AI Graphic Design Styles & Effects Cheat Sheet

1. Medium-Based Styles

- Watercolor: Soft gradients, translucent layers

- Oil Painting: Rich textures, brush strokes

- Charcoal: Rough, sketch-like shading

- Papercraft: 3D folded paper look

- Stencil: Bold, flat colors like street art

- Marker Illustration: Vibrant, fashion/comic style

- Risograph: Retro print textures

2. Material-Based Styles

- Porcelain: Glossy, smooth ceramic look

- Metal: Chrome, gold, or brushed steel

- Glass: Transparent, reflective

- Candy: Bright, playful, surreal

- Crystals: Faceted, gem-like

- Light: Glowing, ethereal objects

3. Photography Styles

- High Key / Low Key: Bright and airy vs. dark and moody

- Bokeh: Sharp subject, blurred background

- Extreme Close-Up: Macro detail

- Low Angle / High Angle: Power vs. vulnerability

- Long Exposure: Motion blur, light trails

4. Lighting Effects

- Golden Hour: Warm, soft sunlight

- Volumetric Lighting: Visible light beams

- Neon Lighting: Bright, saturated glow

- Chiaroscuro: Dramatic light and shadow

- Fairy Lights / Candlelight: Cozy, intimate

5. Color Palettes

- Warm Tones: Reds, oranges, yellows

- Cool Tones: Blues, greens

- Pastels: Soft, muted

- Vibrant: Bold, saturated

6. Fonts & Text Effects

- Metallic Embossed: Gold, silver, rose-gold

- Neon Glow: Bright, luminous edges

- Glass Text: Transparent with reflections

- 3D Extrusion: Depth and shadow

- Retro Script: Vintage cursive

Sample AI Prompts by Category

Medium Styles:
- Watercolor apple illustration with soft gradients
- Oil painting of a sunset with rich brush strokes
- Charcoal sketch of a city skyline

Material Styles:
- Porcelain teacup with glossy finish
- Chrome metallic robot with reflections
- Transparent glass orb with light refraction

Photography Styles:
- High key portrait with bright background
- Macro shot of a flower with extreme close-up
- Low angle photo of a skyscraper

Lighting Effects:
- Golden hour landscape with warm tones
- Volumetric lighting in a forest scene
- Neon lighting on a retro diner sign

Color Palettes:
- Warm tone abstract art with reds and oranges
- Cool tone ocean scene with blues and greens
- Pastel colored spring flowers

Fonts & Text Effects:
- Metallic embossed title in gold
- Neon glow text for a nightclub poster
- Glass text effect on a tech logo