AI Terms in Plain English

Quick Reference Guide

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence means software that performs tasks that normally require human judgment. The system takes input, applies a model, and produces an output such as text, a decision, or a prediction.

Model

A model is a set of mathematical rules that connect inputs to outputs. The model follows patterns it learned from data and uses those patterns to answer new questions.

Training Data

Training data is the set of examples the model studies before it produces results. Strong training data leads to better outputs. Weak training data leads to weak outputs.

Machine Learning

Machine learning is a way to build models that learn patterns from data instead of using fixed rules written by a programmer.

Prediction

A prediction is the model's best guess about a future value or an unknown value. The guess comes from patterns in past data.

Classification

Classification means assigning a label to something. The model decides which category a case belongs to based on past examples.

Clustering

Clustering means grouping similar things together. The model finds patterns that show which cases belong near each other.

Bias

Bias means results that unfairly favor one group over another. Bias often comes from biased data or poor design choices.

Hallucination

Hallucination means the model produces an answer that sounds correct but is not true. The model fills gaps instead of saying it does not know.

Large Language Model

A large language model is a type of AI system that predicts the next word or token in a sequence based on patterns in text. The model does not understand meaning. It works through probability.

Generative AI

Generative AI produces new text, images, audio, or code. The output looks original, but the model cre-

ates it from patterns in the data it studied.

Prompt

A prompt is the instruction you give to the model. A clear prompt produces clearer results.

Prompt Refinement

Prompt refinement means adjusting a prompt to improve the output. You change wording, add context, or set constraints to guide the model.

Evaluation

Evaluation means checking whether the model produced a useful and correct result. People review outputs to confirm quality.

Human in the Loop

Human in the loop means a person stays involved. The person sets the goal, checks the results, and decides what to accept or change.

Privacy

Privacy means protecting personal or sensitive information. Good practice avoids exposing private data to AI systems.

Drift

Drift means the world changes over time while the model stays the same. The model becomes less accurate because reality moved away from its training data.

Transparency

Transparency means explaining how an AI system works at a level people can understand. The system should not feel like a hidden black box.

Accountability

Accountability means people remain responsible for outcomes produced with AI. A tool does not replace human responsibility.