

From Chalkboards to Chatbots: How AI is Redefining Language Education

Abc

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21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

DID YOU KNOW...?

FROM WAX TO SILICON



Wax Tablets
Ancient Era (c. 1400
BC – Middle Ages)



Printing Press
Mid-15th Century



Blackboard
Late 19th Century



Gramophone
Late 19th - Early
20th Century



Personal Computer
1980s – 1990s



Tape Recorders
1950s – 1970s



Film & Radio
1920s – 1950s



Multimedia
Mid-1990s



**The Internet &
World Wide Web**
Late 1990s – Present



Mobile Devices
2010s – Present



Artificial Intelligence (AI)
2020s – Present

WHAT IS AI?

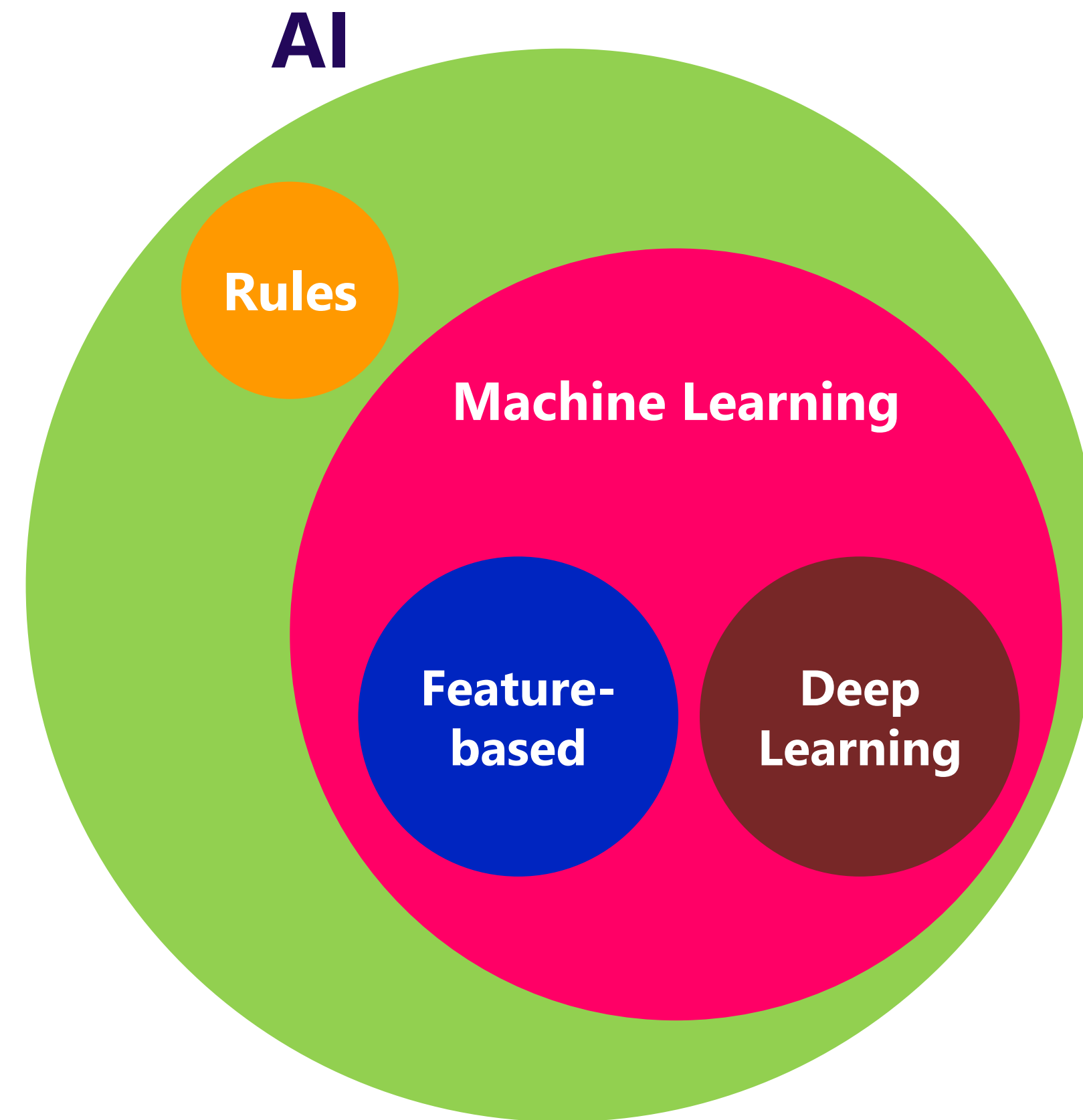
Artificial intelligence is the ability of computers to perform tasks that are typically associated with human intelligence.

