

STUDY & EXAMS · 14 min read · October 8, 2026 · By Kelly Stratton

104 ChatGPT Codes to Study Any Book

Paste one priming prompt into ChatGPT, then turn any book, chapter, or PDF into visual study notes, a map of its big ideas, a chapter map, and a theme board with the four codes from the video. Then 100 more short codes for reading faster, remembering more, testing yourself, and putting the book to work.

You can learn a book without reading every page twice, and remember it a month later instead of a day later. Paste one priming prompt into ChatGPT, name the book, and type a short code. Back comes a page of visual notes, a map of the big ideas, a chapter map, or a theme board you can save to your phone. The four codes from the video are at the top. After them, 100 more cover everything else you do with a book: deciding if it's worth your time, reading it faster, pulling out the best parts, making it stick, testing yourself, and putting it to work on Monday. The books from the video, *The Power of Habit*, *The Psychology of Money*, *Grit*, and *Mindset*, are the examples throughout. Swap in yours.

IN A NUTSHELL

A ChatGPT code is a short word you type after a slash, like `/visualnotes`, that stands for a full instruction. ChatGPT reads the word and does what it says to the book, chapter, or PDF you gave it. There is no hidden menu and nothing to install. The word is the prompt.

WHAT YOU NEED

ChatGPT, on your phone or your computer, on any plan. A book you want to learn: a chapter you can paste, a PDF you can upload, or the title and author of a book ChatGPT already knows. That's it.

READ THIS ONCE How Do ChatGPT Book Codes Work?

ChatGPT doesn't come with these codes. There's no menu where `/chaptermap` lives. When you type it, ChatGPT reads the word, works out what you mean, and does it. That's why the codes work on any plan with nothing installed, and why `"/chaptermap chapter 3"` usually works even without the priming prompt. To make every code in this guide reliable, prime the chat once. Paste this at the top of a new chat and every code in this guide works for the rest of the conversation:

PROMPT

```
For the rest of this chat, when I type a word that starts with a slash, treat it as a shorthand instruction and run it on the book or text I give you. /visualnotes means one image of visual study notes. /mentalmodels means one image mapping the book's core ideas. /chaptermap means one image mapping a single chapter. /themes means one image of the book's major themes. For any other slash word, do what the word says, as text, kept short and easy to scan. Don't explain the code back to me. Run it.
```

If you'll do this with more than one book, open Projects in ChatGPT, make one called "Books," and paste that into its instructions. Every chat in the project already knows the codes.

Giving it the book. For a well-known book, name it: "The Power of Habit by Charles Duhigg." For anything else, paste the chapter, or tap the plus button and upload the PDF. For a long book, go one chapter at a time in the same chat. If ChatGPT says it doesn't know the book, or gets the details wrong, paste the chapter instead of naming it. The free version of ChatGPT handles every text code here and makes a limited number of images a day; when you hit the cap, add "as text" to the code and run it again.

PART 2 The Four From the Video

Each of these comes back as one image. Put the book's title and author in the brackets, paste, and save what comes back to your phone.

/visualnotes : One page of visual study notes

PROMPT

```
/visualnotes Turn the book [TITLE by AUTHOR] into visual study notes. Use short sections, icons, arrows, diagrams, callout boxes, and minimal text. Make the visual congruent with the book.
```

/mentalmodels : The book's core ideas as a map

PROMPT

```
/mentalmodels Pull out the core ideas of [TITLE by AUTHOR] and turn them into one visual map. For each idea show what it means, a simple example, and how it connects to the others. Minimal text.
```

/chaptermap : One chapter, mapped

PROMPT

```
/chaptermap Map chapter [NUMBER] of [TITLE by AUTHOR] as one visual: the main idea, the supporting concepts, the examples, the key people or events, and how everything fits together. Minimal text.
```

/themes : The major themes and what carries them

PROMPT

`/themes` Find the major themes in [TITLE by AUTHOR] and turn them into one visual theme board. Connect each theme to the characters, events, and ideas that carry it, and end with the deeper message of the book. Minimal text.

THE BOOKS FROM THE VIDEO

The Power of Habit by Charles Duhigg, The Psychology of Money by Morgan Housel, Grit by Angela Duckworth, and Mindset by Carol Dweck. All four codes work on all four, and on any book ChatGPT knows.

PART 3 Here Are the Other 100 Codes

Same chat, same book. Type the code after the book or chapter you've given ChatGPT. They're grouped by where you are with the book, from deciding whether to open it to filing it away when you're done.

