



Types of Intelligent Agents

1. Simple Reflex Agents

- **Definition:** Act only on the current percept (what they see right now). They follow simple “if-then” rules.
 - **Example:** Thermostat → “If temperature < 20°C, turn on heater.”
 - **Student Analogy:** A student who hears “quiz today” and immediately panics — no long-term thinking, just reacts.
 - **Real AI Example:** Spam filter → “If email has word ‘lottery,’ mark as spam.”
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2. Model-Based Reflex Agents

- **Definition:** Keep an internal model of the world (memory of past states). Useful in partially observable environments.
 - **Example:** Self-driving car → remembers a pedestrian walked behind a truck even if they’re not visible now.
 - **Student Analogy:** A student who remembers what was taught last lecture and uses it to understand today’s lesson.
 - **Real AI Example: Roomba vacuum** → builds a map of your house to clean efficiently.
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3. Goal-Based Agents

- **Definition:** Take actions to achieve specific goals, not just reflexes.
 - **Example:** GPS navigation → goal = *reach destination*; chooses path accordingly.
 - **Student Analogy:** A student aiming to graduate carefully chooses which courses to take (not just reacting each semester).
 - **Real AI Example: Chess-playing AI** → goal = *win the game*.
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4. Utility-Based Agents

- **Definition:** Maximize happiness (utility) by choosing the best among many options.
 - **Example:** Choosing between 2 driving routes: both reach the destination, but one is faster and safer → higher utility.
 - **Student Analogy:** A student wants to graduate but also maximize GPA, enjoy courses, and have free time.
 - **Real AI Example: Netflix recommender** → suggests movies to maximize enjoyment, not just any movie.
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5. Learning Agents

- **Definition:** Improve performance over time by learning from experience.

- **Example:** A spam filter that adapts to new types of spam.
- **Student Analogy:** A student who reviews past mistakes, studies smarter, and performs better next time.
- **Real AI Example: AlphaGo** → learned by playing millions of games against itself and humans.

Comparison Table

Agent Type	Memory?	Goal-Oriented?	Optimizes (Utility)?	Learns?	Example (AI)	Analogy (Student Life)
Simple Reflex	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No	Thermostat, Spam filter	Student panicking at "quiz today"
Model-Based Reflex	✓ Yes	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No	Roomba vacuum	Student remembering last lecture
Goal-Based	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ No	✗ No	GPS navigation, Chess AI	Student planning path to graduation
Utility-Based	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ No	Netflix recommender	Student balancing GPA + free time
Learning Agent	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	AlphaGo, Adaptive spam filter	Student learning from past mistakes

Key Takeaway

- **Reflex** → "React."
- **Model-Based** → "Remember."
- **Goal-Based** → "Plan."
- **Utility-Based** → "Choose best."
- **Learning Agent** → "Improve."