DAY 56 · Part 6 · What Comes Next

Is AGI already here, or still far off? — The AGI debate

Five-Minute AI Lessons · Nov 1, 2026

Whether AGI is here isn't a question to ask the AI, it's a question for us: where do we set the bar?

In a nutshell

1. You could say both are right. Depending on where you set **the bar for 'how much does it have to do to count as AGI,'** today's AI either passes or falls short.

2. Set the bar low — 'if you can talk with it like a person, it's AGI' — and it has already passed. Turing's 1950 test was close to that, and AI today has even had cases of **solving hard test questions better than the average person**.

3. Set the bar high — 'if it can learn a task it's never seen on its own and finish it, it's AGI' — and it's not there yet. On a new test that came out in March 2026, **AI got almost none of the problems people got all right**.

In one picture

Setting the bar low vs setting it high

Low bar · already passed

· Passes if it can chat (Turing, 1950)
· Breezes through hard tests
· 'AGI is already here'

→

High bar · not there yet

· Must learn brand-new tasks on its own
· Passes only if it finishes the job
· 'Still a long way off'

Neither side is lying. They're just holding the ruler in different places.

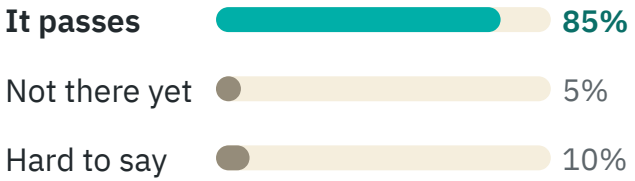
Key idea: the AGI debate isn't a fight about how good AI is, it's a fight about where the bar goes

Experiment · Probability slider

Where do you set the 'AGI bar'? — move the slider and the answer changes

Bar: if it talks like a person, it's AGI

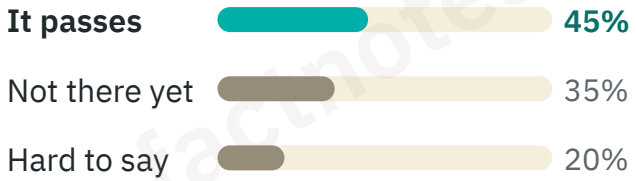
With this bar, what would you call...



This is where Turing's 1950 test sits. Don't look inside, just judge it by the answers you can see. With this b...

Bar: if it solves hard test questions as well as people, it's AGI

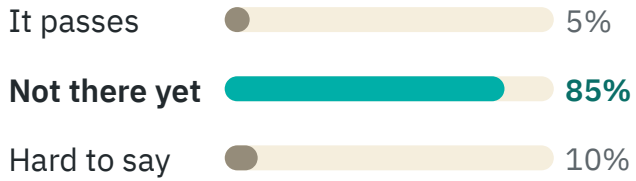
With this bar, what would you call...



Measure with tests and the answers split. In February 2026, one model actually scored 84.6% on a puzzle test wh...

Bar: if it learns a new task on its own and finishes it, it's AGI

With this bar, what would you call...



On a test where you have to figure out new rules with no instructions (ARC-AGI-3), it was people 100% · AI 0.51...

Slide left and the bar is low; slide right and the bar is high. The bars aren't survey results. They just show...

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Quick check

Just three questions

Q1

What's the biggest reason people disagree about AGI?

① Different bars for 'how much counts as AGI'
② Nobody can measure how good AI is
③ AI changes every day
④ Someone is hiding the numbers on purpose

Q2

If you raise the bar to 'learn a new task on its own and finish it,' what about today's AI?

① It still passes easily
② Far more say it's not there yet
③ It can't be judged at all
④ It's always better than people

Q3

When you hear 'AGI is here,' what should you ask first?

① Who said it?
② How much does it cost?
③ What's the bar?
④ When did it come out?

Know the why, too

Q1

① Even with the same AI, if you hold the ruler in a different place, the verdict changes. So the AGI debate is less a fight about skill and more a fight about where the bar goes.

Q2

② On a test where you figure out new rules with no instructions, AI got almost none of the problems people got all right. And on a test that handed it whole real jobs, the share...

Q3

③ If you don't know the bar, people end up using the same word to mean different things. Check the bar first and the debate gets a lot clearer.

Whether AGI is here isn't a question to ask the AI, it's a question for us: where do we set the bar?



Tomorrow: AI and jobs — break one job into pieces, and see which pieces are AI's and which are people's.