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IMAGE GENERATION , MIDJOURNEY

An advanced guide to writing prompts for Midjourney (text-to-image)

A detailed 'cheat sheet' and some keywords for improving image output by using better prompts

Lars Nielsen · [Follow](#)

Published in MLearning.ai · 7 min read · Sep 3, 2022



3.8K



36



Image generated by Midjourney , text prompt : **beautiful, fantasy city unreal engine**

One liner on midjourney ?

For those of you who haven't heard about midjourney yet, here is a one line introduction : *Midjourney is a text-to-image generation app similar to OpenAI's DALLE-2 and Stable Diffusion's DreamStudio , which uses tons of images (around 650+ million) found on the internet — to generate stunning images based on the text prompt provided.* It is now in the beta phase — but is adding more features every week .. and the future is yet to be imagined ! (Currently their AI engine is on v3)

Raw prompt text

Anyone who has used the **midjourney** app knows that the more descriptive you are in your text, the more vibrant and unique the output will be. Users generally use raw and direct prompts like : *‘a cowboy wearing a tuxedo on the moon’* , would generate something like this :



Image created on midjourney — prompt: **a cowboy wearing a tuxedo on the moon**

But there are more options than just the plain raw prompt text to create predictable and consistent image outputs !

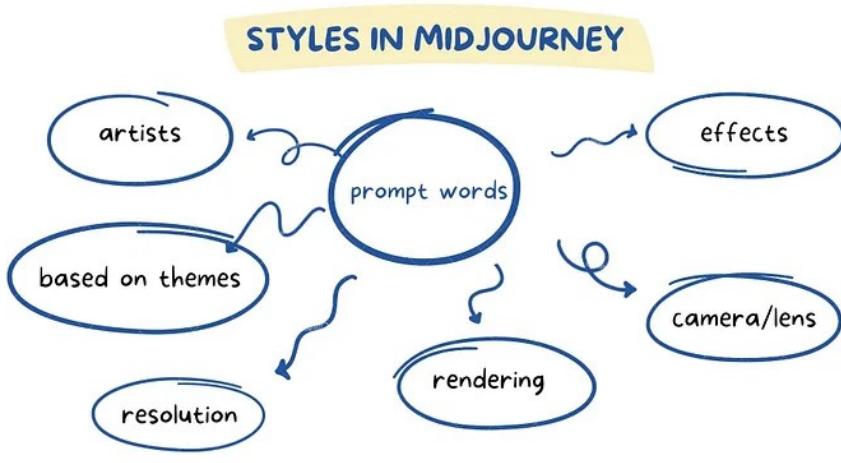
Now getting directly on to advanced options list for text-prompts !

Here are some of the ways you can generate variations in images and some of the advanced settings for the same : (details on each of these settings follows the list)

1. Providing keywords — ‘style’
2. stylize
3. chaos
4. Resolution

5. Aspect ratio
6. passing an image as a prompt as URL
7. applying weights to the image prompts
8. weights to the word prompts
9. filtering out words

In a nutshell, your style is affected by the keywords of your choice — and you can specify what kind of styles you choose to go for — A broad classification of the style types are shown in this figure —



Style groups in midjourney — Image by author

1. Style — keyword

providing a set of supporting prompt keywords associated with “styles” can create different outputs based on what kind of style you opt to choose. Here are some of the keywords and sub-types based on the artform/design/artist/genre you might want to choose as styles :

- using design/genre as style



Image generated by midjourney, prompts from author

- **using artist name as style**

You can also specify the artist as your style output . Some samples to the same prompt are shown below

/imagine horse galloping at sunset painting Andy Warhol style



image generated by Midjourney, artist as style , prompts by Author

- **using the rendering/ lighting properties as style**



image generated by midjourney , prompt experiments by Author (prompt text : "fantasy castle")

2. stylize the output

You can add the setting `--s <some number>` (denoting style)

The following images are from the same prompts — with low and high stylize option.

