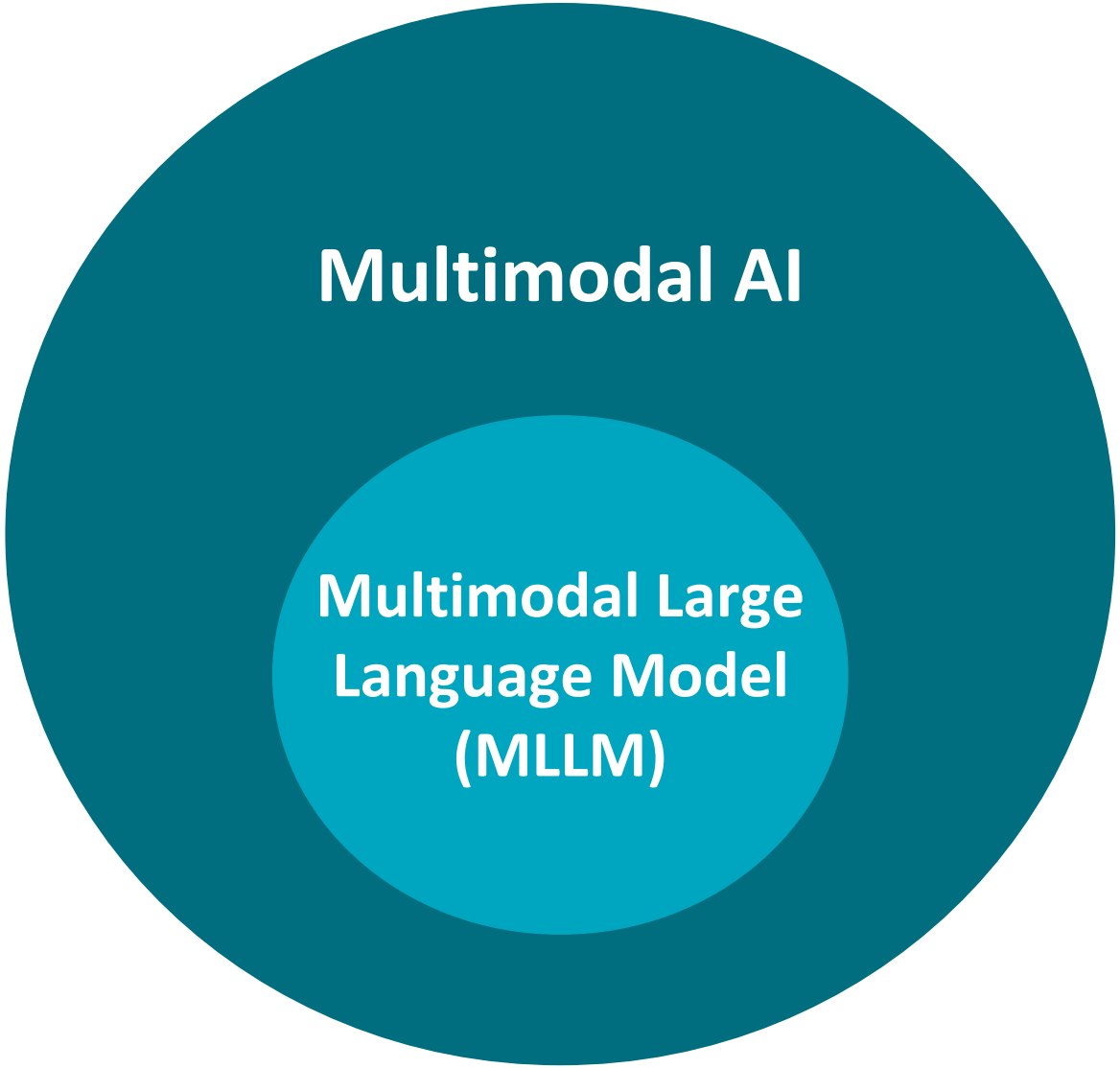
BRITISH COUNCIL

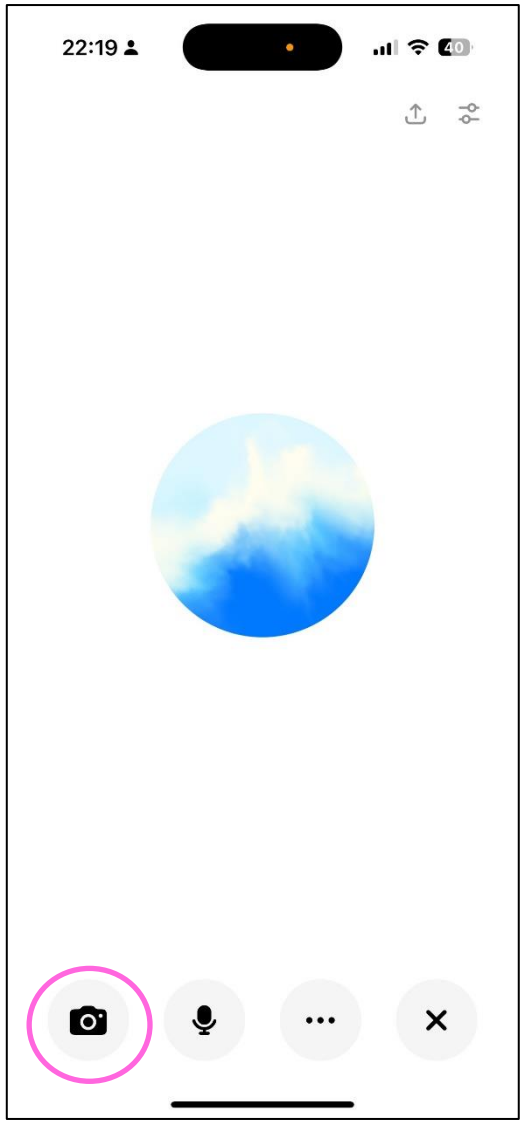
e-Assessment International Conference and Awards

Reimagining (Speaking) Assessment: The Multimodal Revolution Powered by Generative AI

Dr Sha Liu, 11 June 2025

Multimodal Large Language Model (MLLM)


