

Mastering Prompt Action Verbs

Commands That Unlock Powerful AI Research

For Investors and Accountants | Transform Vague Questions into Precision Queries

Why Action Verbs Matter

The verb you choose defines the depth and structure of your AI response.

- **Weak verb:** "Tell me about this stock" → generic summary
- **Strong verb:** "Quantify downside scenarios" → precise analysis
- **Result:** Better verbs = research-grade outputs in seconds
- **Benefit:** Reduced iteration, audit-ready documentation

Core Analysis Verbs

Foundational verbs for systematic financial and regulatory breakdown.

- **Analyze** — Break down structure and implications systematically
- **Evaluate** — Assess merit, risk, or performance against criteria
- **Compare** — Juxtapose entities to highlight differences
- **Assess** — Determine current state or value
- **Quantify** — Convert qualitative findings into measurable metrics

Discovery & Research Verbs

Verbs that extract and surface hidden insights and critical information.

- **Surface** — Extract and highlight key insights or hidden information
- **Identify** — Pinpoint specific elements, risks, or opportunities
- **Uncover** — Reveal underlying trends or root causes
- **Extract** — Pull specific data from a larger body of information
- **Spotlight** — Highlight critical or underappreciated factors

Reasoning & Logic Verbs

Verbs that force step-by-step explanation and causal reasoning.

- **Explain** — Provide clear reasoning behind findings or phenomena
- **Reason through** — Walk step-by-step through complex logic
- **Interpret** — Translate data or observations into insights
- **Infer** — Draw logical conclusions from evidence
- **Reconcile** — Resolve apparent contradictions or discrepancies

Planning & Action Verbs

Verbs that project forward and test hypothetical scenarios.

- **Forecast** — Project future performance or outcomes
- **Predict** — Anticipate likely future results
- **Model** — Create structured scenarios or frameworks
- **Project** — Extend current trends into future periods
- **Simulate** — Run hypothetical scenarios to test outcomes

Structuring & Organization Verbs

Verbs that organize findings into actionable, hierarchical outputs.

- **Summarize** — Condense key findings into concise takeaways
- **Outline** — Present main structure or framework of an idea
- **Prioritize** — Rank items by importance or impact
- **Categorize** — Organize information into logical groups
- **Structure** — Organize information in hierarchical format

Critique & Refinement Verbs

Verbs that validate, challenge, and stress-test assumptions.

- **Validate** — Confirm accuracy or appropriateness of assumptions
- **Challenge** — Question the validity of assumptions or conclusions
- **Critique** — Provide constructive evaluation of strengths and weaknesses
- **Review** — Examine systematically for accuracy and completeness
- **Audit** — Systematically examine for compliance and accuracy

Advanced Combination Phrases

Multi-verb phrases for complex, structured responses.

- **Step-by-step describe** — Break down processes into sequential steps
- **Break down and explain** — Decompose and provide reasoning
- **Generate and contrast** — Create alternatives and highlight differences
- **Synthesize and recommend** — Combine insights and propose solutions

Investor: Verb-Driven Prompt

Put action verbs to work in your research request.

"**Analyze** [TICKER] versus sector medians. **Quantify** revenue and EBITDA growth. **Surface** 5 red-flag risks from the 10-K. **Rank** top 3 value drivers by FCF impact. **Summarize** in 5 bullets for investment committee."

Accountant: Verb-Driven Prompt

Strong verbs ensure technical rigor and auditability.

"**Interpret** ASC 450 for this contingency. **Contrast** two allowable treatments on EBITDA. **Outline** technical steps. **Draft** partner-ready memo in 6 bullets. **Flag** assumptions for sign-off."

Verb Intensity & Precision

Match verb strength to your research rigor.

Low Specificity

✗ "Tell me about our cash flow"

High Specificity

✓ "Analyze YoY cash flow drivers. **Quantify** three causes."

Best Practices

Craft research-grade prompts with confidence.

- **Lead with role:** "Act as senior equity analyst / audit manager"
- **Use strong action verbs** as the core of your request
- **Specify format:** "Return 5 bullet points, each starting with an action verb"
- **Anchor context:** Company, period, standard (IFRS/GAAP), audience

Real-World Impact

Strong verbs deliver research-grade outputs.

- **Save time:** Get structured answers in seconds, not hours
- **Reduce iteration:** Fewer follow-up prompts needed
- **Audit compliance:** Outputs link to sources and assumptions
- **Investor ready:** Bullet-point summaries fit straight into decks

Get Started Now

Pick one research task you do repeatedly.

Build a verb-driven prompt template with: role → action verb → context → output format.

Paste it into Perplexity. Test. Refine. Repeat.