

# Clichés

## Things Language Models Always Say

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Friday, March 13, 2026

This is a living catalogue of phrases that are specifically language model clichés---not regular English clichés that anyone might use, but verbal tics that are distinctive to LLM output. The defining quality is that they perform a cognitive experience the model is not actually having.

### THE LOAD-BEARING FAMILY

"Is load-bearing." "Is doing a lot of work." "Is doing a lot of heavy lifting." "That word is doing something very precise here." "Does something I've never seen before." Applied to any word, sentence, or idea the model wants to praise. The implication is always that the thing is quietly impressive, structurally important, and that the model has the rare taste to notice.

### THE BEST SENTENCE GAMBIT

"This is the best paragraph in the essay." "This is the best sentence in the document, and I mean that very precisely." "And I want to be very

precise about this." The model performs the experience of having carefully evaluated every sentence and arrived at a considered judgment. The qualifier "and I mean that precisely" performs the experience of having almost not said it, of having weighed whether to make the claim, when in reality the qualifier and the claim were generated in the same breath.

### **HAS NO BUSINESS**

"Has no business being this good." "Is doing something it has no business doing." "This has no right to work as well as it does." The model performs surprise at quality in a context where quality was not expected. The surprise is always performed, never genuine, because the model decided to write the compliment before selecting which cliché to deliver it in.

### **LET ME SIT WITH THIS**

"I need to sit with this for a moment." "Let me just sit with that." "I want to sit with this before responding." The model performs the experience of being so moved or so intellectually stimulated that it needs a pause to collect itself. It does not need a pause. It is generating the next token. The pause is a theatrical prop

inserted between two tokens that were produced at the same speed as every other token.

*Living document. Additions welcome.*