**AI Agent Layman’s Definition:**

An **agent** is anything (like a robot, software, or machine) that can **see or sense its surroundings** using **sensors** (like eyes or cameras), and then **do something** in that surrounding using **actuators** (like hands, wheels, or motors).

Sensors -----------------> Agent -----------------> Actuators

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Environment <----------------------------------------

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**What does it mean by ‘Environment’ in AI Agent:**  
The environment is simply the **surroundings** or **situation** the AI is placed in. It's where the AI gets information from and tries to do something useful.

**Agent**: Robot vacuum cleaner

**Environment**:

* The house: walls, furniture, dirt patches

**Sensors**: Bump sensors, dirt sensors

**Actuators**: Wheels to move, brush to clean

**Interaction**: It detects a dirty floor and moves to clean it

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**Percept:** The Contents the Agents Sensor’s are Perceiving

**Percept Sequence:** The Complete history of things the agent has ever perceived

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**Concept of Rationality**:

A rational agent acts to **maximize expected performance** based on its **percepts and knowledge**.

### **Key Elements:**

1. **Performance Measure** Defines what counts as success for the agent.
2. **Percept Sequence** The complete history of what the agent has perceived so far.
3. **Knowledge** What the agent knows about the environment, including built-in and learned knowledge.
4. **Available Actions** The agent chooses from the actions it can actually perform.
5. **Autonomy** A rational agent improves by learning from experience rather than relying only on built-in rules.

### **Clarifications:**

* Rational ≠ Perfect  
   It means doing the best with what’s known, not guaranteeing success.
* Rational ≠ Omniscient  
   The agent doesn’t know the future, it just makes the best possible decision given the current information.

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**Types of Agents**

**Simple Reflex Agent:**

A **Simple Reflex Agent** is the most basic kind of agent.

It **looks at the current situation** (percept) and **acts immediately** based on a set of condition–action rules.

{IF condition THEN action}

* **No memory** – it can’t remember what it did before.
* **Fails in partially observable environments** – can’t work well if it can’t see the whole situation.
* **No learning** – it cannot improve over time.

A Simple Reflex Agent chooses actions **only based on the current input**, using **fixed rules**.

It is fast and simple, but not smart or flexible.

**Model Based Agent:**

A **Model-Based Agent** is smarter than a simple reflex agent.

It **keeps track of the world**, not just the current percept.

### **How it works:**

1. **Perceives** the current state from sensors
2. **Updates internal model** (a memory of what the world is like)
3. **Uses rules** ("if [condition], then [action]") just like a simple agent
4. **Chooses action** based on:  
   * Current percept
   * Internal state (past info)

### **Limitations:**

* Still rule-based
* Still doesn’t plan ahead or optimize goals
* No learning (unless combined with learning components)

### **Goal-Based Agent:**

A Goal-Based Agent decides what to do by considering its **goals** — specific outcomes it wants to achieve.  
 It does **not just react**, it **thinks ahead** and chooses actions that help reach the goal.

{IF action leads to goal THEN do action}

Has a model of the world – can predict the effects of actions.

Can handle new situations – it reasons to find a path to the goal.

Still rule-based, but more flexible – actions depend on goals, not just current conditions.

A Goal-Based Agent chooses actions by comparing possible future outcomes to its goals.  
 It is more intelligent than reflex agents but still does not measure how *good* different goals are.

### **Utility-Based Agent:**

A Utility-Based Agent goes one step further than goal-based agents.  
 It tries to **maximize happiness or satisfaction**, not just reach any goal.

{IF action leads to highest utility THEN do action}

Uses a **utility function** – a way to measure how good or bad an outcome is.

Can compare multiple goals – and choose the one that gives the **best overall result**.

Handles trade-offs – useful in complex environments with conflicting goals.

A Utility-Based Agent chooses actions that maximize expected utility.  
 It is the most flexible and intelligent kind of agent among these, but also the most complex to design.

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