`/imagine firefighters --s 600`



--s 700

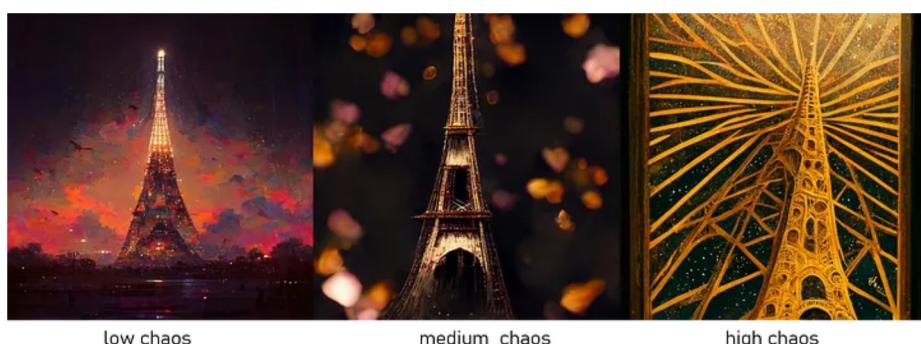
--s 1000

Image created by midjourney , prompt : firefighters

3. chaos — Increase the abstraction

Takes a number from 0 to 100 to increase or decrease the level of abstraction in the subject

`/imagine Eiffel tower --chaos 60`



low chaos

medium chaos

high chaos

Image generated by midjourney, prompt : Eiffel Tower

4. Resolution

To specify the output resolution, you can use some of the usual keywords like `8K` , `4K` , `photorealistic` , `ultra photoreal` , `ultra detailed` , `intricate details` etc

Or you can go with the standard settings for predictable outputs `hd` and `quality` / `--q` are two such settings

```
/imagine red rose flower --hd
```

```
/imagine red rose flower --quality 5
```

5. Aspect ratio

You can specify ratio of the width:length of your output image. This is called the aspect ratio. The default output is a square image (1:1 aspect ratio). But if you want a more cinematic view — or you just want to make a wall paper for your laptop, you can change the aspect ratio

```
/imagine jasmine in the wild flower --ar 4:3
```

If you want to specify a custom image size , use the following example

```
/imagine jasmine in the wild flower --w 600 --h 300
```

👉 You cannot specify your custom aspect ratios — but can specify some of the standard ratios and some non-standard too ! (Here are some examples)



Image generated by midjourney , text prompt : **"jasmine in the wild"** , tested by Author

6. Image as a prompt

If you want to get some outputs similar to an image style , (when you want to get consistent outputs) across multiple images, pass a URL of the image

```
/imagine http://www.imgur.com/Im3424.jpg box full of chocolates
```

The image generated will take cues from both the seed image (from the URL you passed) and also the text prompts.

👉 You can give multiple images as prompts

👉 You can specify weights to the images (see the next point)

7. Weights to Image prompt

If you want your output to be looking more like your prompt image (see the previous point), give a higher weightage to that image (keyword : `--iw <number>`).

```
/imagine http://www.imgur.com/ks34f24.jpg chocolates --iw:4
```

8. Weights to text prompt

```
/imagine wild animals tiger::2 zebra::4 lions::1.5
```

9. Filtering out words from your image

Use the `--no` keyword to discard any unwanted subjects popping in your

```
/imagine KFC fried chicken --no sauce
```



fried chicken

sauce removed

10. Finally, some interesting keywords you can try to use

* Sony Alpha α7, ISO1900, Leica M, = to specify any lens type or camera type

* photorealistic, ultra photoreal, ultra detailed, intricate details, = to specify some possible details and a realistic look and less of artistic

* unreal = to specify an unreal engine feel

* volumetric light , cinematic lighting = to specify some lighting conditions

In Summary

We talked about how you can get some degree of control on the kind of images you can get as output to your midjourney experiments . But its not quite done yet . There is a lot of room the good folks at Midjourney have left for your imagination and experimentation. Good luck with trying out different prompts and having fun with your creations.

Related Reference :

The Creativity of Text-to-Image Generation JONAS OPPENLAENDER, University of Jyväskylä, Finland <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2206.02904.pdf>

To experiment with some text prompts, [here is an article with some extraordinary images generated by Midjourney](#) — some sample images and corresponding text prompts to begin with.

