

## Putting AI to Use

*Last month, I discussed a few popular AI offerings – all free. This month's article suggests nifty ways to use ChatGPT.*

I use ChatGPT a lot. It's excellent for explaining complex concepts, collecting and condensing information from websites, and suggesting ways to improve my writing. It can create tables and graphs from the websites it visits, decipher technical papers, and compare and contrast theories. It's also replacing Google for many of my searches. I'll explain that later.

Here are three example prompts you might want to try to get the hang of how ChatGPT works<sup>1</sup>:

### **Example: Collecting and Condensing Information**

*"I'm presenting a lecture on the United Nations and need the following: 1. A one-paragraph summary of the purpose of the U.N., 2. Tables of members of the Security Council and General Assembly, 3. A list of the U.N.'s programs and accomplishments during the last ten years, 4. Pros and Cons of U.N. membership, and 5. A list of the sources you used."*

I could spend a couple of hours assembling the information from the U.N. website, but ChatGPT will do it all in a matter of minutes. It will also offer to create a slideshow and Excel spreadsheets from the data. I can spot-check the results using the source list.

### **Example: Simplifying Concepts**

*"Explain the differences between "traditional" and mRNA vaccines. Prepare your answer for discussions at the twelfth-grade level."*

This prompt also tells ChatGPT the reader's education level. The results will include infographics.

### **Example: Improving My Writing**

*"Rewrite the following paragraph I'm sending to our sons and grandsons. Use active voice and make it less formal:*

*"The potty seat is to be returned to the lowered position once your particular task has been completed. Recent 'splashdowns' have been reported, which cannot be tolerated. Fortunately, it was low tide, and the rescue was simple."*

ChatGPT returned with:

*When you're done, put the potty seat back down. We've had a few recent splashdowns, and that needs to stop. Luckily, it was low tide, and the rescue was quick."*

### **Final Thoughts**

I've found ChatGPT to be quite accurate, and it's becoming my go-to application when I'm doing research – even if just for my own education.

If you want to try it, just go to [openai.com](https://openai.com), click on ChatGPT, and enter a prompt. You may just find that it's pretty cool.

If you need help, just ask our tech team at: <https://engage.cmaprinceton.org/tech-help>.

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<sup>1</sup> You can also use CoPilot, which is embedded in Windows 11, or Google's Gemini, or Anthropic's Claude, among many other large language models.