AI IS NOT CHATGPT

CHATGPT IS AI

AI IS NOT ONLY AUTO-SCORING

HOW DO WE CREATE IT?





The goal of machine learning is to make **predictions...**



The goal of machine learning is to make **predictions...**
using mathematical models.

EVERYTHING IS A PREDICTION!



CLASSIFICATION

- A CEFR level
- Pass/fail
- Language identification



REGRESSION

- A score
- Item difficulty
- Time to proficiency



SEQUENCES

- Translation
- Text generation
- Image generation

AI SUBFIELDS

COMPUTER VISION


NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING

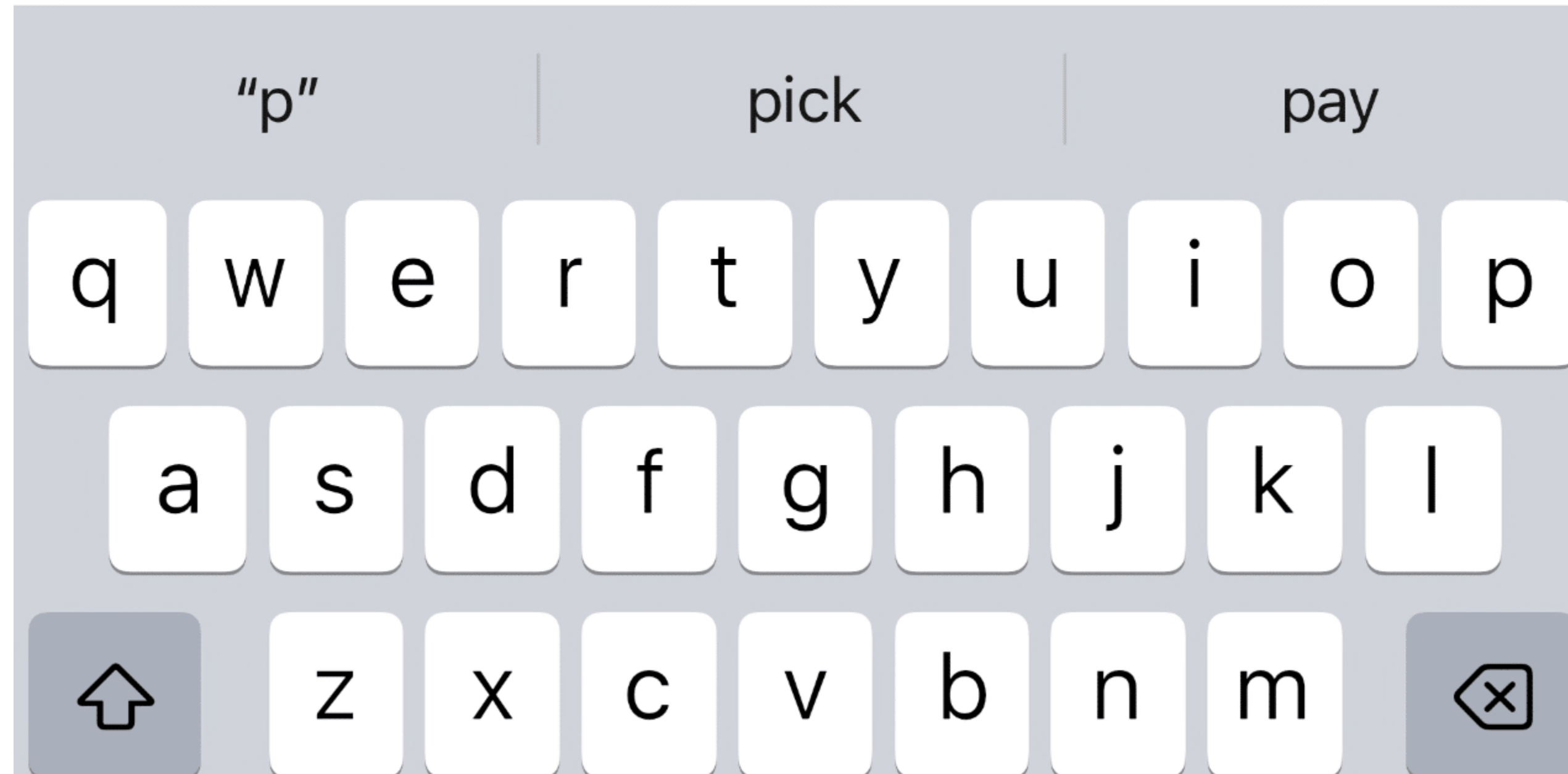
SPEECH RECOGNITION

SPEECH SYNTHESIS


ROBOTICS

AI OR NOT?

+ Please stop by the store and pick up 



AI OR NOT?

+ Please stop by the store and pick up 



AI OR NOT?

To...	Jam
Cc...	<div>James Alvord <james@contoso.com> X</div>
Bcc...	
Subject:	

James Hendergart (james@fabrikam.com)

James Seymour (james@proseware.com)

James Wittrell (james@cpandl.com)

Jamie Campbell (jamie@treymresearch.net)

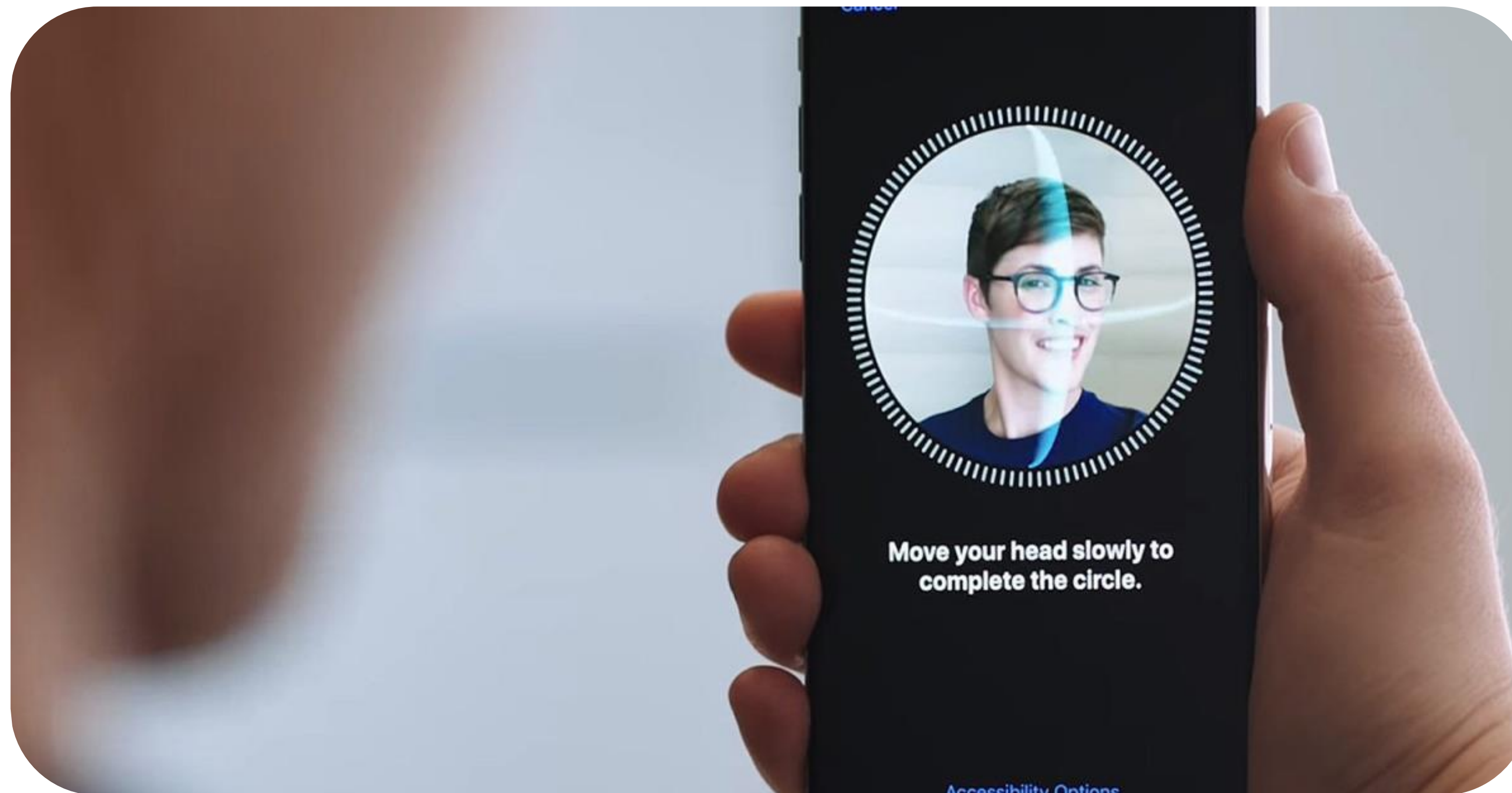
Jamie Stark (jamie@tailspintoys.com)

