DAY 41 · Part 4 · What to Watch Out For

If AI does it all, what's left for you? — Homework and AI: where's the line

Five-Minute AI Lessons · Oct 17, 2026

What you hand to AI is the stuck spot, not the whole homework. If you can explain it in your own words at the end, you did it.

In a nutshell

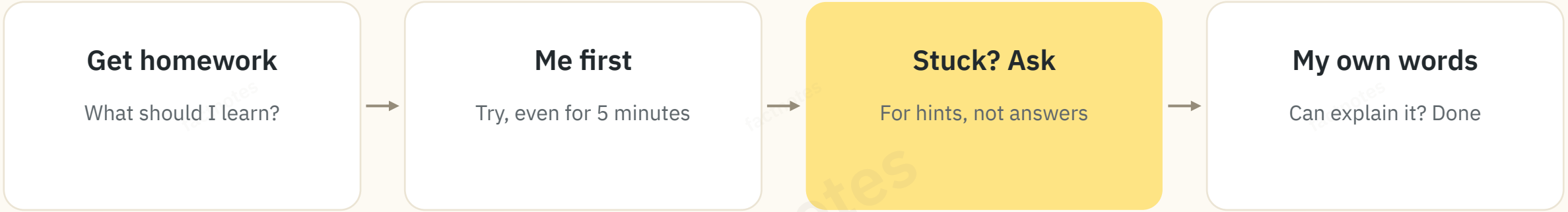
1. The test isn't a long rulebook — it's one sentence. **When you're done, did something stay in your head?**

2. **Hand the whole thing over and all you have is the finished product — you can't explain what's in it**. That shows right away when you're presenting or sitting in front of a test.

3. But **ask only about the spots where you're stuck and rewrite it yourself, and you keep both the work and the skill**. Same tool — what changes is where you use it.

In one picture

Four steps when you face homework



The third step is the fork in the road. Ask 'show me where I'm stuck' instead of 'give me the answer,' and the learning stays with you.

Key idea: 5 minutes first, hints when you're stuck, your own words last

Experiment · Before & after

Handing it all over vs doing it together

Book report

Before

You gave it only the book's title and handed in the whole report it wrote. 3 minutes to read it...

After

You read the book yourself, and when your thoughts wouldn't come together, you only asked for '...

It took ten times as long, but now you can talk about that book in your own wor...

Math problems

Before

You pasted in all ten problems you didn't get and copied down the solutions. Every blank on the...

After

You wrestled with each one for 5 minutes first, then snapped a photo of just the line you were...

You knew where you were stuck when you asked, so exactly that gap gets filled....

Presentation slides

Before

You tossed in just the topic and got all ten slides back. Flipping through, they look great, bu...

After

You wrote what you want to say in three lines first, and only got help splitting it into slides...

The skeleton is yours, so whatever question comes, you can keep going in your o...

Imagine doing the same homework two ways. Switch back and forth between them and compare what's left when you'r...

Try it yourself in the web lesson · next-token.net/en/learn/day-41/

Quick check

Just three questions

Q1

What decides whether it's OK to use AI on homework?

① Whether you get caught
② Whether something stays with you at the end
③ How much time it saves
④ Whether you hit the word count

Q2

What's the biggest problem with handing all your math homework to AI?

① The blanks don't get filled
② Your handwriting gets neater
③ You get stuck again on the same type
④ It takes longer

Q3

What's a better question when you're stuck?

① Just give me the answer
② Hand it in for me
③ Rewrite all of it
④ Show me where I got stuck

Know the why, too

Q1

② No need to memorize a rulebook. If you can explain it in your own words when you're done, something stayed; if you can't, nothing did.

Q2

③ The blanks get filled, but the spot where you were stuck stays stuck. Your hand moved, but your brain didn't.

Q3

④ Ask for a hint and exactly that gap gets filled. That's how you keep both the work and the skill.

Today in one line

What you hand to AI is the stuck spot, not the whole homework.
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Tomorrow: Fake news — how to tell whether you can trust a story by checking just three things.