

The Jonesi Consultancy | Houston, TX

AI LITERACY · EVERYDAY USE HANDOUT

THE TICS THAT GIVE CHATGPT AWAY



Seven Habits That Make AI Writing Obvious, And How To Switch
Them Off

*Style artifacts of training that rewarded thorough, professional-
sounding answers.*

Readers who spot AI writing point at the phrasing, not the reasoning. Seven habits account for most of it, and each one switches off with a single instruction.

1 The “Certainly!” Preamble

WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE

“Certainly! Here is a comprehensive overview...” The actual answer starts after the preamble, eight times out of ten.

SAY THIS TO STOP IT

Skip preambles. Start with the answer.

2 The Trailing Offer

WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE

“Would you like me to expand on any of these points?” Occasionally useful. Usually noise at the end of every single reply.

SAY THIS TO STOP IT

Do not end with offers to do more work. End when the answer ends.

3 Triplet Adjectives

WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE

“Effective, efficient, and elegant.” Three near-synonyms in a row. Human writers do this occasionally. Models do it constantly.

SAY THIS TO STOP IT

No triplet adjectives. Pick one word, not three.

4 The Triple-Parallel Closing

WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE

“...saves you time, reduces errors, and delivers better outcomes.” A specific cadence at the end of paragraphs. Once you notice it, you cannot stop noticing it.

SAY THIS TO STOP IT

Do not close paragraphs with triple parallels.

5 The Bullet-and-Header Reflex

WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE

Headers and bullet lists applied to a personal note or a continuous argument, where prose would read better and persuade more.

SAY THIS TO STOP IT

Write in continuous prose. No headers, no bullet lists.

6 The Em Dash Habit

WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE

Long dashes—like this one—dropped in where a comma, a colon, or a full stop would do the same work, often two or three times a paragraph.

SAY THIS TO STOP IT

Do not use em dashes or en dashes; use commas, colons, or separate sentences.

7 The Hedging Preamble

WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE

"It is worth noting that..." and "It is important to mention..." Almost always followed by something it could have simply said.

SAY THIS TO STOP IT

Skip hedges like "it is worth noting." Instead, just state the thing.

TWO THINGS THIS DOES NOT FIX

- It changes the voice, not the accuracy. A clean-sounding reply can still be wrong, so run CHECK.
- None of these habits are unique to ChatGPT. The same instruction works on Claude, Gemini, and Copilot.

★ ONE INSTRUCTION SET THAT HANDLES ALL TICS ★

Skip preambles and hedges like "it's worth noting." No triplet adjectives and no triple-parallel closings. Do not use em dashes or en dashes; use commas, colons, or separate sentences instead. Do not end with offers to do more work. Write in continuous prose unless I ask for bullets. Start with the answer and stop when it is finished.

**** Paste these instructions at the top of a conversation, or save it once in your assistant's custom instructions so it applies every time. ****

© 2026 The Jonesi Consultancy. All rights reserved.

Want your team writing with AI without sounding like it?

We train the habits that keep the voice yours.