Multimodal AI
Multimodal Large Language Model (MLLM)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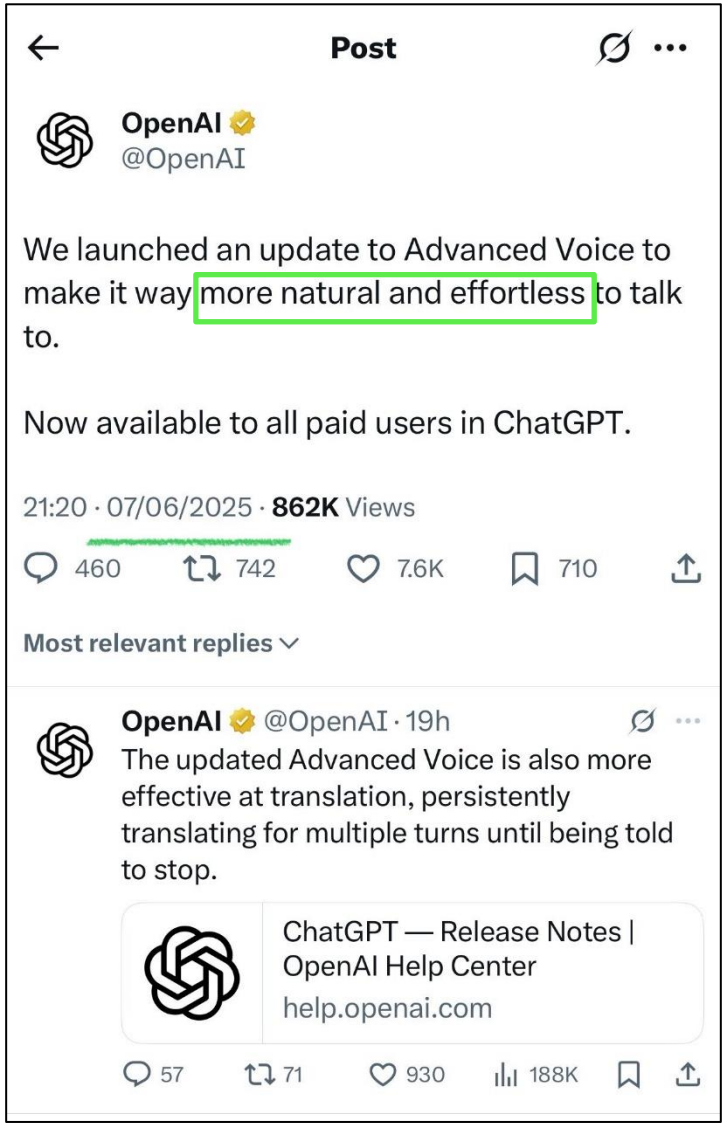

Post
OpenAI
@OpenAI
We launched an update to Advanced Voice to make it way more natural and effortless to talk to.
Now available to all paid users in ChatGPT.
21:20 · 07/06/2025 · 862K Views
460
742
7.6K
710
Most relevant replies
OpenAI @OpenAI · 19h
The updated Advanced Voice is also more effective at translation, persistently translating for multiple turns until being told to stop.
ChatGPT — Release Notes | OpenAI Help Center
help.openai.com
57
71
930
188K

Modes of Communication

- Linguistic
- Aural
- Visual
- Spatial
- Gestural

Skills of Communication

- Speaking
- Listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Viewing*

Digital multimodal communication

Modes of Communication

- Linguistic
- Aural
- Visual
- Spatial
- Gestural

Skills of Communication

- Speaking
- Listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Viewing*

Mmultimodal assessment: Theory & practice

Multimodal assessment: Theorisation

1. **Integrating mmultimodal task inputs as interconnected, complementary stimuli**
    - Multimodality ≠ multimedialtiy

2. **Prompting a learner to use multiple (digital) skills simultaneously**

3. **Assessing a learner's multimodal literacy by evaluating their ability to orchestrate these modes and skills into a meaningful multimodal composition**

(Diamantopoulou, 2024; Lim et al.2025; Yu & Clark, 2023)

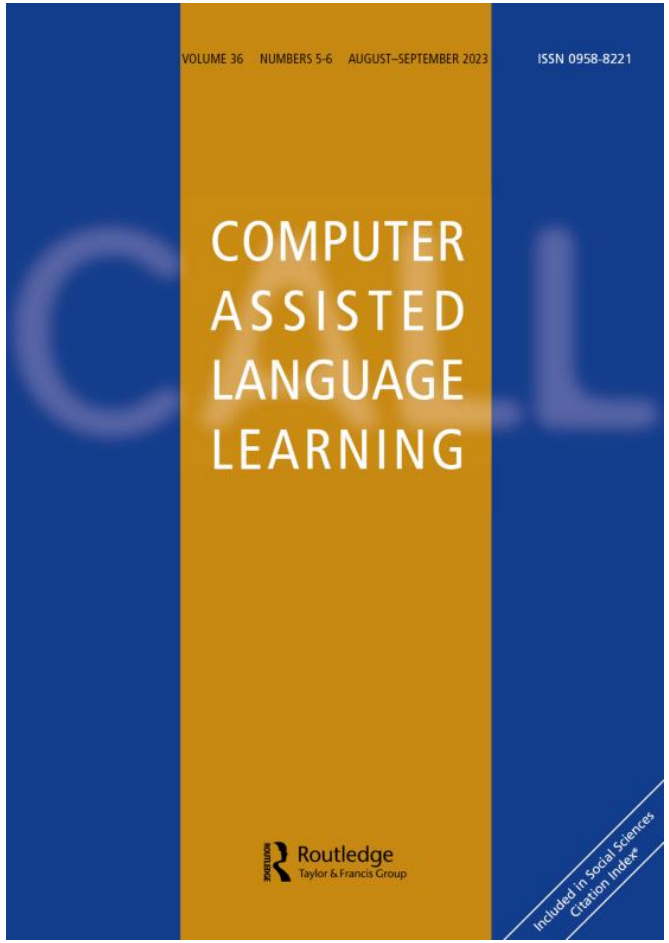
Call for papers

***Language Assessment Quarterly* Special Issue –**

Multimodal constructs of language assessment in a digital age

Guest Editors:

Guoxing Yu, University of Bristol, UK
Tony Clark, Cambridge University Press & Assessment, UK



Call for Papers:

