

Midjourney is an app used to generate art. The AI recognizes hundreds of different prompts and phrases, which will affect the style of the image you generate. While you will often use more than one prompt for an image, it's useful to know what a single prompt does before you mash them together.

You can generate a sample image to see what a single prompt does by using “character, [prompt] –ar 2:3 –v 4” and “landscape, [prompt] –ar 3:2 –v 4”.

This is a text version of a database I used to have on my website. Feel free to use it however you want, but no need to credit me for anything; I prefer to remain anonymous.

## AESTHETIC & STYLE PROMPTS

- **Anime:** Anime is a specific art style from Japan. The landscape does a bit better job of taking on the style; you might have to add “cartoon” or similar to get the portraits to take on a more cartoon look.
- **Art Nouveau:** Art nouveau is a ornamental art style throughout Europe and the US from 1890 to 1910.
- **Artstation:** ArtStation is a website for games, film, media, and entertainment artists to showcase their work.
- **Astral:** Alien planets and star-themed characters.
- **Astrological:** Similar to “astral,” but less sparkly.
- **Blender:** Blender is a piece of software that artists use to create 3D graphics.
- **Cinematic:** Use this prompt for a realistic look with cool lighting.
- **Comic Book:** Vector art-style landscapes and superhero characters.
- **Concept Art:** Concept art is a style of art used to convey an idea, scene, or character for use in films, video games, or other media.
- **CryEngine:** CryEngine is a particular software used to design video games.
- **Dark Fantasy:** This is a subgenre of fantasy that includes disturbing or frightening themes.
- **DeviantArt:** DeviantArt is a website artists use to share their work.
- **Dieselpunk:** Dieselpunk is a subgenre of science fiction that combines diesel-based and retro-futuristic technology.
- **Dreamy:** Use this prompt for pastel colours and misty landscapes.
- **Elaborate:** This prompt adds a lot of steampunk-style ornaments to characters and creates landscapes that look like they're from other worlds.
- **Epic Composition:** Interesting scenes and character stances. Vast, fantasy-style landscapes.
- **Ethereal:** Similar to “Dreamy,” but more eerie.
- **Extraterrestrial:** Aliens!
- **Fantasy:** This will give your landscapes an otherworldly look and your characters will often look medieval or elvish.
- **Gradient:** Often uses a pink, yellow, and red colour palette.
- **Graphic Novel:** This gives landscapes a vector art style, but characters vary.

- **Heat Haze:** For characters and landscapes experiencing a hot atmosphere.
- **Hyperrealistic:** You can still tell its art, but a realistic style. Similar to “photorealistic.”
- **Impressionism:** A style of painting from 1860s France, characterized by shifting light and colour, and often vague brushstrokes.
- **KitBash3D:** KitBash3D is software that enables artists to create 3D assets for movies and video games.
- **Krita:** Krita is a digital painting program, similar to Photoshop except it is free and open source.
- **Magic:** Similar to the “fantasy” prompt for landscapes, but the characters tend to look more like witches or wizards.
- **Monochrome:** Realistic black and white scenes.
- **Muted:** Results in a faded colour palette.
- **Octane:** Octane Render is a piece of software that enables artist to generate images from a model.
- **Ominous:** Well, that’s ominous.
- **Ornate:** This tends to add headdresses and jewelry to characters and architecture to landscapes.
- **Photorealistic:** You can still tell its art, but a realistic style. Similar to “hyperrealistic.”
- **Pixel Art:** A style of digital art using square pixels, often associated with 8-bit and 16-bit era computers.
- **Rich Color:** Deep, often red-dominated colour palette.
- **Sense of Awe:** Tends to generate interesting lighting and realistic characters as well as mountainous landscapes.
- **Sharp Focus:** This prompt seems to blur some parts of the image and focus on others.
- **Solarpunk:** Dieselpunk is a subgenre of science fiction that combines solar-based and retro-futuristic technology.
- **Steampunk:** Dieselpunk is a subgenre of science fiction that combines steam-based and retro-futuristic technology.
- **Tenebroso:** Results in dark, gloomy, and eerie images.
- **Ultra Detailed:** Realistic scenes and characters.
- **Underwater:** Characters don’t necessarily look like they are swimming, but the aesthetic is aquatic.
- **Unreal Engine:** Unreal Engine is a specific piece of software that artists use to create photorealistic visuals.
- **Vast:** Not sure what this prompt does to characters, but it tends to create sparse, distant landscapes, often with mountains in the background.
- **Vibrant:** Bright-coloured hair and clothes on characters; pink , blue, and orange-heavy palette on landscapes.

## ART MEDIUM PROMPTS

- **Acrylic Painting:** Use this prompt for bright colors and realistic portraits where you can see often some brush strokes.

