask about a specific day in a specific year, or the same particular day throughout the years. If the response stokes your interest, you can follow up with probing queries and learn more. But for many, the initial one-line prompt should suffice.

Answer simple trivia questions

Which team won the 1966 soccer world cup?

England won the 1966 FIFA World Cup. They defeated **West Germany** 4–2 after extra time in the final, which was held at **Wembley Stadium** in London on **July 30, 1966**.

This remains England's only World Cup victory to date. Geoff Hurst scored a **hat-trick**, the only one ever in a World Cup final.



Ask anything

+ Tools



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If you're anything like me, you frequently come across questions to which you don't know their answers. Not to worry! You can just ask ChatGPT to answer those questions for you, pronto.

I'm talking about questions with definitive answers, such as trivia. Who won a certain sports tournament in a given year? What year was a certain music album released? Which mountain is the tallest in the world? That sort of thing. Any question with an open-ended answer, or one with multiple potential answers, could complicate matters.

Learn a new word every day

Please provide a word of the day for today.

Word of the Day (July 10, 2025):

Peregrinate (*verb*)

Meaning:

To travel or wander from place to place, especially on foot.

Example Sentence:

After retiring, she decided to peregrinate through the small villages of Europe, savoring each region's unique charm.

Origin:

From Latin *peregrinatus*, past participle of *peregrinari* ("to travel abroad"), from *peregrinus* ("foreigner, traveler").

Would you like a word each day going forward?

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Ask anything

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I love learning something new every day, whether it's practical and purposeful or gimmicky and trivial. One thing that blends both ends of the spectrum is the concept of a "word of the day"—and ChatGPT can provide you with a new word every day via a one-line prompt.

Just input, "Please provide a word of the day for today." ChatGPT will then provide a word along with its meaning, origin, and an example of it used in a sentence. It will then ask if you'd like a different word each day from then on, saving you from ever having to ask again.

Combine tasks like this with [ChatGPT's nifty "scheduled tasks" feature](#) to boost your productivity and save lots of time!

Translate words or simple phrases



Dave Parrack / Foundry

If you're traveling abroad, you should try to learn some of the local language. Sure, most people around the world speak enough English to get by, but that's no excuse for being lazy! Pick a few choice words or phrases and learn how to say them in the language of the country you're visiting—and that's something ChatGPT can help you with.

To be clear, ChatGPT is more than capable of translating longer phrases and even whole articles, documents, and publications. However, once you enter that kind of territory, you're leaving the "one-line prompt" zone and will need to write prompts that are more complex.

Convert units of measurement

Please convert 100 centimeters into feet and inches.

To convert **100 centimeters** into **feet and inches**:

1. **1 inch = 2.54 cm**, so:

$$100 \div 2.54 \approx 39.37 \text{ inches}$$

2. **1 foot = 12 inches**, so:

$$39.37 \div 12 \approx 3 \text{ feet and } 3.37 \text{ inches}$$

✅ **Final Answer:**

100 cm = 3 feet 3.37 inches (or approximately **3' 3.4"**)

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Ask anything

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Dave Parrack / Foundry

As a kid, I never imagined how often I would need to convert one type of unit into another—but as an adult, I'm doing it far too often. While Google and other tools do a decent job of converting all types of units, I've actually found ChatGPT more capable.

In this example, I asked ChatGPT to “convert 100 centimeters into feet and inches.” It converted 100 centimeters into both feet and inches along with its reasoning. You'll be pleased to know that the math checks out!