

Level 1: The Origins — Intro to LLMs & Chatbots

Section 1: Fundamentals of AI Models

Part 1: What is a Model?

If you've ever used Google Translate, asked ChatGPT a question, or seen AI label objects in a photo — you've interacted with a **model**. But what exactly is a model?

At its core, a **model** is simply a tool that helps computers make decisions or predictions based on data.

Let's break this down with an everyday example.

Imagine Teaching a Child to Recognize Animals.

Suppose you show a child pictures of animals and tell them:

- This is a **dog**
- This is a **cat**
- This is a **horse**

After seeing enough examples, the child starts noticing patterns:

- Dogs often have floppy ears, fur, and certain shapes.
- Cats have whiskers and smaller faces.
- Horses are bigger, with long legs and manes.

Eventually, even when shown a new picture they've never seen, the child can say, "That's a dog" or "That's a horse."