

ChatGPT Image Codes

Complete Guide

How to use image shorthand well - plus the complete 242-code reference.

These are community-created shorthand prompts, not official OpenAI slash commands.

The useful part is not memorizing the codes. It is learning how to tell AI what must stay true, what can change, and how to correct the first result.

What's inside

- 01 - Get a first result in minutes
- 02 - Audit the result, then correct one decision
- 03 - Decide what is locked, guided, and open
- 04 - Run the full repair loop
- 05 - Practice with ready-made variations
- 06 - Save the repeatable operating loop
- 07 - Verify before you publish
- Appendix - Complete 242-code directory

01 Get a first result in minutes

A code such as `/proshot` is informal shorthand for a creative direction. The slash saves typing; the plain-language instructions determine what the result actually needs to accomplish.

START LOW-STAKES

Use a clear photograph you are entitled to use. A photo of yourself is the simplest place to learn because identity, permission, and accuracy are easier to judge.

COPY / PASTE PROMPT

`/proshot`. Use the uploaded person as the identity reference. Preserve recognizable facial structure, approximate age, hairstyle, visible eye color, and natural skin texture. Create an approachable professional portrait for a website profile. Use soft window light, eye-level chest-up framing, understated logo-free clothing, and a warm neutral workspace. Compose vertically at 4:5. Keep it polished but realistic, with no visible text or logos.

What to look for

- Does the face still look like the source person?
- Does the mood match the intended use?
- Is the crop useful for the real destination?
- Did the model add text, logos, jewelry, props, or details you did not ask for?

CONTROLLED VARIATION

Keep the same person, facial details, approximate age, hairstyle, skin texture, clothing, lighting, and framing. Replace only the background with a warm creative workspace containing subtle bookshelves. Include no visible text or logos.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Preservation is a request, not a guarantee. The second image teaches you to inspect what changed besides the thing you asked to change.

02 Audit the result, then correct one decision

The first image is more than a draft. It reveals what your prompt allowed the model to guess. Instead of asking whether it looks impressive, ask: What is the biggest unwanted guess in this image?

CHECK	WHAT GOOD LOOKS LIKE	IF IT FAILS
Likeness	Face, age, hair, skin texture, glasses, body shape, and meaningful accessories remain consistent.	Fix identity before polishing anything else.
Purpose	The image communicates the intended role or mood without unwanted luxury, drama, or informality.	State the real use and replace the conflicting treatment.
Composition	Subject placement supports the destination and planned crop.	Specify framing, orientation, ratio, and needed empty space.
Artifacts	Eyes, teeth, hands, reflections, jewelry, objects, and text survive inspection.	Request a focused repair, then inspect again.

Output	Orientation, ratio, resolution, and file suitability match the actual need.	Verify the resulting file directly.
Truthfulness	The image does not imply an event, relationship, endorsement, or interaction that never happened.	Change the scene, disclose the transformation, or do not use it that way.

Useful repair prompts

OVER-RETOUCHED

Keep the same composition, clothing, background, and lighting. Restore natural skin texture and bring the apparent age and facial structure closer to the uploaded source. Keep the result polished but realistic.

TOO CORPORATE

Keep the same person, facial details, clothing, framing, and natural skin texture. Replace only the luxury or formal executive treatment with a warm, approachable workspace and soft window light. Include no visible text or logos.

WRONG CROP

Keep the same person, facial details, clothing, background treatment, and lighting. Recompose as an eye-level chest-up vertical portrait at approximately 4:5, with enough surrounding space for a website crop.

UNWANTED TEXT OR OBJECTS

Keep the person, facial details, clothing, lighting, background style, and framing unchanged. Remove the visible text, logos, and malformed background objects. Do not add replacement text.

THE REPAIR RULE

Preserve what works, change the largest failure, and inspect again. Replacing the entire prompt invites every successful decision back into negotiation.

03 Decide what is locked, guided, and open

Before the next request, sort decisions by consequence. Use this test: If AI guessed this incorrectly, would the result become unusable, misleading, or expensive to repair? If yes, lock it.

