DAY 25 · Part 3 · What It Can Do

The more detail you give, the more the picture looks like your idea? — Making pictures

Five-Minute AI Lessons · Oct 1, 2026

Whatever you don't say, AI decides for you, so start by saying what you want to decide.

In a nutshell

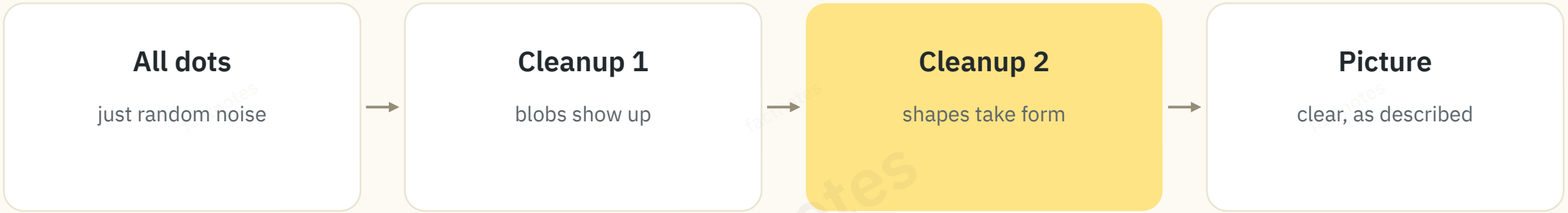
1. An image AI doesn't go find a picture somewhere. It draws by **clearing away noise, bit by bit, from a screen full of dots**.

2. Your description is the dial that sets which way that clearing goes. So **anything you don't pin down in words, AI decides on its own** — the colors, the time of day, the mood.

3. But detailed isn't the same as greedy. **Put in too many things at once, and some of them actually get left out**. Fixing as you go is faster than cramming it all in at once.

In one picture

Drawing by clearing away the noise



At each step, it clears away noise 'in the direction that gets closer to the description.' The description is the steering wheel.

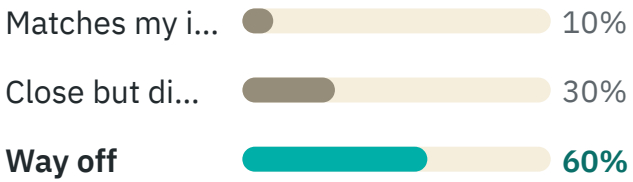
Key idea: the description doesn't pick a picture — it sets the direction for clearing away the noise

Experiment · Probability slider

How does the result change as your description gets more detailed?

Just the word 'cat'

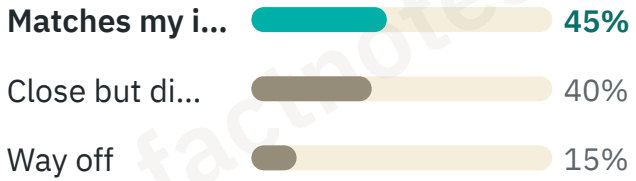
How close will the picture be to w...



If you don't pin anything down, AI goes with the most common version among the pictures it learned from. And th...

'A black cat sitting by a window, midday'

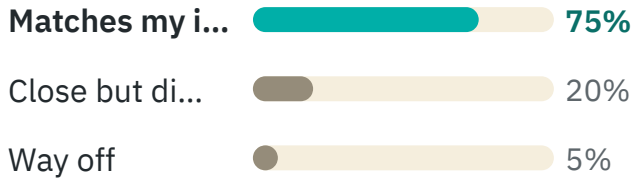
How close will the picture be to w...



Pin down just three things — color, place, time — and about half are keepers. Every blank you fill cuts down th...

Color, layout, time, mood, even art style

How close will the picture be to w...



Even so, it's never 100%. You can't put everything in your head into words — the rest you match up by fixing as...

Turn the dial to make the description more detailed. Imagine you got ten pictures back — this shows roughly how...

Try it yourself in the web lesson · next-token.net/en/learn/day-25/

Quick check

Just three questions

Q1

How does an image AI make a picture?

① It finds a similar picture on the internet
② It clears noise from a screen full of dots
③ It traces lines a person drew
④ It cuts and pastes photos

Q2

Why do you get so many way-off pictures when you only type 'cat'?

① AI doesn't know what cats are
② The text is too short
③ AI decides whatever you didn't specify
④ There aren't enough cat pictures

Q3

What if you put in twelve things?

① All go in exactly
② Colors get darker
③ The picture gets bigger
④ Some easily get dropped

Know the why, too

Q1

② It starts from random noise and, step by step, clears it away in the direction that gets closer to the description. It's not grabbing a picture from somewhere.

Q2

③ If you don't say the color, place, time or mood, AI fills those blanks with the most common choice. And the cat in your head isn't a common cat.

Q3

④ Detailed isn't the same as greedy. Put the three or four most important things in first and add the rest next round — the results are better.

Whatever you don't say. AI decides for you, so start by saying what you want to decide.



Tomorrow: Making videos — let's estimate how many dots go into a single 1-second video.