DAY 21–35 · Part 3 · What It Can Do

Part 3 Review — What It Can Do

From shrinking text to handing over a job · one layer deeper · DAY 21-35

No test — a review to read through

Summarizing is choosing what to throw out

1. Summarizing isn't cutting a text off from the front.

2. AI skims the whole thing first, then asks of every sentence, **how important is this?**

3. Then it keeps only the high scorers and rewrites them in its own words.

Where words that weren't there sneak in

1. If you don't say the length and who it's for, AI decides the throw-out rule for you.

2. Because the last step rewrites things in its own words, **wording that wasn't in the original** can slip in.

3. So a summary you get back has to be matched against the original at least once.

Translation carries meaning, not words

1. Translation isn't swapping one word for another.

2. You catch the meaning of the whole sentence first, then **build it again in the other language**.

3. That's why a word-by-word 'You're taking my hair' says nothing to an English ear.

Idioms and the missing subject

1. An idiom isn't the sum of its words — the whole chunk carries one meaning.

2. Languages like Korean drop the subject often, so you have to read **what the whole sentence is about** to fill it back in.

3. Google put this approach into its real translation service in 2016, and clumsy literal output dropped sharply.

Pieces to hand over, pieces to keep

1. AI isn't a machine that writes for you — it's a tool for turning your own writing over and looking at it.

2. Your ideas, your experience and checking the facts stay **yours**; tightening and shortening you can hand over.

3. Whatever AI writes still goes out with your name on it.

Hand over the listing, keep the choosing

1. Getting twenty title options is fine to hand over, but the moment you pick one, that title is your judgment.

2. The **what I think** box in a book report is material only you have — hand it over and it turns into a book blurb, and readers notice fast.

3. For any number going into a talk, find where that number was first published, check it, and write down the source.

Getting the code is only the start

1. It's true that code comes out when you describe what you want.

2. But the real half of coding sits **after the code appears**.

3. Running it, reading the errors and fixing them — that's where it lives.

A red error isn't a scolding, it's a note

1. An error message says which line stopped and why.
2. Don't trim it down — **show the whole thing**, that's the fastest repair.
3. For anything big, run each chunk as you go and the broken spot shows up right away.

Drawing by clearing away the speckle

1. A picture AI doesn't fetch a picture from somewhere.

2. It starts from a screen full of dots and draws by **clearing the speckle away bit by bit**.

3. Your description is the handle that sets which way the clearing goes.

Whatever you don't say, AI decides

1. Color, placement, time of day, mood — say nothing and the common choice fills the gap.

2. That's why the same description gives you **a slightly different picture every time**.

3. Detailed and greedy aren't the same thing: stuff too much in at once and a few items drop out instead.

Thirty pictures per second

1. Video isn't a moving picture — it's still pictures stitched together fast.
2. One second usually holds **twenty-four to thirty** of them.
3. So making video is tens of times heavier than yesterday's picture-making.

Harder than the volume is the connecting

1. One picture 1920 wide and 1080 tall holds about 2.07 million dots.

2. One second swells to **about 62.2 million dots**.

3. If the cup is on the left in frame 2 and on the right in frame 3, the video looks wrong instantly.

It listens by chopping sound up small

1. AI doesn't take in your speech whole.
2. It writes the sound down as numbers 16,000 times a second and sweeps it with **a 25-millisecond window**.
3. Each piece on its own is just a pattern of highs and lows.

Neighbors decide the letters

1. Say 'their' and 'there' out loud and the sound is almost the same.
2. So AI also looks at **whether a word fits its neighbors** before it picks.
3. That's why a name it has never heard goes wrong so often.

A list of places, or one solid block

1. Search doesn't give you an answer, it gives you a list of places to go.

2. AI takes what it has already read and builds **one solid block of sentences**.

3. There's only one thing to read, so it's fast — but where the words came from isn't written down.

The fork is whether the source shows

1. Once several sources melt into one block, picking out the single wrong line is hard.

2. Even when AI attaches a link, whether that link **actually says that** you only know by clicking.

3. In a 2023 study, only 51.5% of sentences were fully supported by their links.

What speeds up is the front end

1. Researching with AI makes starting faster.

2. It throws out search terms and outline options quickly, so **the finding-and-sifting front end** is what speeds up.

3. Numbers, years, people's names and quotes you have to click through and check yourself.

Words that mix in while shrinking

1. While a long text is being shortened, wording that wasn't in the original can mix in.

2. A sentence you can't find in the original is **better left out**.

3. In 2023 a lawyer in the United States was fined after filing fake case law that AI had made up.

Just the answer, or the steps?

1. Ask about the same problem and what comes back changes completely depending on whether you asked for the answer or the steps.

2. There's one test for choosing — **will I have to do this on my own later?**

3. If you'll be on your own, take the steps; if you only need to know whether it's right, take the answer.

Make it walk the steps and AI solves better too

1. Research in 2022 found that adding 'explain it step by step' raised accuracy on math problems a lot.

2. Getting the same type wrong three times is a sign that **something in the middle is empty**.

3. Reading an explanation isn't the same as being able to solve it, so close the page and solve it again.

Collect → table → fix → chart

1. You can't chart scattered material straight away.
2. A table has rules — **one row per case, one value per cell**.
3. Line things up like that and both you and AI can calculate right away.

The boxes AI is good at, and the ones you have to look at

1. Lining rows up and calculating is where AI is fast.

2. Whether units got mixed, whether cells are blank, whether a strange value crept in — **you, who collected the material**, know best.

3. A chart drawn before the fixing is pretty and wrong.

A talk breaks into pieces

1. Preparing a talk isn't one lump.
2. Narrowing the topic, gathering material, building slides, rehearsing — it **breaks into pieces**.
3. The pieces AI is good for are the rough draft and the labor-heavy work.

The pieces with your name on them

1. Deciding what to say, checking the numbers, rehearsing and answering questions are yours.

2. The most dangerous talk is the one with lovely sentences that **collapses at a single question**.

3. A wrong number stays under your name too.

The knob between boring and off-the-wall

1. AI picks the next word by probability.

2. Grab only the high-probability ones and it turns boring; **reach down to the low ones** and it turns odd.

3. That handle for widening and narrowing really exists, and it's called temperature.

Pull a wide pile, then pick yourself

1. Turn the knob up and the usable ideas and the throwaway ideas grow together.
2. Turn it down for translation and summarizing, **up for an idea session**.
3. Even with no knob on screen, saying 'twenty more, and weirder' gets a similar effect.

Goal → break up → order → check

1. When you're stuck, don't ask AI for the answer — ask it to break the job up.

2. Planning isn't knowing the right answer, it's deciding **what to do first**.

3. Goal, break up, order, check — fill those four boxes and you have a plan.

Give conditions and you get a plan you can use

1. Tell it the time you have, the size of the thing, and what you can actually do.

2. With no conditions, AI will make **any plan at all, plausibly**.

3. The check box isn't extra work — it's the box that buys you time to undo things.

If you can undo it, hand it off

1. An AI that takes only a goal and then searches, opens files and retries on failure by itself is called an agent.

2. There's really one test for what you can hand over — **can you undo it when it's wrong?**

3. A file name you can undo; money sent and a report handed in you cannot.

Leave a box where a person looks

1. Agents often miss the things people find easy.

2. In the first evaluation in 2023, people finished 92% of errand-style problems and agents finished **only 15%**.

3. On tasks in real websites it was 78.2% for people against 14.4% for agents.

Listing and shrinking go to AI, picking and checking stay with me.



Part 4 looks at what to watch out for.