LEVEL	USE IT FOR	EXAMPLES
LOCKED	Details whose failure would invalidate the result.	Recognizable face, approximate age, number of people, relationship, product shape, destination format.
GUIDED	Choices where direction matters but reasonable variation is acceptable.	Lighting, clothing style, workspace tone, degree of polish.
OPEN	Choices where you genuinely do not care which reasonable option AI chooses.	Minor decor, incidental background objects, subtle color variation.

MENTAL MODEL

Good prompting is not about controlling everything. It is about removing the consequential guesses and leaving low-consequence choices open.

04 Run the full repair loop

1. **Start with purpose** - What is this image for, and what would make it usable?
2. **Lock identity or key facts** - State the details that must not drift.
3. **Give creative direction** - Use the shorthand code plus plain-English scene, mood, crop, or style.
4. **Inspect the first result** - Find the largest unwanted guess.
5. **Correct one variable** - Preserve the rest explicitly.
6. **Verify the actual file** - Check crop, size, artifacts, text, and truthfulness.

Worked example: /together

FIRST REQUEST

/together. Combine these two people into one believable coffee-shop photo. Preserve both faces, approximate ages, hairstyles, and body proportions. Seat them naturally at the same table with warm window light. Keep the scene casual and realistic.

Suppose the result looks good, but one face drifts and the hands look unnatural. Do not rewrite the entire scene.

REPAIR

Keep the same coffee shop, seating arrangement, clothing, crop, and lighting. Restore person 2's facial structure and approximate age closer to the uploaded reference. Correct the hands so each person has anatomically plausible fingers and hand positions. Change nothing else.

Worked example: /minime

FIRST REQUEST

/minime. Make a tiny version of me standing on my laptop keyboard in my real office. Preserve my recognizable face, hairstyle, black shirt, and approximate age. Make the scale difference obvious but physically believable. No text.

WHAT MAKES THIS BETTER THAN JUST /MINIME

The code provides the playful idea. The rest of the prompt protects identity, setting, wardrobe, scale, and output quality.

05 Practice with ready-made variations

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

/proshot - approachable technology executive, black shirt, clean modern office, natural skin, soft window light, chest-up 4:5 crop, no logos.

CINEMATIC FRAME

/cinestill - restrained cinematic frame, shallow depth of field, natural practical lighting, realistic skin and clothing, no headline text.

BACKGROUND CHANGE

/bgstudio - preserve the person exactly; replace only the existing background with a clean neutral studio, soft falloff, no visible logos.

FUTURE CONCEPT

/futureme - imagine a plausible future version 10 years from now; preserve recognizable facial structure and identity; realistic aging, not caricature.

ACTION FIGURE

/actionfigure - turn me into a premium boxed action figure based on this exact black-shirt look; keep the face recognizable; include accessories relevant to AI work; no fake brand logos.

COUPLE TRAVEL

/travelcouple - keep both people recognizable; place them in a believable candid travel scene; natural body language, realistic scale, no invented text.

06 Save the repeatable operating loop

CODE + PURPOSE + LOCKED DETAILS + GUIDANCE + CROP + REVIEW + ONE CORRECTION

CODE: The shorthand creative direction.

PURPOSE: What the finished image is actually for.

LOCKED DETAILS: Identity, facts, people, products, relationships, or other non-negotiables.

GUIDANCE: Mood, clothing, lighting, environment, visual tone.

CROP: Orientation, framing, aspect ratio, and needed negative space.

REVIEW: The most consequential mismatch in the first result.

ONE CORRECTION: Change that mismatch while explicitly preserving everything that already works.

THE BIGGER LESSON

You do not need hundreds of perfect prompts. You need a repeatable way to work with AI: give context, get a first draft, inspect it, correct the consequential mistake, and verify the result.

07 Verify before you publish

- ☐ Identity: still recognizably the right person or people.
- ☐ Hands/teeth/eyes/reflections: no obvious image artifacts.
- ☐ Text/logos: nothing invented, misspelled, or misleading.
- ☐ Truthfulness: the scene does not imply something false in a consequential context.
- ☐ Crop: the subject fits the real placement - website, thumbnail, story, profile, presentation, etc.
- ☐ Resolution: the actual exported file is large enough for the destination.
- ☐ Disclosure: if the transformation could reasonably mislead people, label or contextualize it.