- **Airbrush:** The portraits don't look particularly airbrushed, but the landscapes have that blended effect you'd expect.
- **Ballpoint Pen:** For drawings with blue or navy ink.
- **Batik:** Batik is a technique from Indonesia for dyeing cloth. You can see some cloth texture in the landscapes.
- **Black Paper:** White art on black paper.
- **Bone Carving:** When wood carving just isn't enough.
- **Carving:** These images look like they've been carved from wood.
- **Chalk:** For art generated with this powdery medium.
- **Charcoal Drawing:** Charcoal is a black, crumbly material made of carbon, resulting in a smudged, black and white style.
- **Colored Pencil:** This medium offers a lot of control and precision in a softer style.
- **Detailed Painting:** The colors seem a little brighter than the default Midjourney style and it looks more painterly.
- **Drone Photography:** Use this prompt for that birds-eye view.
- **Gold Leaf:** Gold leaf is gold that has been hammered into fine sheets; artists put it onto the surface of paintings, such as in these landscapes.
- **Gouache:** Gouache is similar to watercolours except it's opaque.
- **Impasto Oil Painting:** Impasto is a technique that uses thick layers of oil paint on the canvas, resulting in lovely texture.
- **Ink Illustration:** This medium has a heavy black and white contrast.
- **Linocut:** Linocut is a printmaking technique where a design is cut into linoleum, then inked with a roller and stamped onto paper.
- **Markers:** Use this prompt for bright colours and more of a cartoony style.
- **Mixed Media:** Mixed media is when more than one medium or material is used in the art. Midjourney translates this as putting a lot of interesting textures into the artwork.
- **Oil on Canvas:** Realistic art style with a more muted colour palette.
- **Pen and Ink:** Similar to ink illustration, except there are more varying shades and strokes.
- **Pencil Sketch:** A soft black and white style.
- **Pointillism:** A technique that uses tiny dots to create the painting.
- **Quilted:** Midjourney does a bit better at the landscapes with the quilted effect; the characters look like a combination of quilting and painting.
- **Sculpture:** The landscapes are odd, but the characters are very sculpture-like.
- **Sewn:** For doll-like characters and textured landscapes.
- **Spray Paint:** Bright, drippy colours.
- **Stained Glass:** Coloured glass forming designs, often in church windows.
- **Stencil:** Stencils are cutting a design out of paper or other media to create an image that's easily reproducible usually looking like a silhouette, though Midjourney has added interesting splatters to the character portraits.
- **Tapestry:** Midjourney added some really interesting textures to the portraits for this prompt.
- **Ukiyo-E:** This is a type of Japanese art from the 17th to 19th centuries.

- **Vector Art:** Vector art is a type of digital art using geometric shapes, points, lines, and curves.
- **Watercolor:** For a splattery artwork using pastel tones.

## LIGHTING PROMPTS

- **Backlighting:** Backlighting is when the main light source is positioned behind the primary subject.
- **Beautiful Lighting:** It's random what lighting you'll get from this prompt, but it's generally a softer light and always pretty.
- **Bioluminescence:** Bioluminescence is light emitting from living organisms. Midjourney interprets this to mean a blue glow.
- **Blue Hour:** Blue-hued light when the sun is mostly below the horizon.
- **Cinematic Lighting:** Cinematic lighting is supposed to evoke a feeling, often lighting the subject to be slightly more bright than the background.
- **Crepuscular Rays:** Crepuscular rays are sunbeams from the sun just below the horizon, though Midjourney interprets this as generic sunbeams. Slightly paler in colour compared to the "sunbeams" prompt.
- **Dappled Light:** Patches of light and shade.
- **Dawn:** Often adds pinks and purples to sky colours. Softer lighting than the "dusk" prompt.
- **Dramatic Lighting:** Heavy contrast between light and shadows.
- **Dusk:** Brighter lighting than the "dawn" prompt.
- **Flourescent:** Neon, glowing colours.
- **Golden Hour:** Golden hues from the period right after sunrise or before sunset.
- **Lens Flare:** When a bright light enters the camera lens.
- **Midnight:** Dark, eerie lighting, often purple or blue-hued.
- **Moody Lighting:** Dark, soft lighting.
- **Overcast:** When grey clouds cover the sun.
- **Rim Lighting:** Light is often behind the subject, outlining them.
- **Shimmering Light:** Soft, golden light.
- **Sunbeams:** Slightly yellower compared to the "crepuscular rays" prompt.
- **Torchlit:** Illuminated by a torch or flame. The landscapes tend to have a glowing point of sunlight.
- **Twilight Hour:** Lighting from right before sunrise and after sunset.

## CHARACTER PROMPTS: RACE

Midjourney defaults to characters with straight hair and pale skin. To get a different appearance, try adding one of the prompts below, using "from [country name]", or adding several actor names with the skin tone you are looking for.

Add additional prompts to avoid stereotypes or caricatures. For example, the “Mexican” prompt tends to generate mustached characters wearing sombreros, which are stereotypes; to avoid this, I tried adjusting the prompt to “mexican skin tone –no hat”. Specify their clothing to avoid further stereotypes; for example “character, fantasy elf, indigenous skin tone, wearing wizard robes –no hat” results in a fantasy character that avoids the feathered headdress attire.

Note: This list of prompts obviously does not encompass all races, countries, and cultures, but is meant for inspiration for how you can use Midjourney to adjust appearance using cultural and location-based prompts.

