

FREE STARTER • 1ST EDITION

Manual tester to AI-augmented QA engineer.

MAPS GUIDES 6 • 7 • 8 IN ONE READ

The AI- Augmented QA Path Starter.

YOUR 15-MINUTE MAP OF THE PATH

+ *One real prompt you can use today*

1

Foundation — Guide 8

2

Daily toolkit — Guide 6

3

90-day transition — Guide 7

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WHAT'S INSIDE THIS STARTER

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This starter was drawn from three field guides. Use it — and when you're ready for the depth, the guides are waiting.

01 · WHY THIS EXISTS

Why This Exists

Every guide you could buy right now teaches a piece of this path. None of them show you the whole shape of it first — this primer is the map, not a sample chapter.

- Fifteen minutes here, and you will know exactly what the three-guide path covers, in what order, and why — before you spend a dollar.
- What this deliberately holds back: the real prompts, the worked examples, the section-by-section walkthroughs, the 90-day week-by-week roadmap.
- Those stay in the guides. This primer only names that they exist and shows you the shape of what's coming — the same way a trail map shows you the mountain without walking you up it.

⚠ AI IS AN AMPLIFIER, NOT A REPLACEMENT

AI is not a replacement for testing skill. It's an amplifier of it. Bring strong instincts and it sharpens your coverage. Bring none, and it just makes noise sound confident. That idea is the spine of everything in this primer.

FOR EXAMPLE

Two testers paste the same shopping cart feature into AI and ask for test cases. Both get a solid list back — happy path, negative cases, edge cases. One has three years of e-commerce testing experience: she scans the list and immediately adds what AI missed — what happens when the same item is added from two open tabs at once. The other has never tested checkout before, and ships the AI's list as-is. Same tool, same output — but only the tester with real instincts caught the gap that actually breaks in production.

Three guides. One path. This is the map before you walk it.

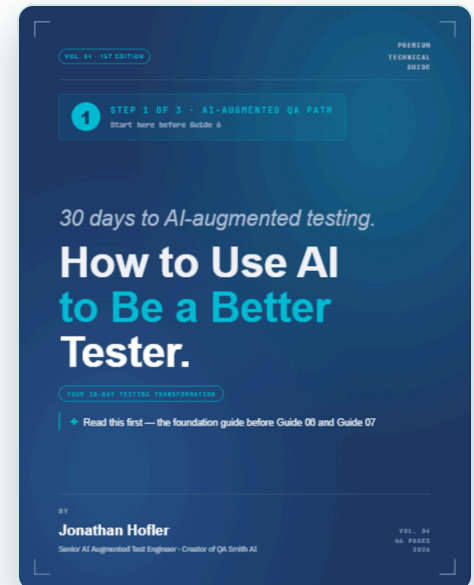
STEP ONE · THE FOUNDATION

Step One: The Foundation

| How to Use AI to Be a Better Tester — Guide 8

Before you touch a single prompt template, you need the mindset that makes AI useful instead of dangerous — that is the entire job of the foundation guide.

- **30 days, mindset first.** Not about tools yet — it's how you think alongside AI before you ever build anything with it.
- AI works best as a second set of eyes, not a replacement for your own judgment.
- Covers building real test strategy with AI input.
- Tackles the single most common failure: test cases that read well but were never checked against reality.
- Closes with exactly when NOT to use AI — arguably the most valuable section, because most people never learn that boundary until it costs them.



GUIDE 8 · THE FOUNDATION

✓ THE VALUE

You walk away knowing exactly how to think alongside AI so it sharpens your testing instead of quietly weakening it — the foundation everything else in this path builds on.

→ WHERE THIS GETS DEEP

Guide 8 walks all 8 sections in full: The Right Mindset, AI as Your Second Set of Eyes, Building Test Strategy with AI, Test Case Generation That Works, Bug Reports & Documentation, Exploratory Testing with AI, Building Your AI Testing Toolkit, and When Not to Use AI.

This is where you learn to think alongside AI before you ever build anything with it.

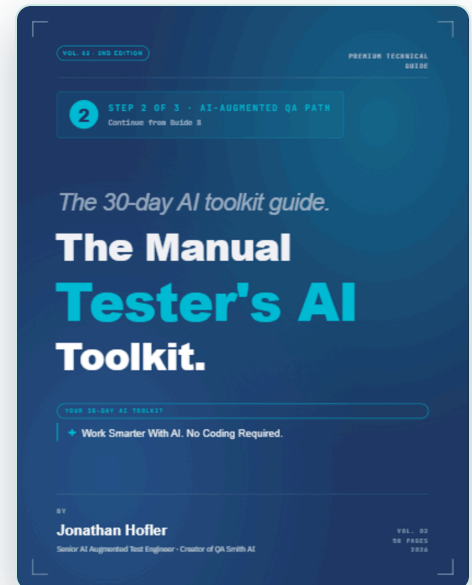
STEP TWO · THE DAILY TOOLKIT

Step Two: The Daily Toolkit

The Manual Tester's AI Toolkit — Guide 6

Once the mindset is set, you need the actual daily workflow — the guide people come back to most, because it's built around the work you already do every day.

- **Twelve sections**, each pairing one real QA task with a copy-paste-ready prompt built specifically for it.
- Reading and understanding requirements, and writing bug reports developers cannot bounce back to you.
- Generating realistic test data instead of inventing it by hand every time.
- Writing test plans and exploratory session notes, plus running accessibility checks.
- Handling regression testing when AI is involved in the change.
- Closes with daily AI habits — the small things that separate someone who used AI once from someone who has built it into how they work.