One final principle: AI image generation is strongest when you treat the result as a visual draft, not unquestioned evidence. Creative freedom goes up as consequence goes down.

Appendix

Complete 242-code directory

242 **unique codes** are included below. A few appear in multiple categories because they naturally fit more than one use case.

People & Portraits

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
/portrait	Create a polished portrait from the source photo.
/hdportrait	Create a highly detailed, high-definition portrait.
/storyportrait	Create a portrait that feels like a scene with a story.
/natureportrait	Place the subject in a natural outdoor portrait setting.
/proshot	Turn the photo into a polished professional headshot or profile image.
/perfectshot	Refine composition, lighting, and presentation toward a polished final photo.
/cameraready	Make the subject look ready for a professional photo or video shoot.
/photofix	Repair common photo problems such as lighting, balance, or distractions.
/bestlook	Create a flattering but recognizable version of the subject.
/glowup	Give the photo a tasteful visual upgrade while keeping the person recognizable.
/makeitbetter	Improve the image overall without changing its core subject or intent.
/photorescue	Restore or improve a weak, damaged, or poorly captured photo.
/keepitreal	Improve the image while keeping it natural and believable.
/instafix	Quickly polish a photo for social posting.
/dpready	Prepare a photo for a display/profile picture.
/selfiefix	Improve a selfie's framing, lighting, and overall polish.
/facefix	Correct visible facial-image issues while preserving identity.
/faceglow	Add healthy-looking light and vibrance to the face.
/skinclean	Reduce temporary skin distractions while keeping the person recognizable.
/skinreal	Keep skin texture natural instead of overly smoothed or plastic.

/eyepop	Make the eyes more visually prominent through lighting and clarity.
/smilefix	Refine an awkward or poorly captured smile.
/makeover	Explore a broader beauty or styling transformation.
/hairfix	Tidy or improve the appearance of hair.
/hairchange	Try a different hairstyle.
/haircolor	Preview a different hair color.
/beard	Add, remove, or modify facial hair.
/glasses	Add, remove, or change eyewear.

Fun & Alternate Versions

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
/minime	Create a miniature version of the subject in a larger environment.
/giantme	Make the subject appear giant relative to the scene.
/cloneme	Create multiple versions of the same subject in one image.
/digitaltwin	Create a digital double or alternate version of the subject.
/childme	Imagine the subject as a child.
/childhoodme	Re-create a childhood-style version of the subject.
/futureme	Imagine a plausible future version of the subject.
/thennow	Create a then-versus-now comparison.
/old2new	Modernize an older photo or visual style.
/myera	Place the subject into a chosen historical or cultural era.
/altlife	Imagine the subject living a different life or role.
/parallelme	Create an alternate-universe version of the subject.
/timesplit	Show two time periods or versions side by side.
/portalme	Place the subject entering or emerging from a portal-like scene.
/dreamlife	Visualize an aspirational lifestyle or future scene.
/maincharacter	Give the subject cinematic main-character energy.
/movieversion	Reimagine the subject as if appearing in a movie.
/paparazzi	Create a candid celebrity-paparazzi style photo.
/redcarpet	Place the subject in a red-carpet event setting.

/billboardme

Place the subject on a large billboard or outdoor ad.

Character & Object Styles

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
/lego	Reimagine the subject in a brick-toy style.
/toy	Turn the subject into a toy-like version.
/actionfigure	Turn the subject into a packaged action-figure style character.
/miniature	Create a tiny model or miniature-world interpretation.
/clay	Render the subject in a clay-model style.
/statue	Turn the subject into a sculpted statue.
/doll	Render the subject as a doll-like character.
/papercraft	Reimagine the subject as layered paper craft.
/ghibli	Create a whimsical hand-painted animation-inspired interpretation.

Groups & Couples

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
/together	Combine people from separate photos into one believable shared scene.
/groupshot	Create or improve a group photo.
/coupleportrait	Create a posed portrait of two people together.
/candidcouple	Create a natural, unposed-looking couple moment.
/coupleselfie	Create a selfie-style image of a couple together.
/face2face	Pose two people facing one another.
/backhug	Pose one person hugging the other from behind.
/hug	Create a natural hugging pose.
/sidehug	Create a casual side-hug pose.
/closehug	Create a closer, more intimate hug composition.
/sittingtogether	Pose two people seated together.
/walkingtogether	Show two people walking together naturally.
/walkinghandinhand	Show two people walking while holding hands.
/headonshoulder	Pose one person's head resting on the other's shoulder.
/headtohead	Pose two people with their heads close together.
/foreheadkiss	Create a gentle forehead-kiss pose.