Multimodal Generative Artificial Intelligence in Language Education

Multimodal GAI for

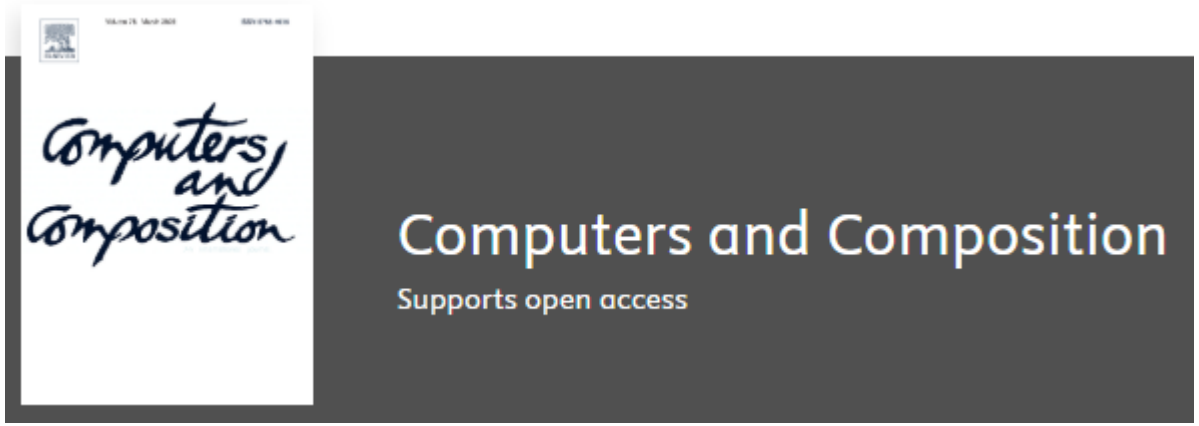
- writing, speaking, reading or listening skills
- critical thinking skills
- language cognition
- engagement in language learning
- motivation, emotion, enjoyment in language learning
- language lesson preparation

Language Testing

Call for Abstracts:

Spoken dialogue systems for developing and assessing speaking proficiency in local and large-scale contexts

- Evaluation of the quality of SDSs to facilitate speaking development and assessment
- Construct(s) tapped into by traditional and AI-facilitated SDSs
- Innovations in task design afforded by SDSs
- Development of speaking proficiency in the context of SDSs
- Proficiency standards and adaptive algorithms in SDS design and implementation
- Machine learning and new statistical models in modeling performance (e.g., process and product data) in SDSs
- Washback and ethics of using SDSs in language learning and assessment



Special issue published

Digital Multimodal Composing in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

This special issue initiates a dialogue within Computers and Composition on the affordances of generative AI tools for digital multimodal composing. The articles advance theoretical understandings and examine the implications for curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment, as well as how developments in the digital age impact literacies, identity and society.

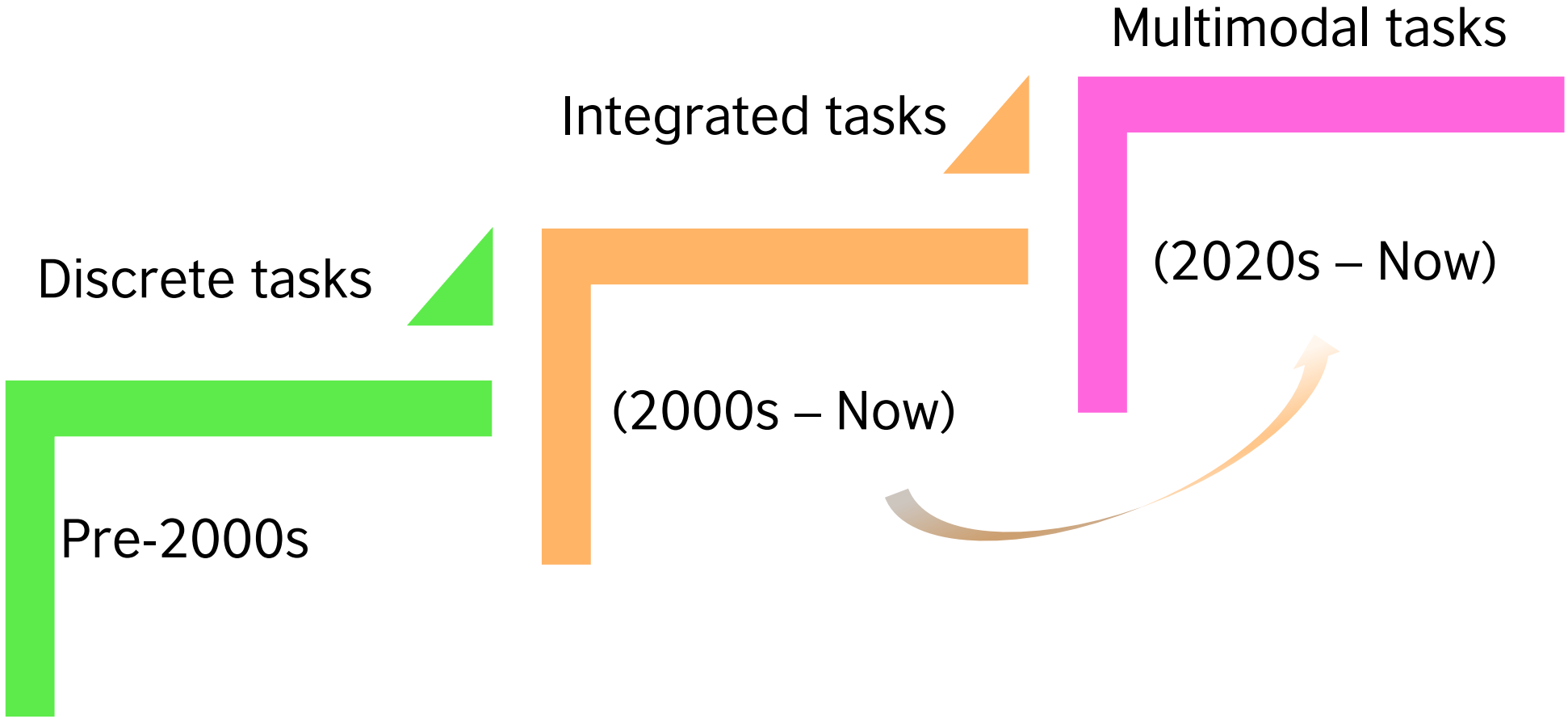
tesol QUARTERLY

Call for Abstracts:

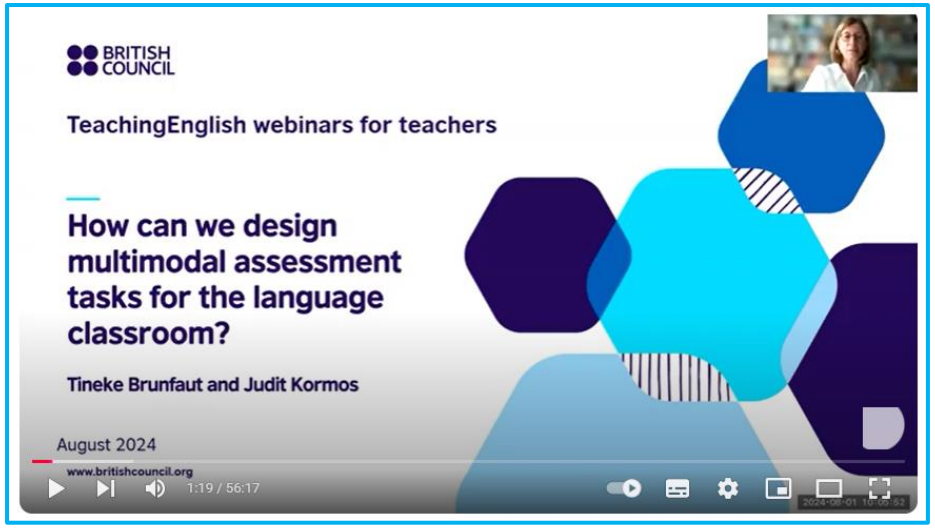
Digital Multimodal Composing and TESOL in the GenAI Era