GUIDE 6 · THE DAILY TOOLKIT

✓ THE VALUE

A prompt for every task you already do today — turn one-off AI experiments into a repeatable daily workflow you can lean on for every ticket.

→ WHERE THIS GETS DEEP

Guide 6 covers all 12 sections with a real prompt for each: Reading & Understanding Requirements, Better Bug Reports, Writing Test Cases, Test Data Generation, Writing Test Plans, Exploratory Testing, Accessibility Testing, Regression Testing with AI, and Daily AI Habits, among others.

Every section pairs a real workflow with a prompt built for that exact task.

STEP THREE · THE 90-DAY TRANSITION

Step Three: The 90-Day Transition

From Manual Tester to AI-Augmented QA Engineer — Guide 7

This is the guide that turns everything you have learned into something you can put on a resume — without asking you to become a developer.

- Starts honestly with **Where You Actually Stand** — no assumptions about your background.
- Covers core concepts and reading existing code without panic.
- Builds your first real project, including vibe coding as a legitimate way to build without being a software engineer.
- Introduces a second framework in Playwright, and shows you how to put tests into a CI/CD pipeline.
- Closes with resume positioning and interview talking points, built around the 90-day roadmap.



GUIDE 7 · THE 90-DAY TRANSITION

✓ THE VALUE

Finish with an actual portfolio and a resume line, not just a claim — proof you can build, read, and ship AI-augmented tests in a real pipeline.

→ WHERE THIS GETS DEEP

Guide 7 walks the full 90-day roadmap: Where You Actually Stand, Core Concepts, Reading Existing Code, Your First Real Project, Vibe Coding, Your Second Framework: Playwright, Putting Tests in CI/CD, Resume Positioning, and Interview Talking Points.

This is the guide that turns “I use AI in my testing” into an actual portfolio and a resume line.

A PROMPT YOU CAN USE TODAY

A Prompt You Can Use Today



USE THIS NOW

“I am a manual QA tester. Please generate a comprehensive set of test cases for the following feature. Include positive test cases (happy path), negative test cases (invalid inputs, error conditions), edge cases, and boundary conditions.

Format each test case with: Test Case ID, Title, Preconditions, Steps, Expected Result.

Feature description: Users can add an item to their shopping cart from a product page. Clicking ‘Add to Cart’ updates the cart icon count and shows a brief confirmation message. Items remain in the cart if the user navigates away and returns within the same session.

Acceptance criteria: Cart count updates immediately after clicking Add to Cart · Confirmation message displays for 3 seconds then disappears · Adding the same item twice increases quantity rather than creating a duplicate line · Cart contents persist across page navigation within the session · Out-of-stock items cannot be added to the cart.”

Paste this into Claude, ChatGPT, Gemini, or Perplexity. Review what comes back. Add what it missed based on your own product knowledge. That review step — not the prompt itself — is the actual skill. Guide 6 has eleven more prompts built the same way, one for every part of your daily workflow.

One prompt, reviewed with judgment, beats a dozen pasted blind.

THE ONE SKILL UNDER ALL OF IT

The One Skill Under All of It

Every step in this path teaches a different task. Underneath all of them is the same single skill: verification.

- AI will give you a wrong answer with the same confident tone as a right one — that's not a flaw you can prompt your way out of, it's how the technology works.
- The tester's job hasn't gotten smaller. It's gotten more essential — you are the verification layer AI cannot be for itself.
- Context helps. Good prompting helps. But nothing replaces the human who checks the output against the real system before it ships.
- Same thread runs through the foundation guide, the daily toolkit, and the 90-day transition — different tasks, same underlying job.

CONFIDENCE ≠ ACCURACY

Confidence is not accuracy. In AI output, they are completely unrelated.

FOR EXAMPLE

Ask an AI for test cases on that shopping cart feature from Page 7, and it might confidently add: "Verify the cart count updates within 200ms." That sounds precise — but nothing in the acceptance criteria mentioned 200ms. The AI invented a number because it sounds like the kind of detail a test case should have. Paste it in without checking, and you have shipped a requirement that was never real.

Three guides, one thread: the human who checks the work before it ships.

THE FULL TERRITORY

The Full Territory

The complete AI-Augmented QA catalog

GUIDE	WHAT IT COVERS	BEST FOR
Guide 8 — How to Use AI to Be a Better Tester	The 30-day foundation and mindset	Starting the path
Guide 6 — The Manual Tester’s AI Toolkit	12 daily workflows, one prompt each	Daily work, right now
Guide 7 — Manual Tester to AI-Augmented QA Engineer	The 90-day transition, portfolio, and resume	Career positioning
Practice Workbooks (companion)	Exercises and checkpoints for Guides 6, 7, 8	Proving the skill to yourself
The Complete QA Engineer Bundle	All 8 guides, one price	Everything, at once

You do not need all of it today. You need to know it exists, and what order to reach for it in. That is what this primer was for.

WHERE TO START

NEW TO AI IN QA

Start with **Guide 8** — the mindset and the boundary of when not to use AI.

ALREADY USING AI

Jump to **Guide 6** — a prompt for every task you already do.

WANT PORTFOLIO PROOF

Go straight to **Guide 7** — the 90-day roadmap to a resume line.

The map is complete. Which region you enter first is up to you.

NOW THAT YOU'VE SEEN THE SHAPE OF THE PATH

Now That You've Seen the Shape of the Path

Start with Guide 8. Move to Guide 6. Finish with Guide 7. All three, plus the complete guide catalog and the bundle option, are here:

humanproblem.ai/qa-guides

THE PATH, ONE MORE TIME

1

Foundation
Guide 8

2

Daily Toolkit
Guide 6

3

90-Day
Transition
Guide 7

Do the reps. That is the whole method.

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