

Take-Home Task: Grocery Chatbot

Build a simple chatbot that helps users find grocery items and compare prices between shops.

Think of it like a small version of Amazon Rufus or Google Shopping Chat — the user types of natural sentences, and the bot replies with real data from your mock dataset.

What the Bot Should Do

1. Understand what the user wants.
 - a. Examples:
 - i. “show me shops with cheap Coke or Pepsi”
 - ii. “which shop has vegan bagels?”
 - iii. “find Subway sandwiches under £3”
 - iv. “show me gluten-free items from ASDA”
 - b. The bot should figure out:
 - i. Product type (Coke, Pepsi, bagels, sandwich, etc.)
 - ii. Price filters (cheap, under £2, below £5)
 - iii. Shops or brands (ASDA, Tesco, Subway)
 - iv. Special tags (vegan, gluten-free, low-fat, etc.)
2. Show products that match.
 - a. The bot replies with:
 - i. Product name
 - ii. Price
 - iii. Shop name
 - iv. Optional image
 - v. Short reason (e.g. “Cheapest Pepsi at ASDA, £1.25”)

If multiple shops sell it, show 2-3 cheapest options.

3. Keep track of the conversation.
 - a. Example:
 - i. User: “only Subway”
Then says: “show me drinks under £3” → The bot should remember that the user meant Subway.
4. Work with mock data.
 - a. Use simple JSON files like
 - i. asda_bagels.json
 - ii. subway_menu.json
 - b. Each item should include:
 - i. Name
 - ii. Brand
 - iii. Price
 - iv. vendor (shop name)
 - v. category

- vi. Optional tags (vegan, gluten-free, low-fat)
 - Optional calories (if food)

How the Bot Works

- You can build it with React, Node.js, or any framework you like.
- It can be just text-based (no fancy design needed).
- It should read from your JSON data and respond based on what the user asks.
- You can use simple rules or real AI to understand text.

Optional: Use AI (extra credit)

If you want, you can plug in a small AI model (like OpenAI, Ollama, or local model) to understand user text better.

Example:

User → "what's the best cheap drink from Subway"

AI → category: "drink", vendor: "Subway", budget: "cheap"

Then your bot filters and shows results.

If AI is not used, you can do this with simple string or regex logic.

What You Need to Deliver

1. A working chatbot (even text-only) that can:
 - Read user text
 - Understand what they want
 - Show results from mock data
 - Remember basic context
2. A README file explaining how to run it.
3. Example JSON data (ASDA + Subway).
4. Optional: add real AI to make it smarter.

Test Cases

1. "show me shops with cheap Coke or Pepsi" → Shows 2-3 shops with Coke or Pepsi prices (sorted by cheapest).
2. "find vegan bagels" → Shows ASDA bagels marked vegan.
3. "only Subway" → "drinks under £3" → Shows Subway drinks below £3.
4. "reset" → Clears memory (starts new search).

What to Submit

- Your project folder or GitHub repo.
- Example JSON data (ASDA + Subway).
- README with steps to run it.
- If AI is used, mention which model or API key is needed.