Lessons learnt from using Midjourney v4 and some awesome images generated (text prompts included)

Some sample text-to-image prompts to get extraordinary results.

pythonslabs.medium.com

Interested in similar topics ? Here are some links —

If you are interested in the use of AI in images/ graphics and design , here are some of my related articles —

1. ControlNets are cool !

[Have a look at a sample output, generated using ControlNets ..](#)



Input Image



Generated Image

Anime to real life (Image by author, generated using Stable Diffusion)

Link to Article : [Controlling and finetuning the poses and styles using ControlNets](#)

2. Midjourney V5 is out . Find out whats new in v5 !

Midjourney V5 is here ! So, what's new ?

What's new in v5 and how does the new version compare to the older ones ?

bootcamp.uxdesign.cc

3. Emulating Human pose in your output images using PoseMyArt

If you want to create certain desired human poses which you want to specify, read this article which will help you use ControlNets + PoseMyArt + Stable Diffusion to give very fine tuned control over your creations.

How to create the desired custom body pose using Mid Journey and PoseMyArt

Quick Guide on creating flexible body pose using PoseMy.Art

pythonslabs.medium.com

4. How to fix bad face generations in midjourney. (using GFPGAN)

Taking generated Midjourney (MJ) images to the next level

A text-to-image generation pipeline for human faces for midjourney

medium.com

5. Are you following the craze about chatGPT ? 10 things a programmer can do with chatGPT.

10 things you can do with ChatGPT as a Machine Learning Engineer to make your work more efficient.

How to get your work faster and more efficiently with the help of OpenAI's ChatGPT

medium.com

6. lama-clean : An advanced Open Source Watermark remover

lama-cleaner : AI based watermark remover & Image Editor

The latest Open source Image Editor with support for Stable Diffusion

medium.com

Coming Next (watch this space ...)

- How to create interesting prompts in OpenAI's DALL.E 2 !

Midjourney

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AI

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MI So Good

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**Written by Lars Nielsen**

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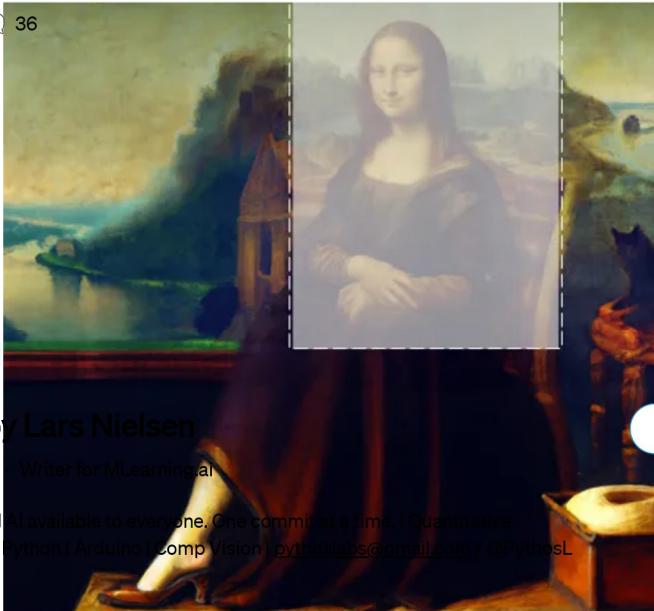
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Image created using DALL-E (prompt & editing by Author)

[More from Lars Nielsen and MLearning.ai](#)Input Image
Penelope by Franklin Simmons 1896

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I have been experimenting with LangChain for quite some time. For context, I penned the...

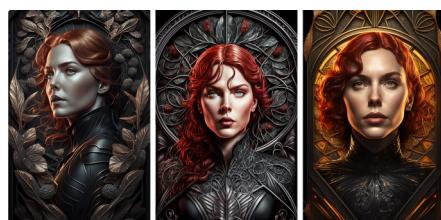
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 Tristan Wolff in The Generator

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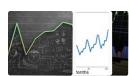
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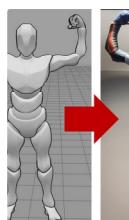
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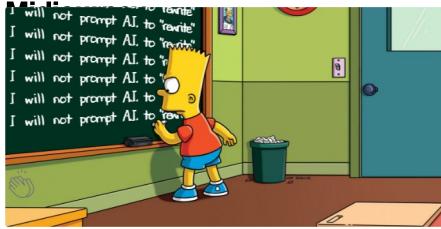
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