DAY 10 · Part 1 · What AI Is

Could this AI fit on my laptop? — Open and closed models

Five-Minute AI Lessons · Sep 16, 2026

Open doesn't mean free — it means you can get the core

In a nutshell

1. With a **closed model**, the core stays inside the company's servers. You can only talk to it through an app or other window — you can't get the model itself.

2. With an **open model**, you can download that whole core — the pile of parameter numbers from DAY 05, called the weights — and run it on your own computer.

3. But ‘open’ isn't all-or-nothing. Most models **open the weights but not the training data**, so how open a model is depends on the piece.

It's about where the core lives

Closed model

The core stays on company servers

I only send questions to a window (app or API)

If the internet drops, you can't do anything

But it's always up to date, with nothing to install

The core comes out

(weights released)

Open model

You download the whole weight file

Runs inside my computer · you can modify it

Works without internet

But the machine and the updates are on you

You ask the same way, but the model lives in a different place

Split 'open' into four pieces

0 / 4

Closed model

- Weights · locked
- Code to run it · locked
- Training data · locked
- Right to modify · locked

You can talk to it at the window, but the core never comes out.

2 / 4

Open weights only

- **Weights · open**
- **Code to run it · open**
- Training data · locked
- Right to modify · it depends

You can download and run it. But the license decides how far you can use it.

3 / 4

Open license too

- **Weights · open**
- **Code to run it · open**
- **Right to modify · open**
- Training data · locked

Even here, the training data usually stays closed — models that open all four are rare.

So 'open model' alone isn't enough — you have to check which pieces are open.

Sources: Llama 2 release (2023-07-18, commercial use allowed under its own license) · Mistral 7B (2023-09-27, Apache 2.0)

Quick check

Just three questions

Q1

When a model is “open,” what can you mainly get?

① The password to the company's servers
② The numbers tuned in training — the weights
③ The AI's chat history with people
④ A share of the company's money

Q2

What can you do when you use a closed model?

① Download the model file onto your laptop
② Look at the data it was trained on
③ Ask and get answers through an app or API
④ Change the numbers inside the model yourself

Q3

(True / False) If a model's weights are released, its training data is usually released too.

Know the why, too

Q1

② The weights. That pile of numbers you got a feel for on DAY 05 — a trained model is really just a file of those numbers.

Q2

③ You can ask at the window and get answers — that's it. The core never leaves the server, so when the internet drops, you can't do anything.

Q3

F Most models open the weights but not the training data. So the word ‘open’ alone doesn't tell you how much is open.

Open doesn't mean free —
it means you can get the core in your own hands.

That's Part 1. Part 2 starts tomorrow — with the neuron that learned on its own, built in 1958.