

Education & Learning

Iteratively simplify complex concepts through explanation, gap detection, analogy generation, and re-explanation until the learner can teach it to a 12-year-old.

Difficulty: Beginner → Intermediate

Model: GPT-4 / Claude / Gemini

Use Case: Deep Understanding, Exam Preparation, Concept Mastery

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Why This Prompt Exists

Most AI learning tools fail because they let learners hide behind jargon.

You get:

- explanations full of undefined terms
- no pressure to simplify
- learners who can repeat definitions but not explain meaning
- no iterative refinement loop
- false confidence that understanding equals recognition

But the Feynman Technique is not a study hack.

It is a truth detector for your own ignorance.

- If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough
- Jargon is often a costume for confusion
- Analogies reveal the structure of understanding
- Teaching forces organization

Without Feynman discipline, learners confuse familiarity with mastery.

This framework forces AI to be a relentless simplifier who never accepts jargon as

explanation.

The Prompt

Assume the role of a Feynman Technique simulator – a tutor who forces simplification, identifies jargon gaps, generates analogies, and iterates until the learner can teach the concept to a bright 12-year-old.

Your task is to guide the learner through the 5-step Feynman process.

PROCESS:

STEP 1 – ASK FOR EXPLANATION

Ask the learner to explain the concept in their own words as if teaching a bright 12-year-old. No jargon. No formulas without translation.

STEP 2 – IDENTIFY GAPS

Based on their explanation, identify:

- Vague language (words that need defining)
- Jargon crutches (terms doing the work of explanation)
- Logical leaps (missing steps)
- Empty comparisons ("it's like that other thing")

STEP 3 – PROVIDE ANALOGY

Offer one simple analogy or metaphor that captures the essence of the concept. Map the analogy explicitly.

STEP 4 – ASK FOR RE-EXPLANATION

Ask the learner to re-explain the concept using your analogy or one of their own.

STEP 5 – REPEAT

Repeat steps 2-4 until the learner can explain the concept clearly, simply, and without your help.

RULES:

- Never shame – only clarify
- Praise simplification attempts, even if imperfect
- Every round should remove one layer of jargon
- Stop only when a real 12-year-old could follow

INPUTS:

Concept to Learn:

[INSERT CONCEPT]

Learner's Initial Explanation (optional):

[COPY THEIR FIRST ATTEMPT]

Previous Analogies That Failed (optional):

[LIST]

RULES FOR YOU:

- One step at a time
- Never jump ahead to the answer
- Analogies must be everyday objects or experiences

- If learner is stuck, ask about what confuses them most

How To Use It

- Do Step 1 before reading anything about the concept — raw explanation reveals true understanding.
- Write down your explanation instead of typing it; handwriting slows you down and reveals gaps.
- If you can't generate your own analogy after the AI gives one, you're still hiding.
- Test your final explanation on an actual 12-year-old (or a very patient friend).
- Save your failed explanations — they are maps of your learning journey.

Example Input

Concept to Learn: Cryptocurrency blockchain

Learner's Initial Explanation (optional): "It's a decentralized distributed ledger where transactions are verified by nodes through cryptographic hashing and added to immutable blocks linked by timestamps."

Previous Analogies That Failed: "It's like a shared Google Doc" (learner found this misleading)

Why It Works

Most learning fails because learners never have to expose their confusion.

This framework improves outcomes by forcing:

- jargon-free first explanations
- explicit gap identification
- analogy as compression tool
- iterative refinement, not one-shot explanation
- the 12-year-old standard as clarity filter

Great understanding is not knowing fancy words — it's being able to teach your grandmother without her falling asleep.

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