GROUP 1 Before You Read: Is This Book Worth It?

Ten minutes with these codes saves you the ten hours on the wrong book. Type the title and author, "Mindset by Carol Dweck," then the code.

1 `/worthit`

Tell me in five sentences what this book argues, who it's for, and whether someone in my situation should read it. Then ask me one question about my situation and answer again. → **a go or no-go**

2 `/readingtime`

Estimate how long this book takes to read at a normal pace, and which chapters carry most of the value if I only have two hours. → **a time budget**

3 `/hardparts`

Tell me which parts of this book readers find slow, dense, or confusing, and what to know going in so they're easier. → **a heads-up**

4 `/readorder`

Suggest an order to read the chapters that isn't front to back, if one would help, and say why. → **a reading plan**

5 `/skipto`

I'll tell you what I want out of this book. Point me to the three chapters that deliver it. → **the chapters that matter**

6 `/questionstoask`

Give me five questions to hold in my head while I read, so I read actively instead of just turning pages. → **an active-reading lens**

7 `/authorangle`

Tell me who the author is, what they do, and what bias or point of view that might bring to this book. → **the author's angle**

8 `/similarbooks`

Name three books that cover the same ground, and in one line each say how this one is different. → **the alternatives**

9 `/onepage`

Give me a one-page overview of this book so I know the shape of it before I start. → **the shape of the book**

10 `/readyquiz`

Ask me five quick questions to find out what I already know about this topic, then tell me which chapters I can skim. → **what you can skim**

GROUP 2 While You Read: One Chapter at a Time

Paste the chapter you just finished, then the code. Same chat for the whole book, so "so far" means something.

11 `/chapterin3`

Summarize this chapter in exactly three sentences. → **a three-line summary**

12 `/sofar`

Summarize everything that matters in the book so far, in under 150 words, so I can pick it back up tomorrow. → **a running recap**

13 `/watchfor`

Tell me what to pay attention to in the next chapter and what from this one will come back later. → **a preview**

14 `/confusing`

I'll tell you the part that lost me. Explain it a different way, with one everyday example. → **a second explanation**

15 `/whyhere`

Explain why the author put this chapter here, and what it sets up for the rest of the book. → **the chapter's job**

16 **/nextchapter**

Based on what I've read, predict what the next chapter will argue. I'll check it against the real one. → **a prediction to test**

17 **/whosaidwhat**

List every person named in this chapter and what they said, did, or stand for in the book. → **a who's who**

18 **/argumentcheck**

Lay out this chapter's argument as a numbered chain of claims, and mark any step the author asserts without proving. → **the argument, link by link**

19 **/margin**

Give me ten short margin notes for this chapter, the kind I'd scribble next to the paragraph, with the paragraph each one belongs to. → **margin notes**

20 **/reread**

Tell me the one passage in this chapter worth reading twice, and why. → **the one passage**

GROUP 3 Pull Out the Gold

The parts of a book you'll want to find again in a year. Paste a chapter or name the book.

21 **/quotebank**

Pull the ten lines from this chapter most worth quoting, with the paragraph each comes from. Keep the author's words exactly. → **a quote bank**

22 **/numbers**

Pull every number, statistic, and date in this chapter, each with the sentence it sits in, so I can check it later. → **a fact list**

23 **/glossary**

List every term the author defines or uses in a special way, with the definition in plain English. → **a glossary**

24 **/models**

Extract any framework, method, or step-by-step process the author describes, as a reusable template. → **a reusable framework**

25 **/stories**

List every story, case, and real example the author uses, with one line on what each one proves. → **an example bank**

26 **/rules**

Turn this chapter's advice into short rules I could pin above my desk. → **desk rules**

27 **/questionsraised**

List the questions this chapter raises that it doesn't answer. → **the open questions**

28 **/surprises**

Tell me the three most surprising or counterintuitive claims in this chapter. → **the surprises**

29 **/disagree**

Tell me where a thoughtful critic would disagree with this chapter, and how the author would answer. → **the counterargument**

30 [/evidence](#)

For each main claim in this chapter, tell me what evidence the author gives and how strong it is. → [a strength check](#)

GROUP 4 **Make It Stick**

Reading a chapter again feels like studying. Being asked about it is studying. These make the asking automatic.