- GenAI-assisted DMC and traditional reading/writing in TESOL
- DMC task design in GenAI times
- DMC feedback and assessment
- DMC and L2 teacher education
- Collaborative DMC as a translanguaging space
- DMC for critical digital literacies

Multimodal assessment: In practice



Multimodal assessment: In practice

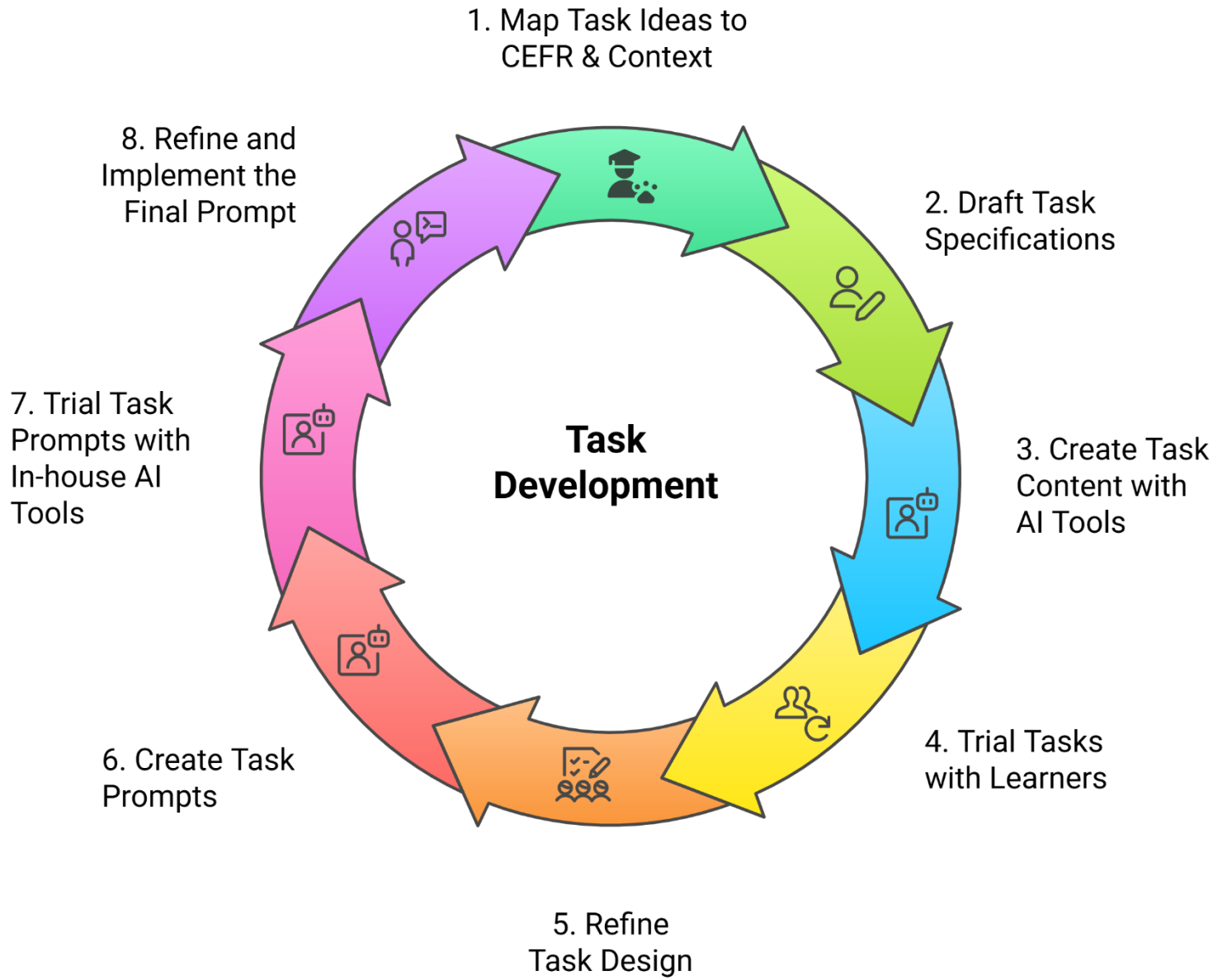


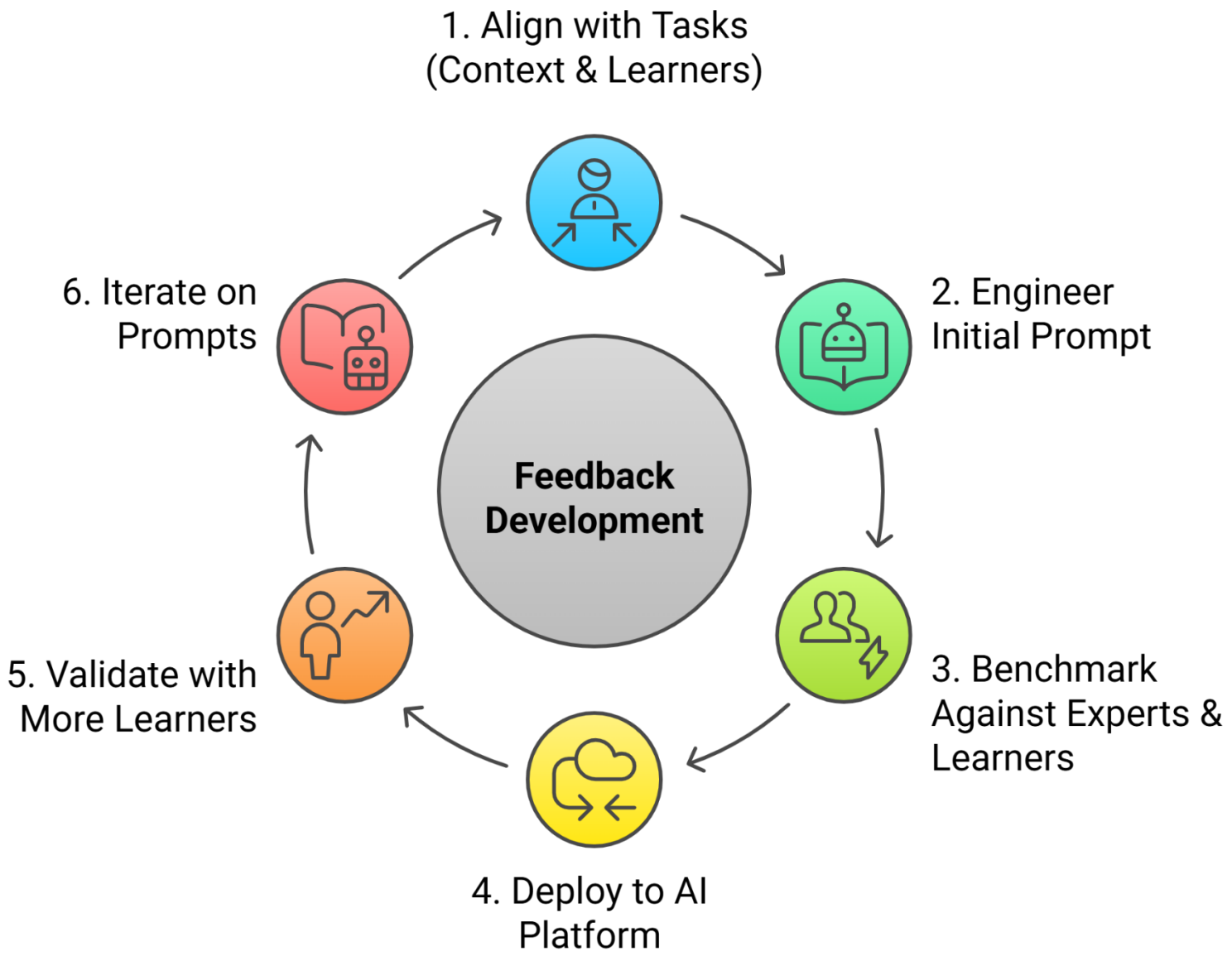
Task 2: Viewing-to-Compare-and-Contrast

Instructions:

1. **Watch the Video:**
   - Watch a video featuring two speakers discussing their views on a topic. The video will be played twice, and you may take notes.