/cheekkiss	Create a cheek-kiss pose.
/couplegaze	Pose a couple looking at one another.
/playfulcouple	Create a light, playful couple moment.
/naturalcouple	Create a believable, relaxed couple image.
/cinematiccouple	Create a movie-like couple scene with cinematic lighting and composition.

Style & Clothing

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
/outfit	Change or explore the subject's clothing.
/outfitup	Upgrade the outfit while keeping the person recognizable.
/outfitfix	Correct awkward clothing details or fit in the image.
/outfitmatch	Coordinate clothing to a person, setting, or companion.
/styleup	Elevate the overall fashion and styling.
/newlook	Explore a visibly different but coherent look.
/oldmoney	Create an understated classic luxury aesthetic.
/quietluxury	Create a refined, minimal luxury look without loud branding.
/casualstyle	Dress the subject in a relaxed casual style.
/formalstyle	Dress the subject in formal or business-formal clothing.
/datelook	Create a polished outfit appropriate for a date.
/partylook	Create a more festive or nightlife-ready look.
/weddinglook	Create wedding-appropriate styling or attire.

Camera Angles

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
/closeup	Frame the subject in a tighter close-up.
/macro	Create an extreme close-detail or macro-style view.
/sideview	Show the subject from the side.
/backview	Show the subject from behind.
/topview	Create a top-down view.
/lowangle	Shoot from a low angle for a stronger, larger feel.
/wideangle	Use a wider field of view to include more environment.
/droneview	Create a high aerial/drone-style perspective.

<code>/birdeyview</code>	Create a directly overhead bird's-eye view.
<code>/povshot</code>	Create a first-person point-of-view composition.
<code>/overtheshoulder</code>	Frame the scene from behind one subject's shoulder.

Photo Effects

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
<code>/bokeh</code>	Add soft background blur with pleasing light separation.
<code>/motionblur</code>	Use intentional motion blur to communicate movement.
<code>/longexposure</code>	Create a long-exposure look with light or motion trails.
<code>/filmgrain</code>	Add subtle film grain for a more analog look.
<code>/polaroid</code>	Create a vintage instant-film/Polaroid-style treatment.
<code>/doubleexposure</code>	Blend two images or scenes into a double-exposure effect.
<code>/silhouette</code>	Turn the subject into or emphasize a silhouette.
<code>/reflection</code>	Use a mirror, glass, water, or other reflection as a visual device.
<code>/lensflare</code>	Add cinematic lens flare where it fits the lighting.

Lighting

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
<code>/goldenhour</code>	Use warm sunrise/sunset golden-hour lighting.
<code>/softlight</code>	Use soft, flattering, low-contrast light.
<code>/windowlight</code>	Light the subject as if illuminated naturally by a window.
<code>/lightfix</code>	Correct poor or uneven lighting.
<code>/nightfix</code>	Improve a photo captured in low light or at night.
<code>/darktobright</code>	Lift a dark image into a brighter, clearer exposure.
<code>/rembrandt</code>	Use classic Rembrandt-style portrait lighting.
<code>/godrays</code>	Add visible beams of light through atmosphere.
<code>/practicallights</code>	Use visible lamps, signs, or fixtures as motivating light sources.
<code>/twotonelight</code>	Use two contrasting light colors for a stylized look.

Quality & Cleanup

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
<code>/hdreal</code>	Increase realistic detail and overall high-definition appearance.
<code>/detailup</code>	Increase visible texture and fine detail.

/sharpreal	Improve sharpness while keeping the image natural.
/blurfix	Reduce unwanted blur where possible.
/colorfix	Correct color balance, casts, or flat-looking tones.