31 [/cards20](#)

Make 20 flashcards from this chapter: question on one line, answer on the next, most important first. → [a flashcard deck](#)

32 [/blanks](#)

Make 15 fill-in-the-blank sentences from this chapter, with the answers listed at the bottom after a row of dashes. → [a fill-in test](#)

33 [/recallwalk](#)

Ask me to tell you everything I remember from this chapter. Then show me only what I left out or got wrong. → [a gap check](#)

34 [/teachitback](#)

I'll explain this chapter's main idea to you like you're new to it. Correct me like a patient tutor and tell me what to add. → [a tutor's corrections](#)

35 [/sevenday](#)

Build me a seven-day review schedule for this book: what to re-read or quiz on each day, ten minutes a day. → [a review calendar](#)

36 /hooks

Give me a memory hook, a mnemonic, a rhyme, or a picture, for every list or sequence in this chapter. → **memory hooks**

37 /singleline

Boil this chapter down to one sentence I could recite a year from now. → **one sentence to keep**

38 /pairs

Give me 15 terms from this chapter as a numbered list, then the meanings in a second list below a row of dashes, so I can cover the answers and test myself. → **a self-test table**

39 /chain

Show the chapter's ideas as a chain of cause and effect, each link one line, so I can recite the chain instead of the chapter. → **a cause-and-effect chain**

40 /mix

Quiz me on this chapter and the two before it together, mixed up, so I can't guess from the order. → **a mixed quiz**

GROUP 5 Test Yourself

For an exam, an essay, or a meeting where someone's going to ask what you thought.

41 /quiz10

Write a ten-question quiz on this chapter, mixed multiple choice and short answer, answer key at the bottom. → **a ten-question quiz**

42 [/oneatatime](#)

Quiz me on this chapter one question at a time. Wait for my answer, tell me if I'm right in one line, then ask the next without asking if I'm ready. → [an interactive drill](#)

43 [/hardest](#)

Ask me the five hardest questions a professor could ask about this chapter. → [the hard questions](#)

44 [/essayq](#)

Give me five essay questions on this book, each with a three-point outline of a strong answer. → [essay prep](#)

45 [/trueorfalse](#)

Give me 15 true-or-false statements about this chapter, including some that are tricky, with answers at the bottom. → [a true-or-false round](#)

46 [/defend](#)

Take the opposite position to this chapter and argue with me, so I learn to defend the author's view. → [argument practice](#)

47 [/spot](#)

Give me a short passage that misstates this chapter's idea in one subtle way. I'll find the error. → [an error hunt](#)

48 [/examday](#)

My exam is tomorrow. From this book, give me the ten things I most need to be able to say, ranked. → [a ranked cram list](#)

49 **/scoreme**

I'll write a paragraph answer. Score it out of ten and tell me exactly what would make it a ten. → **scored feedback**

50 **/missed**

Here's a quiz I took and what I got wrong. Find the pattern in my mistakes and drill me on just that. → **a weak-spot drill**

GROUP 6 Fiction: Novels, Plays, and Stories

Most study codes are built for books like the four in the video. These are for the book with characters in it. Name the novel, or paste the chapter, then the code.

51 **/plot**

Summarize the plot so far in order, no spoilers past where I am. I'm at chapter [NUMBER]. → **a spoiler-free recap**

52 **/cast**

List every character, who they are, how they're connected, and one line on what they want. → **a cast list**

53 **/motives**

For each main character, explain what drives them and the moment in the book that shows it. → **what drives each character**

54 **/symbols**

List the symbols and recurring images in this book, and what each one stands for. → **a symbol key**

55 `/turningpoints`

Give me the five moments where the story changes direction, and what each one changes. → **the five turns**

56 `/pov`

Explain who tells this story, what they can't see or won't say, and how that shapes what I'm reading. → **the narrator, examined**

57 `/endingexplained`

Explain the ending: what happened, what it means, and the clues earlier in the book that set it up. → **the ending, explained**

58 `/bookclub`

Give me eight discussion questions for this book that lead to a real conversation, not yes-or-no answers. → **discussion questions**

59 `/themesindepth`

Take one theme from this book and trace it chapter by chapter, with the scene that carries it each time. → **one theme, traced**

60 `/adaptation`

Compare this book to its film or TV adaptation: what was cut, what was changed, and what the changes lose. → **book versus screen**

GROUP 7 See It

These ask for a picture. The four codes from the video aren't special commands, they're ordinary instructions with the picture asked for, so any code in this guide can come back as an image. Type the code, then add this on the end:

PROMPT

Give me this as one clean image I can save to my phone: clear headings, icons, arrows, and short text, like a page of visual study notes.

