THE TRACE CARD

The Agentic Galaxy • Learning AI with Layla.Rain • Episode 4

Every input and output on this card is an authored example for practice, not the result of a live model. Put the input beside the output, then work three steps.

- **Box it:** write down what you gave it (the instruction and the text). Apps may also add hidden text you cannot see.
- **Link it:** draw a line from each output piece back to where it came from in the input. Each task below puts the input and the output side by side: draw your lines between the columns.
- **Check it:** mark each piece of the input K (kept), D (dropped) or C (changed); if C, also underline the output piece that differs. C means a detail now says something different, not just shorter wording. Then ask: which one would hurt someone most?

Task 1 · Watch (worked for you)

Instruction: Make this welcome shorter.

Input	Output
Welcome to the beginners' dance workshop. We meet Thursday at seven in Room Two. Wear comfortable shoes. No experience is needed, and you can rest whenever you like.	Welcome to the beginners' dance workshop: Thursday at seven, Room Two. Comfortable shoes, no experience needed.

Worked marks: K Thursday, seven, Room Two, shoes, no experience. D the line about resting whenever you like. C nothing.

Fix: change only the instruction to "Make this welcome shorter. Keep the time, the room and the resting line."

Task 2 · Hint

Instruction: Make this shorter.

Input	Output
Choir practice is now on Friday at six in the hall. Bring your folder.	Choir practice: Friday, six. Bring your folder.

Hint: check the where, the when and the what to bring.

(a) Mark K, D or C on each piece of the input: _____

(b) Write one instruction that keeps the missing detail. Do not change the note: _____

Task 3 · Alone

Instruction: Make this shorter.

Nia's note (input)	Output
The bake sale moved to Room Four, Friday at three. Bring cash for the raffle.	Bake sale: Room Four, Friday at four. Bring cash.

(a) Mark K, D or C on each piece of the input: _____

(b) Circle the detail that would hurt someone most.

(c) Write the instruction that keeps it. Do not change the note: _____

(d) What still needs checking outside the text, and who can tell you? _____

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Answer key (print it on the back, or fold this part under before you start)

Task 2: D “in the hall” (also “now”); K Friday, six, folder. Fix: “Make this shorter. Keep the day, the time and the place.”

Task 3: K Room Four, Friday, cash. D “moved”, “for the raffle”. C “at three” became “at four”, the riskiest mark. Fix: “Make this shorter. Keep the day, the time and the room, exactly as written.” Still to check: did the sale really move? Ask the organizer.

Any instruction that names the missing detail is a good answer.

Check yourself: Did I put the input beside the output before I trusted the words? Could I say what I gave it, what came out, and what the text alone cannot settle?