Backgrounds

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
/newbg	Replace the existing background with a new one.
/bgfix	Improve or repair the current background.
/bgremove	Remove the background.
/bgpro	Replace the background with a polished professional setting.
/bgnature	Use an outdoor or nature-based background.
/bgcity	Use a city or urban background.
/bgstudio	Use a clean studio-style background.
/bgcinematic	Use a dramatic cinematic background.
/bgluxury	Use a refined luxury setting.
/bgblur	Blur the background while keeping the subject prominent.
/cleanbackground	Simplify and clean distracting background elements.
/messyclean	Turn a cluttered or messy setting into a cleaner one.

Remove & Clean

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
/personremove	Remove one unwanted person from the image.
/peopleclean	Remove or tidy unwanted people in the background.
/crowdremove	Remove a crowd or many background people.
/objectremove	Remove an unwanted object.
/distractionremove	Remove visual distractions while preserving the main scene.

Environments

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
/foggyforest	Place the scene in a foggy forest atmosphere.
/mistymountain	Create a misty mountain environment.
/rainyforest	Create a rainy forest setting.
/snowyforest	Create a snowy forest environment.

/sunsetbeach	Place the scene on a beach at sunset.
/moonlight	Create a moonlit nighttime scene.
/underwater	Place the subject or scene underwater.
/space	Place the scene in outer space or a space-inspired environment.
/jungle	Place the scene in a lush jungle environment.
/desert	Place the scene in a desert setting.

Social Media

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
/instaready	Prepare an image for an Instagram-style post.
/storyready	Compose and crop the image for a vertical story format.
/postready	Polish and format an image for general social posting.
/reelcover	Create a strong vertical reel-cover image.
/aesthetic	Give the image a more cohesive, stylized social aesthetic.
/mirrorselfie	Create or refine a mirror-selfie style image.
/candidlook	Make the shot feel more natural and candid.
/streetsnap	Create a casual street-style snapshot.

Celebrations

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
/birthdaywish	Create a birthday greeting image.
/birthdayposter	Create a bold birthday poster.
/birthdaycard	Create a birthday card design.
/birthdaystory	Create a vertical birthday story graphic.
/birthdayparty	Create a celebratory birthday-party scene.
/birthdayqueen	Create a playful birthday-queen themed image.
/birthdayking	Create a playful birthday-king themed image.
/surpriseparty	Create a surprise-party scene.

Couples - Extended

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
/together	Combine people from separate photos into one believable shared scene.
/couplefunselfie	Create a playful selfie of a couple.

/mirrorcoupleselfie	Create a mirror-selfie composition for a couple.
/coupleselfie	Create a selfie-style image of a couple together.
/candidcouple	Create a natural, unposed-looking couple moment.
/romanticselfie	Create a warmer, more romantic couple selfie.
/cozyclosecouple	Create a close, cozy couple composition.
/intimatefaceclose	Frame both faces close together for an intimate portrait.
/faceclose	Bring two faces close in the composition.
/face2face	Pose two people facing one another.
/romanticcloseup	Create a close romantic portrait.
/backhug	Pose one person hugging the other from behind.
/hug	Create a natural hugging pose.
/sidehug	Create a casual side-hug pose.
/waisthug	Pose one person hugging the other around the waist.
/shoulderhug	Pose an affectionate hug around the shoulders.
/protectivehug	Create a protective, reassuring hug pose.
/gentlehug	Create a soft, understated hug.
/closehug	Create a closer, more intimate hug composition.
/shoulderlean	Pose one person leaning on the other's shoulder.
/headonshoulder	Pose one person's head resting on the other's shoulder.
/headtohead	Pose two people with their heads close together.
/chinrestcouple	Pose one partner gently resting their chin near/on the other.
/behindshoulder	Pose one person slightly behind the other's shoulder.
/cheektohead	Create a cheek-to-head affectionate pose.
/sittingtogether	Pose two people seated together.
/walkingtogether	Show two people walking together naturally.
/datewalk	Show a couple walking together on a date.
/walkinghandinhand	Show two people walking while holding hands.
/handholdcouple	Create a couple pose emphasizing holding hands.
/foreheadkiss	Create a gentle forehead-kiss pose.
/cheekkiss	Create a cheek-kiss pose.
/nosekiss	Create a playful nose-to-nose or nose-kiss moment.
/almostkiss	Create the moment just before a kiss.