- African American
- African
- Arab
- Asian
- Black
- Chinese
- Filipina
- Hispanic
- Indigenous
- Japanese
- Korean
- Latine
- Mexican
- Mixed Race
- Romani

## **CHARACTER PROMPTS: HAIR**

Add further descriptors to each of these to get an even more specific color; for example, “pale,” “pastel,” “bright,” “flourescent,” “dark,” “streaked,” etc. Occasionally, the hair colour prompt will also affect the appearance of the character; for example, “grey hair” results in an older character, while “silver hair” or “ashen hair” does not. Of course, you can always add an age prompt, such as “teenager” or “old woman,” to correct this.

- White-blond hair
- Blond
- Golden hair
- Sandy hair
- Light brown hair
- Brown hair
- Ash brown hair
- Dark brown hair
- Black hair
- Ashen hair

- Grey hair
- Platinum hair
- White hair
- Auburn hair
- Mahogany hair
- Red hair
- Orange hair
- Yellow hair
- Green hair
- Teal hair
- Blue hair
- Indigo hair
- Purple hair
- Lilac hair
- Pink hair
- Blush hair
- Rainbow hair
- Flourescent hair
- Ombre hair
- Streaked hair
- Afro
- Bald
- Bangs
- Braids
- Bushy hair
- Buzz cut
- Cloudy hair
- Crimped hair
- Curly hair
- Dreadlocks
- Frizzy hair
- Glossy hair
- Hair in a bun
- Hair ringlets
- Layered bob hair
- Mohawk
- Pixie haircut
- Ponytail
- Straight hair
- Tangled hair
- Thick hair
- Tousled hair
- Undercut hair
- Upswept hair

- Wavy hair

## **CHARACTER PROMPTS: DISABILITY**

- Albinism
- Blind
- In a wheelchair
- Prosthetic leg
- Tired
- Using crutches
- Walking with a cane
- With a hearing aid

## **TRADITIONAL ARTIST PROMPTS**

Midjourney can generate a specific art style when you add one or more artist names to your prompts. This doesn't usually generate art that looks like it was drawn by that artist exactly; at least at this point, you will still be able to tell the difference. I don't recommend using living artists' names as prompts, as they did not consent to having their work train the bot.

- Albert Bierstadt
- Alphonse Mucha
- Andy Warhol
- Arthur Rackham
- Auguste Renoir
- Austin Briggs
- Bob Ross
- Cicely Mary Barker
- Caspar David Friedrich
- Claude Monet
- Dante Rossetti
- Dean Cornwell
- Edgar Degas
- Edmund Dulac
- Edouard Manet
- Emil Nolde
- El Greco
- Eugene Boudin
- Frank Frazetta
- Frida Kahlo
- Hiroshi Yoshida
- Hubert Robert
- Ilya Repin
- Ivan Shishkin

- Ivan Aivazovsky
- James C. Christensen
- James McNeill Whistler
- J.C. Leyendecker
- John Singer Sargent
- John William Waterhouse
- Jules Bastien-Lepage
- Katsushika Hokusai
- Leonardo Da Vinci
- Louis Comfort Tiffany
- Paul Cezanne
- Rogier van der Weyden
- Rembrandt
- Tasha Tudor
- Titian
- Vincent van Gogh
- William Blake
- Winslow Homer

## **TV & MOVIE PROMPTS**

You can coax Midjourney towards a specific look or feel by adding a TV show, movie, or video game title to your prompts. This won't necessarily get you the specific art style of the movie; for example, the images from Avatar: The Last Airbender aren't in the show's animated style. You may need to add an art style prompt to get it to look different from Midjourney's default style. But the AI may take colours or atmospheric details from the franchise.

- 300
- Alien
- Attack on Titan
- Avatar The Last Airbender
- Battlestar Galactica
- The Dark Crystal
- Disney
- Doctor Who
- Game of Thrones
- Ghostbusters
- The Hobbit
- Indiana Jones
- Jumanji
- Jurassic Park
- Legend of Korra
- The Little Mermaid
- The Lord of the Rings



- Moana
- Outlander
- Pacific Rim
- Pixar
- Princess Mononoke
- Shadow and Bone
- She-Ra and the Princesses of Power
- Spirited Away
- Star Trek
- Star Wars
- Stargate
- Stranger Things
- Studio Ghibli
- Tim Burton
- Westworld

## **VIDEO GAME PROMPTS**

- ARK: Survival Evolved
- Armello
- Astroneer
- Bioshock
- Bioshock Infinite
- Borderlands 2
- Breath of the Wild
- Chrono Trigger
- Cuphead
- Dark Souls
- Destiny 2
- Don't Starve
- Dragon Age
- Fallout
- Final Fantasy VII
- Granblue
- Hellblade Senua's Sacrifice
- Hollow Knight
- Horizon Zero Dawn
- League of Legends
- Mass Effect
- NieR Automata
- No Man's Sky
- Okami
- Ori and the Blind Forest
- Sea of Thieves

- Shadow of the Colossus
- Skyrim
- Stardew Valley
- Torchlight II
- Twilight Princess
- Valheim
- World of Warcraft
- Wildermyth
- Wind Waker