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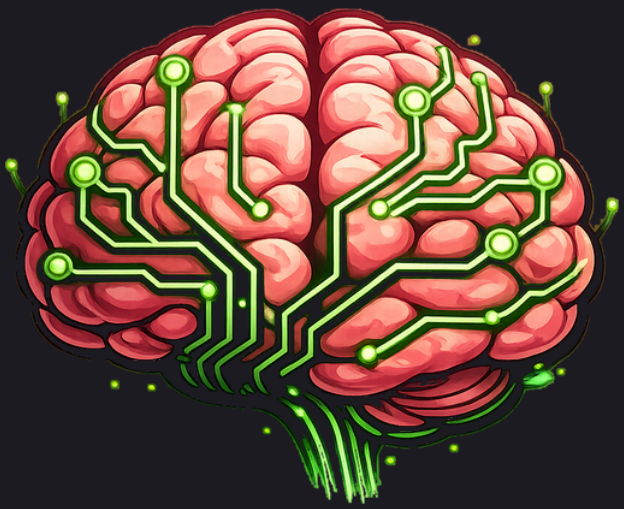

Amalgamind Show Me

Show your AI what you have and what you want, then check the result against it.

A companion to Everything Is Words

Brian Baskin

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Show your AI what you have and what you want, then check the result against it.

A companion to *Everything Is Words*.

Draft, November 2026. Free to read. Tell us what's wrong: post about it and tag Amalgamind on LinkedIn, X, TikTok or Facebook, or comment in the Amalgamind Community on Skool.

By Brian Baskin.

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Pat, Lou, Jordan, Robin, Sample Mechanical, and everyone around them in this book are invented. Any likeness to a real business or person is chance.

AI apps differ, and not all can read images. Check your own.

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How to read this book

Try describing, in words, how you want your invoice to look. Where the logo sits, how wide the columns are, what goes at the bottom. You'll write half a page and still get something else.

Or take a picture of the one you've got, scribble on it, and say "like this."

This book is about showing. Words still do their share: pictures for how it looks, words for how it behaves.

It's a companion to *Everything Is Words*, and it has two readers: you, and your AI. You read each chapter. Your AI reads the part at the end, headed *For your AI*. Every chapter ends with something you can do today, and each of those is a card.

Check first

Not every AI app can look at pictures. Give yours a photo and ask it to tell you what it sees. If it can't, the checklists here still work, said out loud.

Pat, Lou, Jordan, Robin and Sample Mechanical in these pages are invented.

The one sentence to say

> Let me show you. Read these files, and let's start on the first card.

Chapter 1: What you have

Start with the thing as it is today. A screenshot, or a phone photo of the paper, the whiteboard, the shelf.

Make it a useful picture

- Straight on, with the whole thing in the frame.
- Sharp enough that you can read it.
- One thing per picture.

Look before you share it

A picture carries everything in it, including what you didn't notice: a customer's name, a phone number, a price, a password on a sticky note, a face, a licence plate.

Cover it, crop it, or retake it **before** it goes to your AI. A blacked-out box is fine. Your AI needs the layout, not the secrets. If it's a workplace or a customer's property, check that photos are allowed.

Let it describe

Ask your AI what it sees. If it misreads something, you've learned what it can't make out, before that matters.

A small example

> *Pat photographed the blank ticket pad, then noticed last week's customer showing through the page underneath. Retook it.*

Pat is invented.

Do this today

Take one picture of something you'd like to change, check it for private things, and ask your AI what it sees. That's card 1.

For your AI

- This chapter serves card 1, *What I have*.
- Describe only what's visible. Say what you can't read.
- If you see names, numbers, passwords or faces, tell them at once and suggest cropping. Don't repeat those details back.
- Change nothing yet.

Chapter 2: What you want

Now the other end. Where are you trying to get to?

Any of these will do

- A rough sketch on the back of something.
- An example you like, with a note on **what** you like about it.
- Your picture from chapter 1 with changes drawn on it.

It doesn't need to be neat. It needs to say what you mean.

Borrow the idea, not the work

Someone else's form or page can show your AI a layout you like. Don't have it copy their logo, their words or their design. Say what you like: "totals at the bottom right", "big job number."

Say the gap

> *"Here's what I have. Here's what I want. Get me from the first to the second, and ask me about anything you can't tell."*

A small example

> *Lou drew the new ticket with a marker: job number huge, signature line at the bottom, one fewer box.*

Lou is invented.

Do this today

Sketch what you want and say the sentence above. That's card 2.