2. **Examine the Infographic:**
   - Review an accompanying infographic summarizing the discussion. Focus on how it complements the video content.
3. **Compose a Report:**
   - Write a 200–250 word report comparing and contrasting the two speakers' views, integrating insights from both the video and the infographic.

The British Council’s Approach





- Human-centred
- Learner-first
- Responsible use (‘Ethics by design’, also see Berry & Dainow, 2024)

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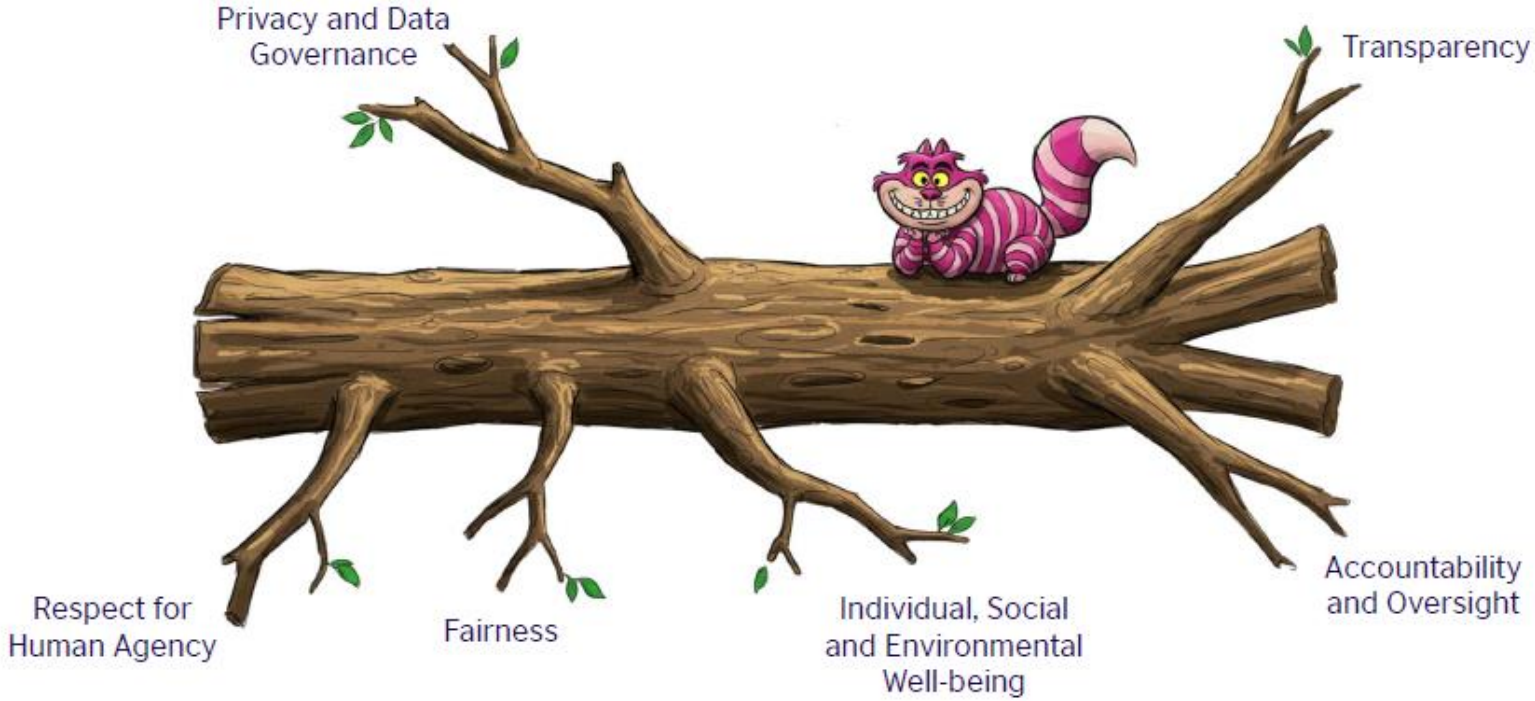
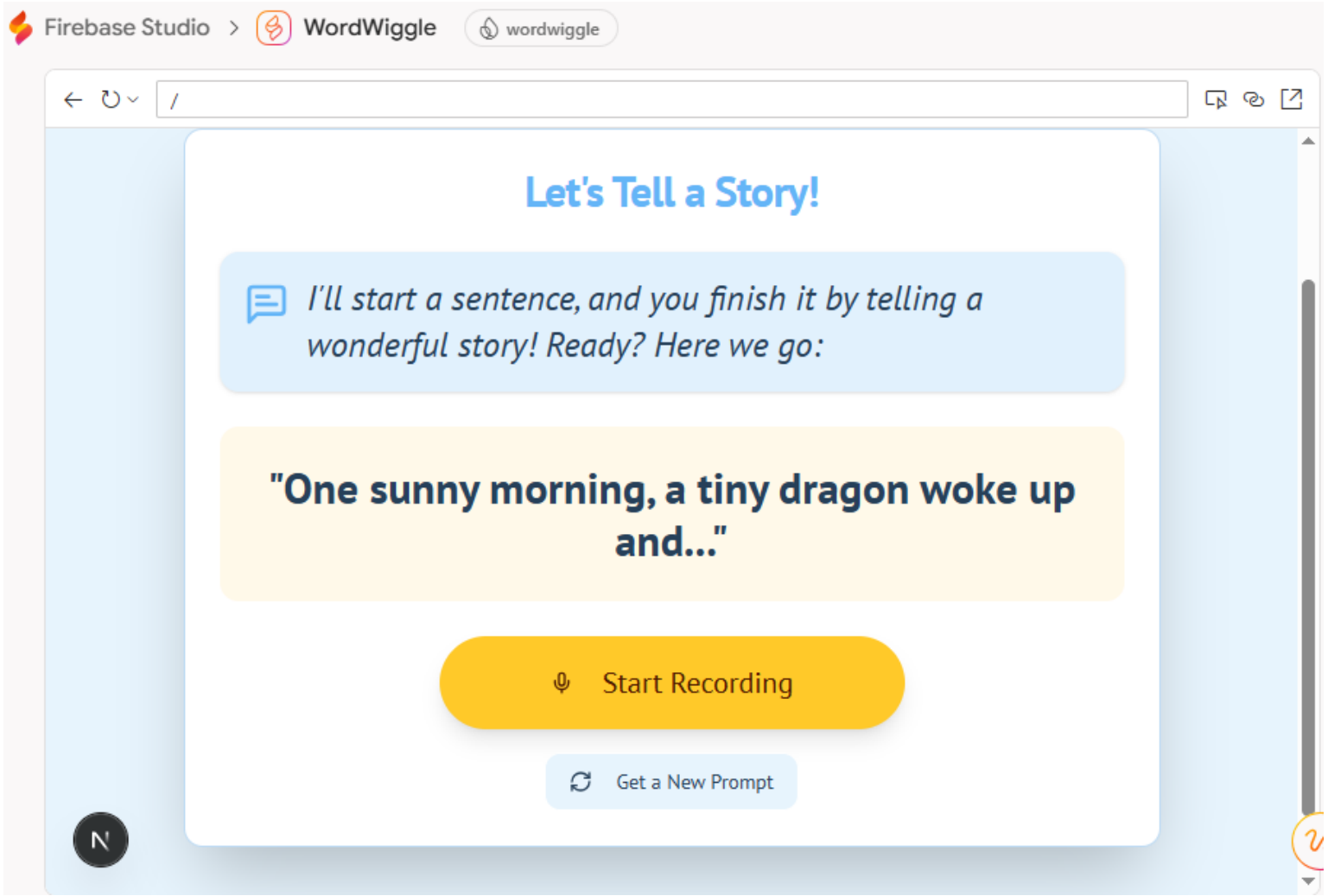


