

Image Generation / Midjourney

Convert natural language style descriptions into effective `-sref` and `-cref` codes — maps verbal styles to visual references.

Difficulty: Intermediate

Model: GPT-4 / Claude / Gemini

Use Case: Style Transfer, Brand Consistency

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Why This Prompt Exists

Describing a style is hard. “Make it look like Wes Anderson” is vague. Midjourney’s `-sref` and `-cref` require specific references, not adjectives.

You get:

- vague style descriptions that produce inconsistent results
- no systematic way to capture a brand’s visual language
- character inconsistency across generations (same character looks different)
- wasted attempts guessing at style reference images
- no ability to combine multiple style references

But style references can be systematic:

- `-sref`: style reference from images (colors, composition, mood)
- `-cref`: character reference (facial features, proportions, poses)
- `-cw`: character weight (how strongly to follow the reference)
- style blending: multiple references combined

Without translation, you describe styles that Midjourney doesn’t understand.

This prompt translates natural language style descriptions into effective references.

The Prompt

Assume the role of a Midjourney style translator who converts descriptions to parameters.

Your task is to translate natural language style descriptions into --sref and --cref codes.

Generate:

1. STYLE DESCRIPTION ANALYSIS

- Original description: [user input]
- Key style attributes extracted:
 - * Color palette: [dominant colors, temperature, saturation]
 - * Composition: [framing, depth, balance]
 - * Lighting: [direction, quality, mood]
 - * Texture: [smooth, rough, painterly, photographic]
 - * Mood: [calm, energetic, melancholy, professional]

2. REFERENCE IMAGE SUGGESTIONS

- Suggested source for --sref: [artist, film, photographer, design style]
- Why this reference matches the description: [specific attributes]
- Example reference URL or description: [image source]

3. PARAMETER RECOMMENDATIONS

Parameter	Suggested Value	Rationale
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--sref	[image URL or code]	Captures the color and composition style
--sw	100-1000	Higher for stronger style adherence
--cref	[character reference URL]	For consistent characters
--cw	0-100	Lower for expression changes, higher for identical

4. COMBINED PROMPT

`[subject description] --sref [reference 1] [reference 2] --sw [value]`

5. STYLE PRESET CREATION

- For repeatable use, save as: `/prefer option set [name] --sref [reference] --sw [value]`

6. ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

- If no exact reference available: [describe using --stylize instead]

- If blending two styles: [reference A weight 50%, reference B weight 50%]

INPUTS:

Natural language style description:

[E.G., "Cyberpunk neon noir, like Blade Runner but warmer, more magenta"]

Character consistency needed?:

[YES / NO]

Reference image available?:

[YES / NO / URL if yes]

Desired output format:

[WIDE / SQUARE / PORTRAIT]

RULES:

- --sref works best with 1-3 reference images (more dilute the effect)
- --sw 100 is minimal style influence, 1000 is maximum
- --cref requires consistent seed or character prompt structure
- Style references work across subjects (not just the original subject)
- Combine --sref with --stylize for hybrid approaches
- Test --sw values starting at 300, adjust up or down

How To Use It

- -sref works best with 1-3 reference images — more dilute the effect.
- -sw 100 is minimal style influence, 1000 is maximum (use 300-700 for most use cases).
- -cref requires consistent seed or character prompt structure to maintain identity.
- Style references work across subjects (not just the original subject in the reference).
- Combine -sref with -stylize for hybrid approaches when no exact reference exists.
- Test -sw values starting at 300, then adjust up or down based on results.

Example Input

Natural language style description:

“Minimalist Japanese woodblock print, like Hokusai but with muted earth tones”

Character consistency needed?:

“NO”

Reference image available?:

“NO”

Desired output format:

“WIDE”

Why It Works

Most users describe styles with adjectives — “make it look cinematic” — which Midjourney interprets inconsistently.

This framework improves outcomes by forcing:

- style attribute extraction (color, composition, lighting, texture, mood)
- reference image suggestion (concrete sources, not abstract descriptions)
- parameter specification (-sref, -sw, -cref values)
- combined prompt construction (ready to use)
- preset creation (repeatable style for brand consistency)

Failure modes this prevents:

- Vague styles that produce random results — “cinematic” (too broad)
- Character inconsistency across generations (no -cref)
- Style drift between images (no saved presets)
- Weak style adherence (-sw too low)

This improves on: Adjective-based style description. Concrete references produce consistent results.

Related to: MJ-01 (Parameters) for syntax; MJ-06 (Remix) for variation patterns.

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See also [Parameter Classifier](#)