/foreheadtouch	Pose two people with their foreheads touching.
/eyelookcouple	Emphasize natural eye contact between a couple.
/romanticlook	Create a warm romantic exchange of looks.
/couplegaze	Pose a couple looking at one another.
/lovinggaze	Create a softer affectionate gaze between two people.
/playfulcouple	Create a light, playful couple moment.
/cuteplayful	Create a cute, playful couple moment.
/naturalcouple	Create a believable, relaxed couple image.
/softromance	Create subtle, understated romantic mood.
/cozyromance	Create a warm, comfortable romantic scene.
/datecouple	Create a couple scene that feels like a date.
/cafedate	Place a couple on a cafe date.
/cozycafedate	Create a warmer, more intimate cafe-date scene.
/coffeecouple	Create a couple scene centered around coffee or a cafe.
/picniccouple	Place a couple together at a picnic.
/sunsetcouple	Place a couple together at sunset.
/goldenhourcouple	Use golden-hour light for a couple portrait.
/raincouple	Create a romantic or cinematic scene in the rain.
/wintercouple	Place a couple in a winter setting.
/beachcouple	Place a couple together on a beach.
/mountaincouple	Place a couple in a mountain setting.
/streetcouple	Create an urban street-style couple image.
/rooftopcouple	Place a couple together on a rooftop.
/balconycouple	Place a couple together on a balcony.
/windowcouple	Compose a couple scene by a window.
/cozyhomecouple	Create a warm, relaxed couple scene at home.
/carcouple	Create a couple scene in or around a car.
/roadtripcouple	Create a couple road-trip scene.
/travelcouple	Create a couple image with a travel setting or mood.
/royalcouple	Give a couple a regal or royal-inspired treatment.
/luxurycouple	Create a refined luxury couple setting.
/editorialcouple	Create a fashion-editorial couple portrait.

<code>/cinematiccouple</code>	Create a movie-like couple scene with cinematic lighting and composition.
<code>/filmlookcouple</code>	Give a couple image a cinematic film-look treatment.
<code>/dreamycouple</code>	Create a soft, dreamy couple aesthetic.
<code>/coupleportrait</code>	Create a posed portrait of two people together.
<code>/closecoupleportrait</code>	Create a tighter, close-framed couple portrait.

Art Styles

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
<code>/gouache</code>	Render the image in a gouache-painting style.
<code>/linocut</code>	Render the image as a bold linocut print.
<code>/papercut</code>	Create a layered paper-cut illustration style.
<code>/conceptart</code>	Render the scene like cinematic concept art.
<code>/cyanotype</code>	Create a blue-and-white cyanotype print effect.
<code>/risoprint</code>	Create a limited-color risograph print aesthetic.
<code>/cinestill</code>	Give the image a cinematic still-frame look.
<code>/lightleak</code>	Add analog-style light leaks.
<code>/bleachbypass</code>	Use a high-contrast, desaturated bleach-bypass film look.
<code>/splittone</code>	Apply contrasting tones to highlights and shadows.
<code>/tealandorange</code>	Use the classic teal-and-orange cinematic color grade.

Era & Design Styles

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
<code>/bauhaus</code>	Use Bauhaus-inspired geometric design and typography.
<code>/y2k</code>	Use a late-1990s/early-2000s Y2K visual aesthetic.
<code>/sovietposter</code>	Use a vintage Soviet-poster-inspired graphic style.
<code>/swissstyle</code>	Use clean Swiss/International Typographic Style principles.

Composition

CODE	WHAT IT DOES
<code>/negativespace</code>	Use deliberate empty space to strengthen the composition.
<code>/wormseye</code>	Create an extreme low-angle worm's-eye view.
<code>/framedwithin</code>	Frame the subject through a doorway, window, arch, or other foreground element.

/tightcrop	Use a deliberately tight crop around the subject.
/anamorphic	Use a widescreen cinematic/anamorphic lens feel.
/tiltshift	Create a tilt-shift miniature or selective-focus effect.
/shallowdepth	Use shallow depth of field to isolate the subject.

Community shorthand prompts. Results may vary by image, model, interface, and context. Not an official OpenAI command reference.