DAY 01 · Part 1 · What AI Is

How does AI talk?

Five-Minute AI Lessons · Sep 7, 2026

Add one piece at a time and you get a long sentence

In a nutshell

1. AI doesn't write a whole sentence in one go. All it does is pick **just the next piece**.

2. It adds the piece it picked, then picks the next one — **repeat that hundreds of times** and you get the long answer you see.

3. So AI isn't fetching an answer from somewhere. Every time, it freshly picks **the most likely next piece**.

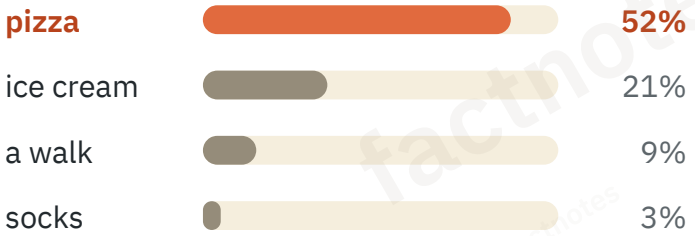
The loop that repeats

Example After school, my friend and I went for ___

Sentence so far

After school,
my friend and I went for

Score each next piece



...plus tens of thousands more

Pick one

pizza

What the AI picked

Add it

went for **pizza**

Keep going around this loop until the sentence ends

Let's turn just one knob

0.0

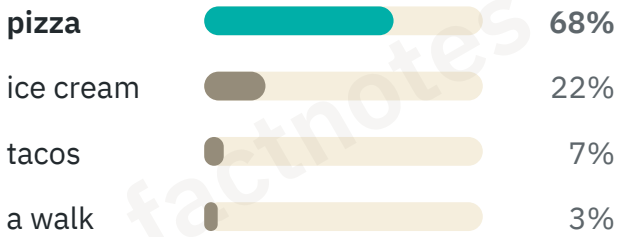
Always the same



Always picks #1. Same sentence every time you press

0.7

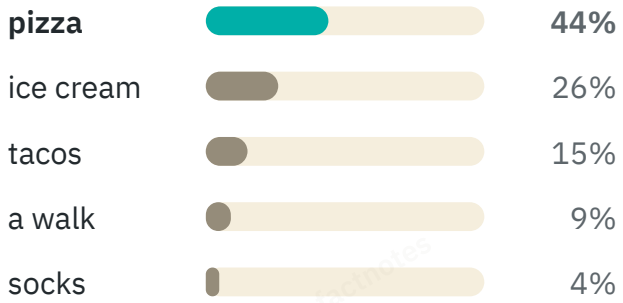
Normal



The usual chatbot setting. Makes sense, but changes a little each time

1.5

Really free



Lower candidates get a chance too. Fun, but it can get weird

This knob's real name is **temperature**.

※ The percentages are made-up example numbers.

Quick check

Just three questions

Q1

What does AI do in a single step?

① Makes the whole sentence in one go
② Picks the next piece and adds it on
③ Finds it on the internet
④ Pulls out an answer it saved

Q2

Turn Boldness down to 0, and...?

① A different sentence every time
② The same sentence every time
③ It gets more accurate
④ It gets faster

Q3

(True / False) AI searches for the answer somewhere and then tells you.

Know the why, too

Q1

②

AI does just one thing: pick the next piece. A long sentence is that, repeated.

Q2

②

It keeps picking only #1, so the answer is always the same. But if #1 is wrong, there's no way out.

Q3

F

By default it doesn't search — it builds the answer on the spot. That's why it sometimes confidently makes up facts. This is called hallucination.

AI is a machine that picks the next piece over and over, really fast.



Tomorrow: tokens — what exactly is AI's “piece”?