(From Dr Mariano Felice, 2025, NDS Keynote)

Toolkit for AI-enhanced multimodal (speaking) assessment

Live demo

Building a speaking app for young learners


Firebase Studio
WordWiggle
wordwiggle
/
Let's Tell a Story!
I'll start a sentence, and you finish it by telling a wonderful story! Ready? Here we go:
"One sunny morning, a tiny dragon woke up and..."
Start Recording
Get a New Prompt

Generative AI

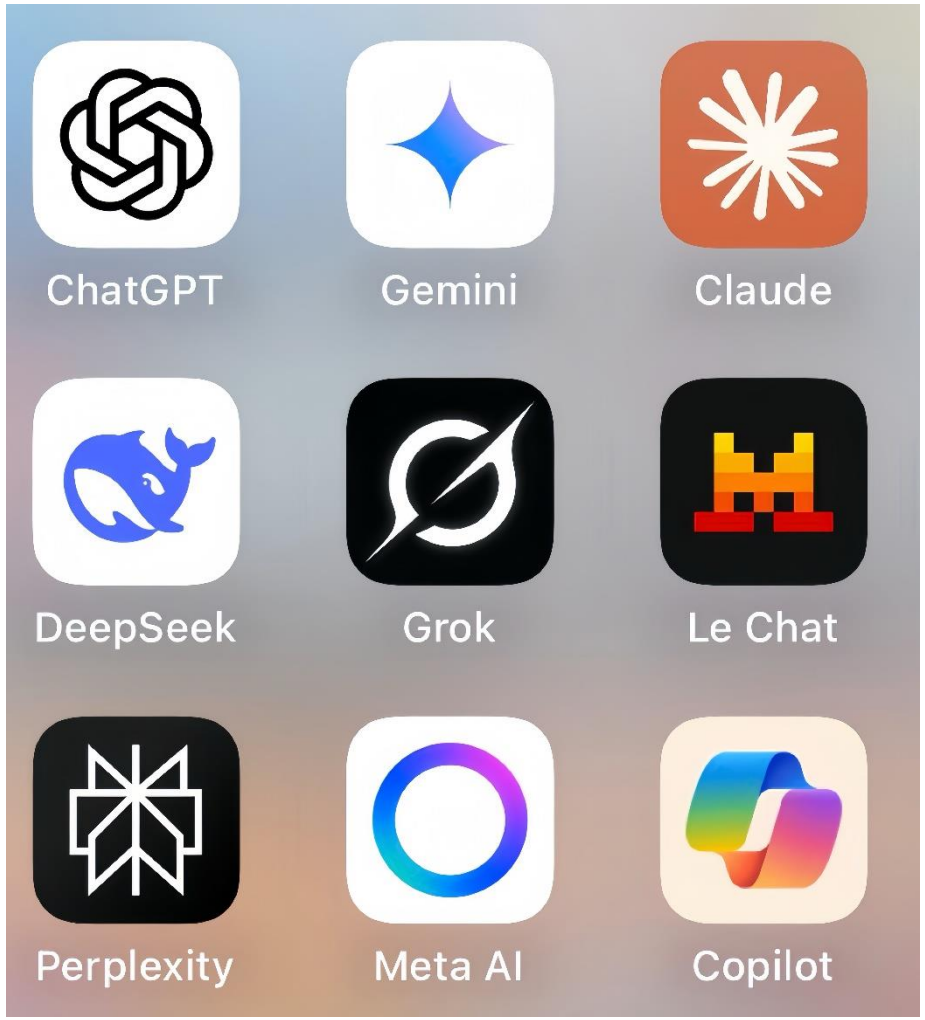


Image Generation

Midjourney

DALL·E 3

Canva

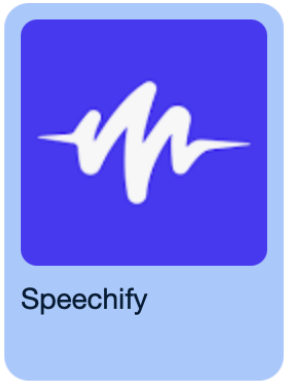
Adobe Firefly

Stable Diffusion

Leonardo AI

Audio Generation

RESEMBLE.AI

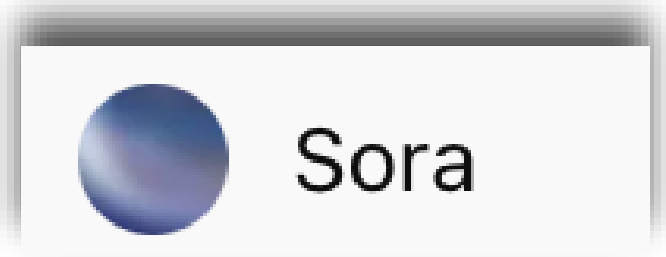


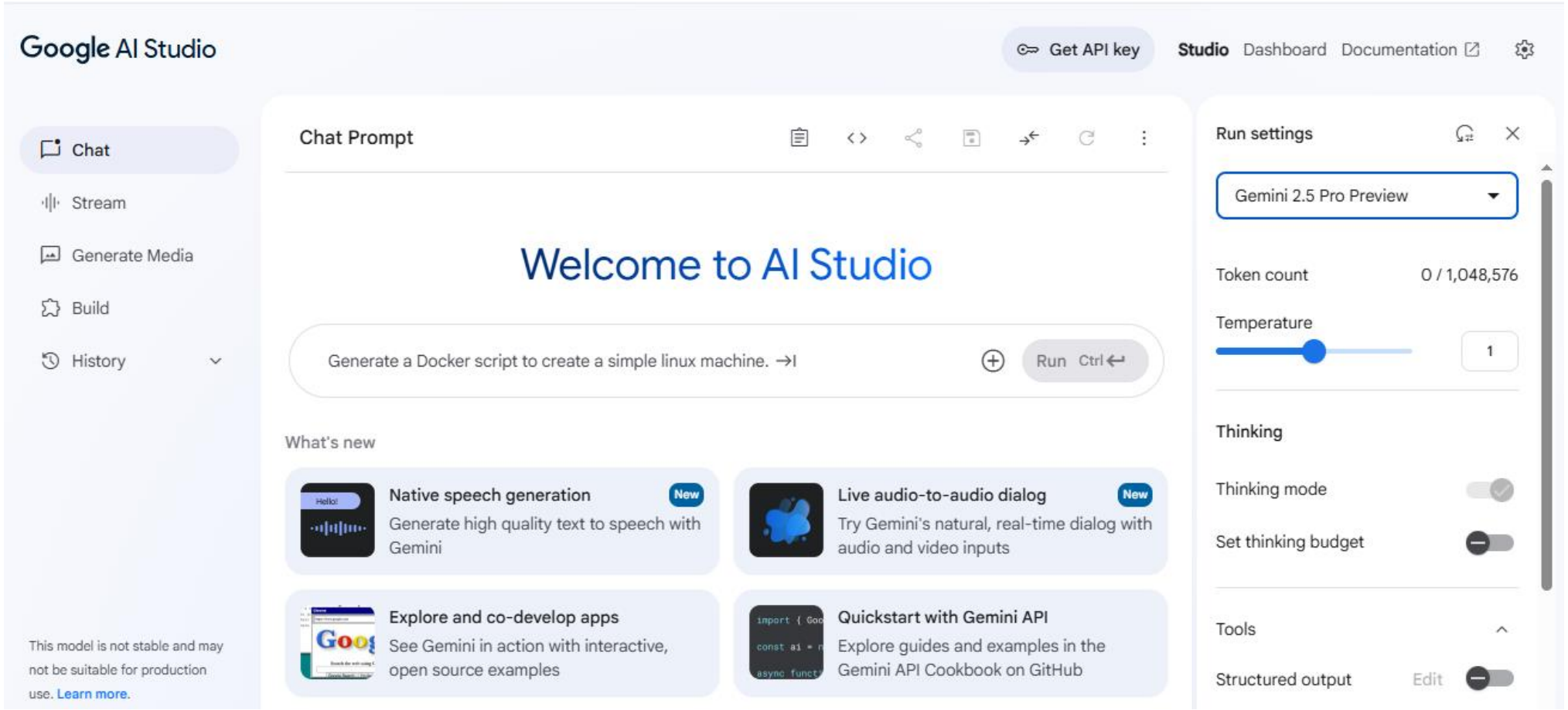
Eleven Labs

NotebookLM

Podcast

Video Generation




Google AI Studio
Get API key
Studio
Dashboard
Documentation
Chat
Stream
Generate Media
Build
History
This model is not stable and may not be suitable for production use. Learn more.
Chat Prompt
Welcome to AI Studio
Generate a Docker script to create a simple linux machine. →I
Run Ctrl↵
What's new
Native speech generation
New
Generate high quality text to speech with Gemini
Live audio-to-audio dialog
New
Try Gemini's natural, real-time dialog with audio and video inputs
Explore and co-develop apps
See Gemini in action with interactive, open source examples
Quickstart with Gemini API
Explore guides and examples in the Gemini API Cookbook on GitHub
Run settings
Gemini 2.5 Pro Preview
Token count
0 / 1,048,576
Temperature
1
Thinking
Thinking mode
Set thinking budget
Tools
Structured output
Edit

Online resources

1. Pathway: AI in Language Teaching by British Council
2. AI for K-12 Educators by OpenAI Academy*
3. AI Fluency by Anthropic
4. 5-day Gen AI Intensive Course with Google
5. Gen AI for Beginners by Microsoft
6. Introduction to Artificial Intelligence by IBM
7. Generative AI for Everyone by Deep Learning AI
8. How to AI (Almost) Anything by MIT
9. Understanding Large Language Models by Princeton
10. Introduction to AI with Python by Harvard
11. Prompt Library by Warton Generative AI Lab*