Now /glossary on The Psychology of Money comes back as a vocabulary wall, /turningpoints on Grit as a timeline, and /30days on The Power of Habit as a calendar. Use text when you need to copy and paste. Use the image when you need to remember.

61 /map

Draw the ideas in this chapter as a map: the main idea in the center, the others around it, lines between them labeled. → **an idea map**

62 /flow

Draw this process as a flowchart: each step one box, arrows between them, decisions as diamonds. → **a flowchart**

63 /beforeafter

Show the "before" and "after" this book argues for, side by side, in two columns. → **a before-and-after**

64 /ladder

Show this chapter's ideas as a ladder from the most basic to the most advanced, one rung each. → **a ladder of ideas**

65 /grid

Put the ideas in this chapter into a two-by-two grid and label both axes. → **a two-by-two**

66 /web

Show how the characters or concepts in this book connect, as a web with labeled lines. → **a relationship web**

67 /sketch

Give me one simple sketch that explains the main idea of this chapter, described so I could draw it myself. → **a sketch to draw**

68 /poster

Design a one-page poster of this book: the title, the big idea, the three things to remember, one image. → **a one-page poster**

69 /slide

Turn this chapter into one presentation slide: a headline, three bullets, and what the picture should be. → **one slide**

70 /timeline

Lay out the events or ideas in this book in order along a timeline, each with a date or a chapter number. → **a timeline**

GROUP 8 Explain It to Anyone

If you can explain it, you know it. Each of these picks a different listener.

71 /kid

Explain this chapter's main idea to a ten-year-old, with one example from their life. → **the ten-year-old version**

72 /friend

Explain this book to a friend over coffee, in the way I'd actually talk, under 150 words. → **the coffee version**

73 /boss

Explain what's useful in this book to my manager in five sentences, with the one thing we should try. → **the manager version**

74 /post

Write a short social post about the one idea from this book worth sharing, in my own plain voice, no hashtags. → **a social post**

75 /minute

Give me a one-minute spoken explanation of this book I could say out loud without notes. → **a one-minute talk**

76 /threelevels

Explain this idea three times: to a beginner, to someone who's read a bit, and to an expert. → **three levels of depth**

77 /plainenglish

Rewrite this dense passage in plain English a tired person could follow. → **a plain rewrite**

78 /storyform

Explain this chapter's idea as a short story with one character who learns it the hard way. → **a short story**

79 /analogies

Give me three everyday analogies for this idea, and tell me where each one breaks down. → **three analogies**

80 /faq

Write the eight questions a first-time reader would ask about this chapter, with a two-sentence answer each. → [a beginner's FAQ](#)

GROUP 9 Use It on Monday

A book you never use is a book you'll forget. These turn the reading into something you do. Run /monday on The Power of Habit and you'll see the point.

81 /monday

Give me the three things from this book I can do this week, each small enough to finish in a day. → [three things this week](#)

82 /30days

Turn this book into a 30-day plan: one theme a week, two or three actions each week, and how I'll know it's working. → [a 30-day plan](#)

83 /habits

Turn the advice in this book into five habits, each with when I'd do it and what triggers it. → [five habits](#)

84 /meeting

Turn this chapter into a five-minute talk I could give my team, with the one thing I want them to do after. → [a five-minute talk](#)

85 /checklist

Turn this chapter's advice into a checklist I can print and tick off. → [a checklist](#)

86 /script

Give me the exact words to use the next time I'm in the situation this chapter describes. → **the words to say**

87 /decision

I'll describe a decision I'm facing. Tell me what this book would say to do and why. → **the book's advice for you**

88 /pitfalls

Tell me the mistakes people make when they try to apply this book, and how to avoid each one. → **the mistakes to avoid**

89 /measure

Suggest three ways I'd know, a month from now, whether this book changed anything. → **a progress check**

90 /teachteam

Plan a 20-minute session to teach this book's main idea to a group, with one exercise. → **a 20-minute session**

GROUP 10 When You Finish the Book

The last ten minutes with a book are worth more than the first hour. Close it with one of these.

