Learning Tip:

Using GenAI for Learning

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- When used well, generative AI (GenAI) can enhance learning — especially for explanations, practice, and feedback.
- High-value prompt types (better than “give me the answer”):
  1. **Metaphors & analogies**: “Explain *[topic]* using an analogy.”, “Use an analogy from *[domain I know well]*.”
  2. **Options and perspectives**: “Give me three approaches to *[problem]*, compare/contrast, and when each is best.”
  3. **Questions (not answers)**: “What are 3 questions I should ask to deepen my understanding of *[topic]*?”
  4. **Practice generation**: “Create 3 practice problems on *[topic]* with increasing difficulty (no solutions yet).”
  5. **Debugging your thinking**: “Show a common wrong solution and explain why it fails.”
- Include context to get a more relevant response (e.g., “I’m a first-year *[program]* student taking *[course title]*, just starting *[topic]*.”)

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- Use GenAI to **inspire and structure your thinking** — not to replace it.
- A good workflow:
  1. **Try first**: attempt the problem or write your current understanding.
  2. **Ask for guidance**: analogies, hints, checks, or practice questions.
  3. **Do the work**: solve it yourself and write the final solution in your own words.
  4. **Verify**: use GenAI to check for gaps, edge cases, or alternative approaches.
- Reality check: GenAI can sound convincing while being wrong. Verify with notes, textbook, and course definitions.
- Follow insititution and course rules on GenAI use; when in doubt, ask.
- GenAI makes shortcuts tempting — but deep learning still requires effortful practice.
- **Takeaway:** Use AI tools for **ideas**, not as a substitute for your brain doing the work.