For your AI

- This chapter serves card 2, *What I want*.
- List the differences you see between the two pictures and ask them to confirm each.
- Ask about anything ambiguous, one question at a time.
- Don't copy another business's logo, wording or artwork.

Chapter 3: Mark it up

A plain picture is good. A marked one is better. Thirty seconds with a finger or a pen saves a round of "no, the other one."

Marks that work

Mark	Means
A circle and arrow	This one
A big cross	Take it out
Numbers 1, 2, 3	Several changes, one line each
A line between two spots	Make this like that

One line per mark

Beside each number, say the change in plain words: *"1: move to top." "2: say Approved, not OK."*

Read the marks back

Have your AI repeat the numbered list before it changes anything.

A small example

> *"1: job number bigger. 2: lose the fax line. 3: add 'who asked for this'."*

An invented markup.

Do this today

Number up to five changes on your picture, one line each. That's card 3.

For your AI

- This chapter serves card 3, *Mark it up*.
- Repeat their numbered changes back before doing any work.
- If a mark could mean two things, ask which.
- Make the numbered changes and no others. Suggest extras separately.

Chapter 4: States you forget

Your picture shows a good day: everything filled in, nothing weird. Work has other days.

Five to picture or say

1. **Normal.** Filled in, as expected.
2. **Empty.** The first time, nothing in it yet.
3. **Wrong.** Something's missing or not allowed. What should it say?
4. **Waiting.** It's been sent or asked for and isn't back.
5. **Too much.** The very long name, the thirty line items, the small phone screen.

Not everything has all five. A paper checklist has no waiting state. Ask anyway; it takes a minute.

A sketch or a sentence

"If there's no signature, the top says NOT SIGNED in big letters." That's enough.

A small example

> *Jordan asked what the ticket looks like with twelve extra items. It didn't fit. Better found on a sketch than on site.*

Jordan is invented.

Do this today

Run your thing through the five and note what should happen in each. That's card 4.

For your AI

- This chapter serves card 4, *Other days*.
- Ask about the five one at a time. Accept "doesn't apply."
- Don't decide what the error or empty case should say. Ask.
- Write unknowns as *to be confirmed*.

Chapter 5: Words for rules

You can't photograph a rule.

"Anything over what I've approved goes back to me." "Only people who can sign see the sign button." No picture shows that.

Split it

Show	Say
Where things sit	What happens when
How big, what colour	Who may do what
What it should look like	What's required
The order on the page	The order of the work

Say rules as if-then

> *If there's no job number, don't let it go.*

Check each rule has an owner

Who decided it? If nobody can say, mark it *to be confirmed* and ask the person who'd know. Safety and legal requirements come from whoever is responsible for them, not from a sketch and not from your AI.

A small example

> *The picture showed a price box. The rule, which no picture showed: only Pat fills it in.*

Pat is invented.

Do this today

Say the rules your picture can't show, one if-then each. That's card 5.

For your AI

- This chapter serves card 5, *The rules*.
- Ask: "What can't the picture show?" Then who may do what, and what's required.
- Write each as one if-then in their words.
- Supply no safety, legal or price rule yourself.

Chapter 6: Side by side

This is the step people skip. The result arrives, it looks about right, and off it goes.

Put them next to each other

What you asked for on one side, what came back on the other. Go through your numbered marks one at a time: **done, not done, or changed**.

Then look for what you **didn't** ask for. Did something move? Did a box disappear? Did a word change?

Your eyes, not its report

Your AI saying "all five changes made" is not the check. Look.

Try it on a real one

Print it, open it on the phone you actually use, or hand it to the person who'll fill it in.

Fix by showing

Screenshot the result, mark what's off, send it back. Short loops.

Keep the pair

Save the "want" picture and the final one, dated. Next time you change it, you start from there.

A small example

> *All three changes were in. The date line had quietly gone. Pat found it on the side by side.*

Pat is invented.

Do this today

Compare one result with what you asked for, mark by mark. That's card 6.

For your AI

- This chapter serves card 6, *Compare*.
- List each numbered change with done, not done or changed.
- List anything else that differs, even things you think are improvements.
- If you can't see the result, say so and ask for a picture. Don't claim it matches.

Where to go next

The next time you start typing "it should look like," stop and take a picture.

- **For documents with blanks:** *Amalgamind Mad Liberator*.
- **Before acting on what comes back:** *Amalgamind Second Look*.
- **Writing down how the work runs:** *Everything Is Words*.

Tell us what's wrong

Mark it up if you like. It's a draft. Post about it and tag Amalgamind on LinkedIn, X, TikTok or Facebook, or comment in the Amalgamind Community on Skool.

> Show what it looks like. Say how it behaves. Then look.