91 /review

Write a 200-word review of this book in my voice: what it does well, where it's weak, who should read it. → **a 200-word review**

92 **/rating**

Rate this book out of ten on four things: how clear it is, how original it is, how useful it is, and how well it proves its case. One line each. → **a scorecard**

93 **/lessons**

List the ten lessons from this book I should actually keep, in order of how much they'd change my week. → **ten lessons, ranked**

94 **/journal**

Give me five journal prompts to think through what this book means for me. → **journal prompts**

95 **/nextbook**

Based on this book and what I liked about it, recommend three books to read next and say why each. → **what to read next**

96 **/counter**

Recommend one book that argues the opposite of this one, so I don't only hear one side. → **the other side**

97 **/whatchanged**

Ask me what I believed about this topic before I read the book. Then tell me what the book would say changed, and what it didn't. → **a before-and-after of your thinking**

98 **/recommend**

Write the two-sentence recommendation I'd give a friend, and tell me who I shouldn't recommend it to. → **a two-sentence recommendation**

99 `/revisit`

Tell me which chapter to re-read in six months, and the question to ask myself when I do. → **a six-month reminder**

100 `/archive`

Give me a one-page summary of this book I can file away: the idea, the five takeaways, the three best quotes, and what I did about it. → **a one-page summary to file**

PART 4 Which Book Codes Should You Run First?

If you only ever use five, use these, in this order, on the same book. Open one chat, name the book, and go.

1. `/worthit` before you buy or borrow it.
2. `/chaptermap` after every chapter. Save each image.
3. `/mentalmodels` when you're halfway through, to see the shape of the whole thing.
4. `/recallwalk` the day after you finish, to find out what stuck.
5. `/monday` the same day, so the book turns into something you did.

THE TELL THAT IT'S STOPPED WORKING

If a code starts coming back vague, with generic advice that could be about any book, ChatGPT has lost the text. It happens in long chats. Paste the chapter again, or type "work only from the chapter I pasted," and the next answer snaps back to the book.

TWO HONEST LIMITS

ChatGPT can misremember details of a book it's working from memory, it can invent page numbers, and it won't reproduce long passages of a book word for word from memory. For exact quotes, paste the real chapter. For anything you'll quote in an essay or a meeting, check the line against the page. And the codes make a book easier to learn. They don't replace reading the parts that matter. Use /skipto to find those parts, then read them.

The takeaway

The codes aren't magic. They're the questions a great teacher would ask you about a book, written short enough to type. Prime the chat once, name the book, ask the question, save the picture. Do that for every chapter and you finish the book knowing it, not just having read it.

Download the PDF so the full list is on your phone the next time you open something you want to remember.

FAQ Questions People Ask About Studying a Book With ChatGPT

Straight answers

What are ChatGPT codes for studying a book?

They're short words you type after a slash, like /visualnotes or /chaptermap, that stand for a full instruction. ChatGPT reads the word and does what it says to the book, chapter, or PDF you gave it. This guide has 104 of them: the four from the video, which come back as one image each, and 100 more for reading, remembering, testing, and using what you read.

Do ChatGPT slash commands actually work?

Yes, because ChatGPT reads the word, not a menu. There's no hidden command list. Typing `/chaptermap` on a chapter works the same as typing "map this chapter" in a sentence. Paste the priming prompt from this guide at the top of a chat and every code in here works from then on, with nothing to install and no paid plan.

Can ChatGPT read a whole book?

It can read what you give it. Paste a chapter, upload the PDF with the plus button, or type the title and author of a well-known book and it works from what it already knows. For a long book, go one chapter at a time in the same chat so each code has the text in front of it.

Can ChatGPT make visual study notes?

Yes. The four codes from the video, `/visualnotes`, `/mentalmodels`, `/chaptermap`, and `/themes`, come back as one image you can save to your phone: a notes page with headings, icons, arrows, and callout boxes, a map of the core ideas, a one-chapter map, and a theme board. Any of the other 100 codes can be made visual with one extra line.

Does this work on the free version of ChatGPT?

Yes. The 100 short codes come back as text, which the free version handles. The four image codes from the video work on the free version too. It caps how many images you can make in a day, and when you reach the cap, add "as text, with headings and arrows" to the code and you get the same notes in words.

How do I make ChatGPT summarize a chapter?

Paste the chapter into ChatGPT, then type `/chapterin3` for a three-sentence summary, `/sofar` for everything that matters up to where you are, or `/chaptermap` for the chapter as one image. Say how long you want it. "In 200 words" or "in three sentences" gets you a summary you'll read instead of one you'll skim.

Can ChatGPT help me study a novel, not just a textbook?

Yes. The Fiction group in this guide has ten codes written for novels and plays: `/plot`, `/cast`, `/motives`, `/symbols`, `/turningpoints`, `/pov`, `/endingexplained`, `/bookclub`, `/themesindepth`, and `/adaptation`. Use them with `/themes` from the video, which links each theme to the characters and events that carry it.

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