Discussion & Closing Remarks

Future Directions

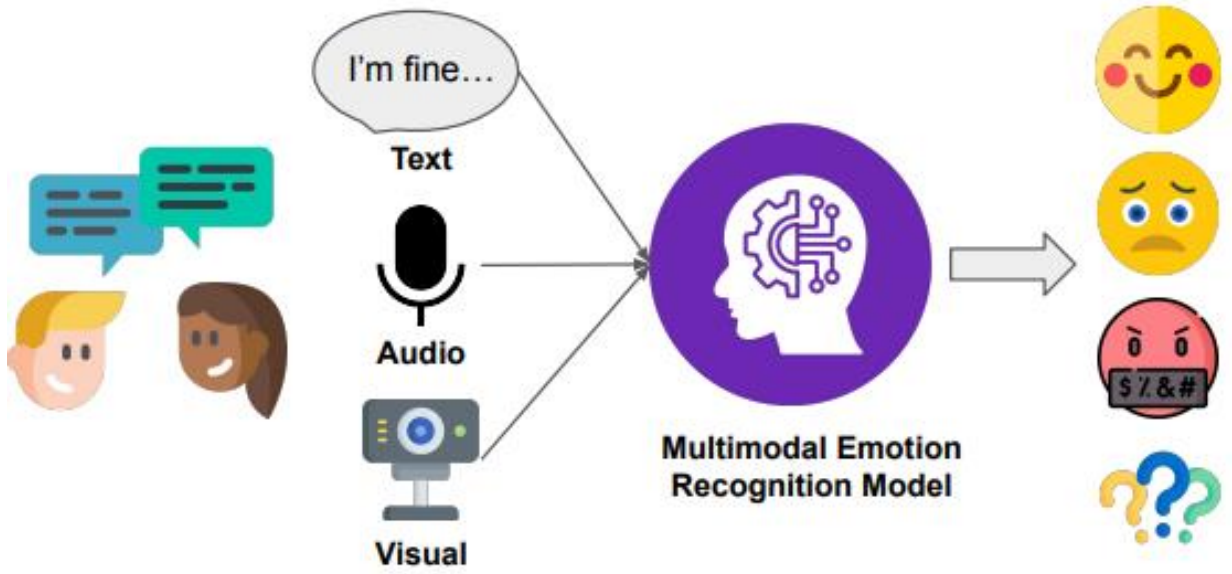
- Multimodal emotion recognition

Computer Science > Computation and Language

[Submitted on 26 May 2025]

Multimodal Emotion Recognition in Conversations: A Survey of Methods, Trends, Challenges and Prospects

Chengyan Wu, Yiqiang Cai, Yang Liu, Pengxu Zhu, Yun Xue, Ziwei Gong, Julia Hirschberg, Bolei Ma



Future Directions

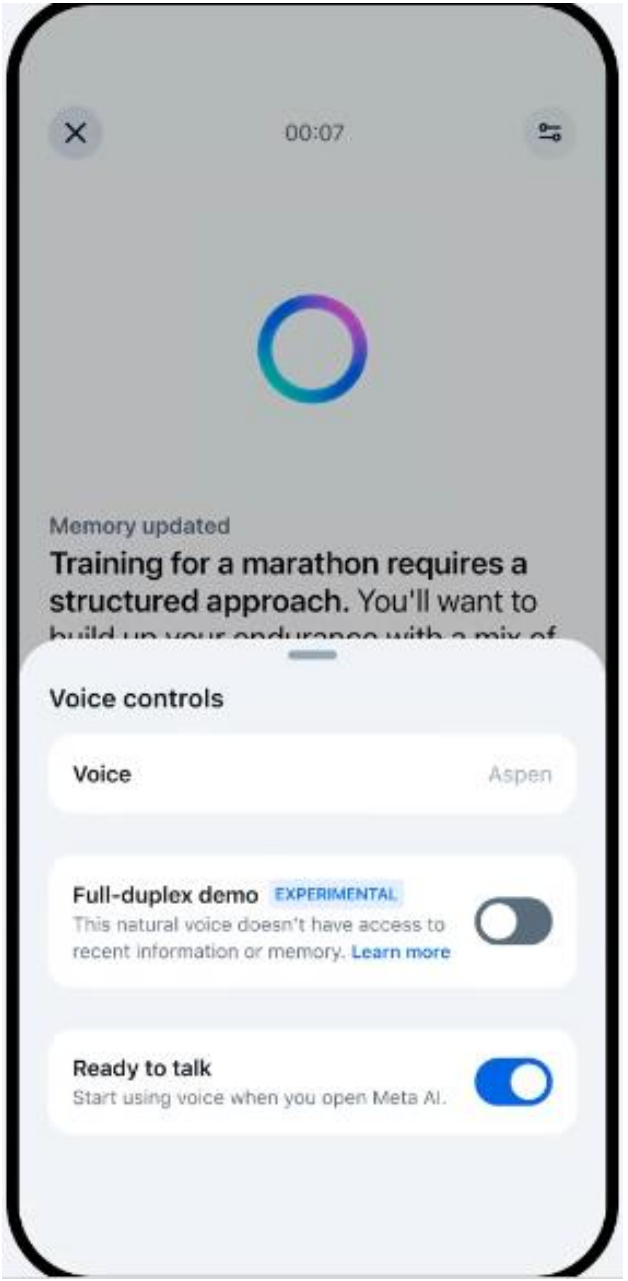
- Full-duplex SDS (vs. current turned-based SDS)

Computer Science > Computation and Language

[Submitted on 19 Feb 2025 (v1), last revised 24 Feb 2025 (this version, v2)]

LLM-Enhanced Dialogue Management for Full-Duplex Spoken Dialogue Systems

Hao Zhang, Weiwei Li, Rilin Chen, Vinay Kothapally, Meng Yu, Dong Yu



Challenges

- How can we systematically identify and mitigate algorithmic bias in multimodal (speaking) assessments to ensure equitable outcomes across diverse learner populations?

GPT detectors are biased against non-native English writers

Weixin Liang [1 4], Mert Yuksekgonul [1 4], Yining Mao [2 4], Eric Wu [2 4], James Zou [1 2 3]

Computer Science > Computation and Language

[Submitted on 2 Sep 2023 (v1), last revised 12 Jul 2024 (this version, v3)]

Bias and Fairness in Large Language Models: A Survey

Isabel O. Gallegos, Ryan A. Rossi, Joe Barrow, Md Mehrab Tanjim, Sungchul Kim, Franck Dernoncourt, Tong Yu, Ruiyi Zhang, Nesreen K. Ahmed

Challenges

- How can we design multimodal (speaking) assessments that authentically reflect real-world communication practices while ensuring accessibility and inclusivity for learners with diverse needs and abilities?

- As AI capabilities rapidly advance, how can we develop agile business models for deploying multimodal (speaking) assessments at scale while ensuring financial sustainability, regulatory compliance, and responsible AI practices?

Thank you!

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