AI OR NOT?

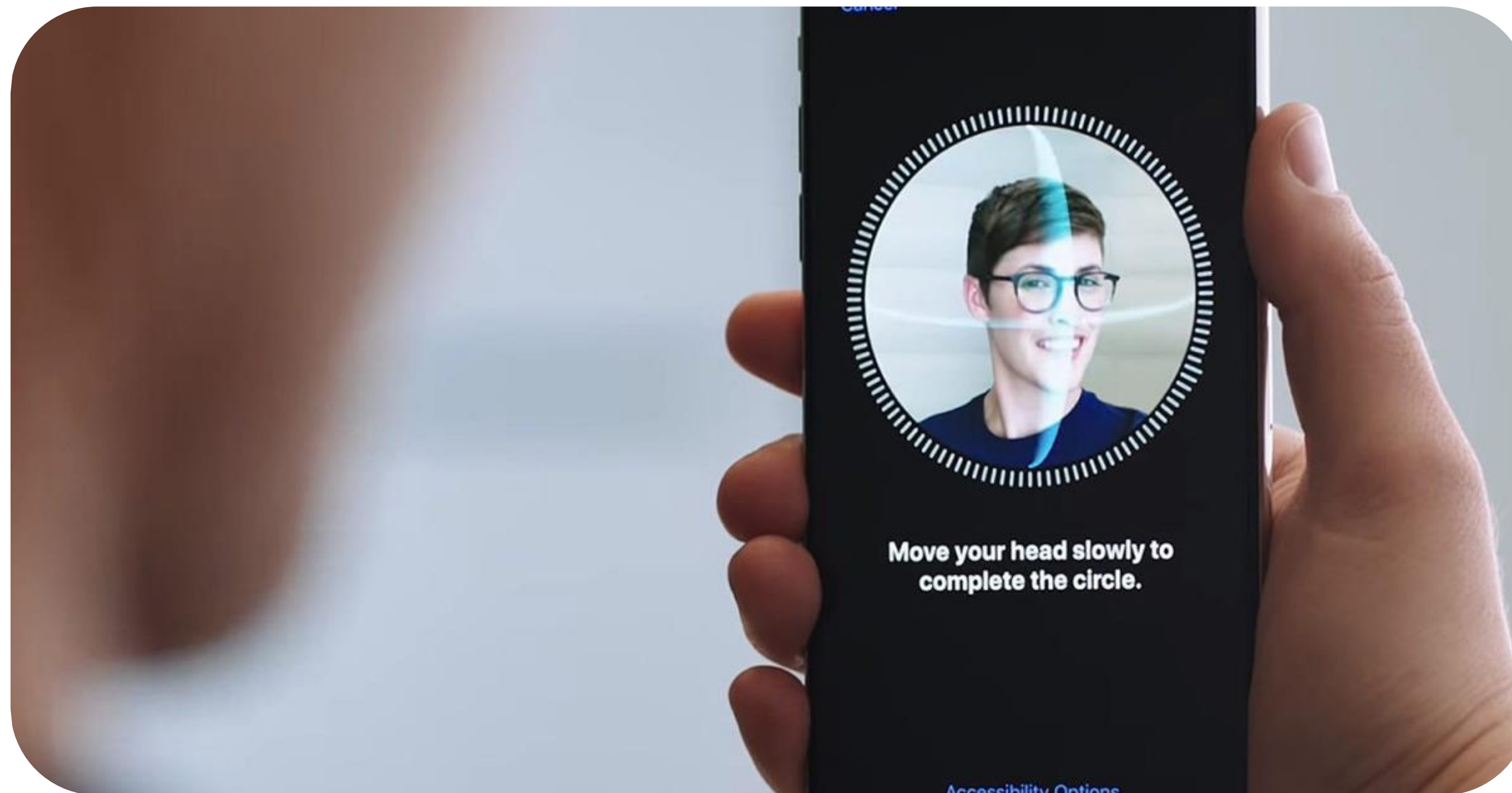
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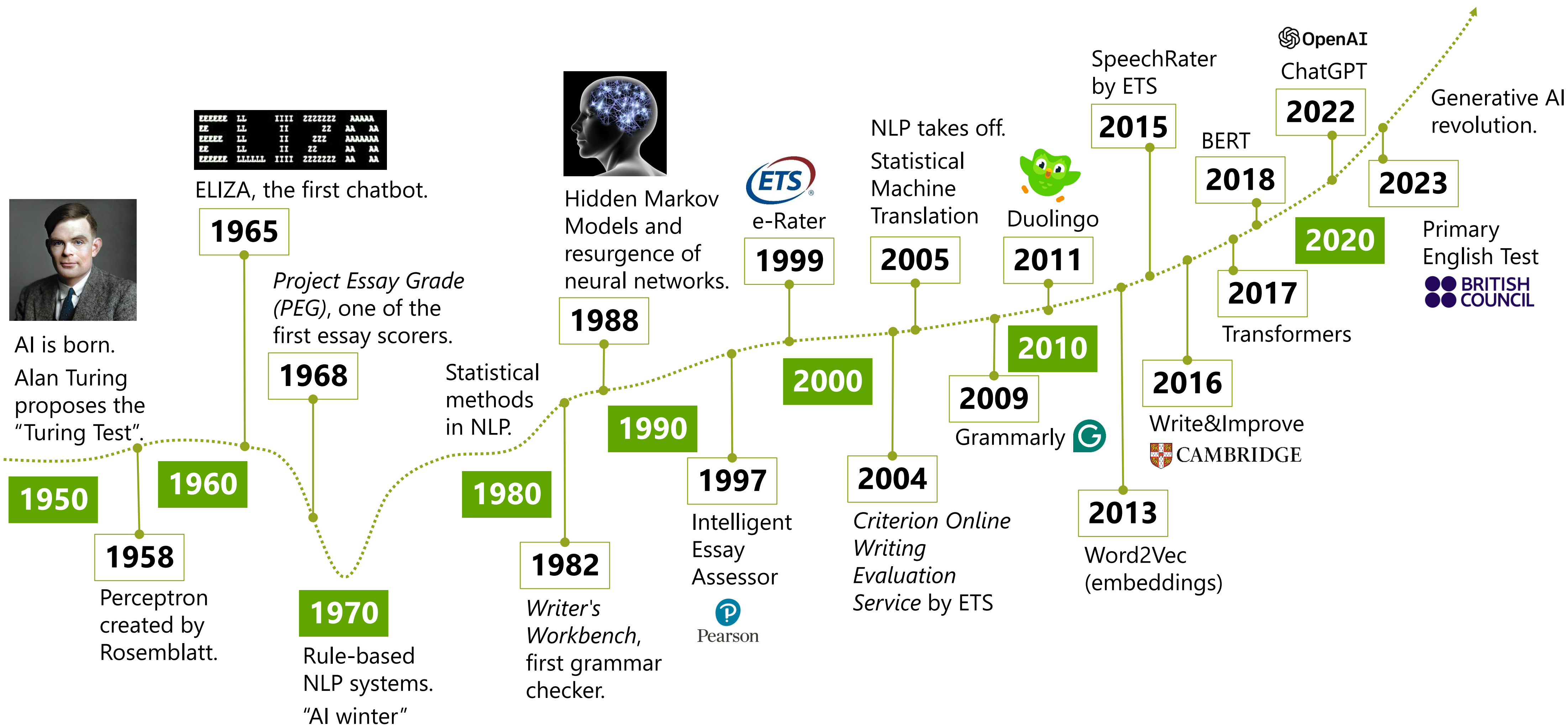
AI OR NOT?



AI OR NOT?



AI IS OLD



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF AI?

INTERACTIVITY

MULTIMODALITY

PERSONALISATION

LOWER COSTS

AUTHENTICITY

ACCESSIBILITY

FAIRNESS

SECURITY

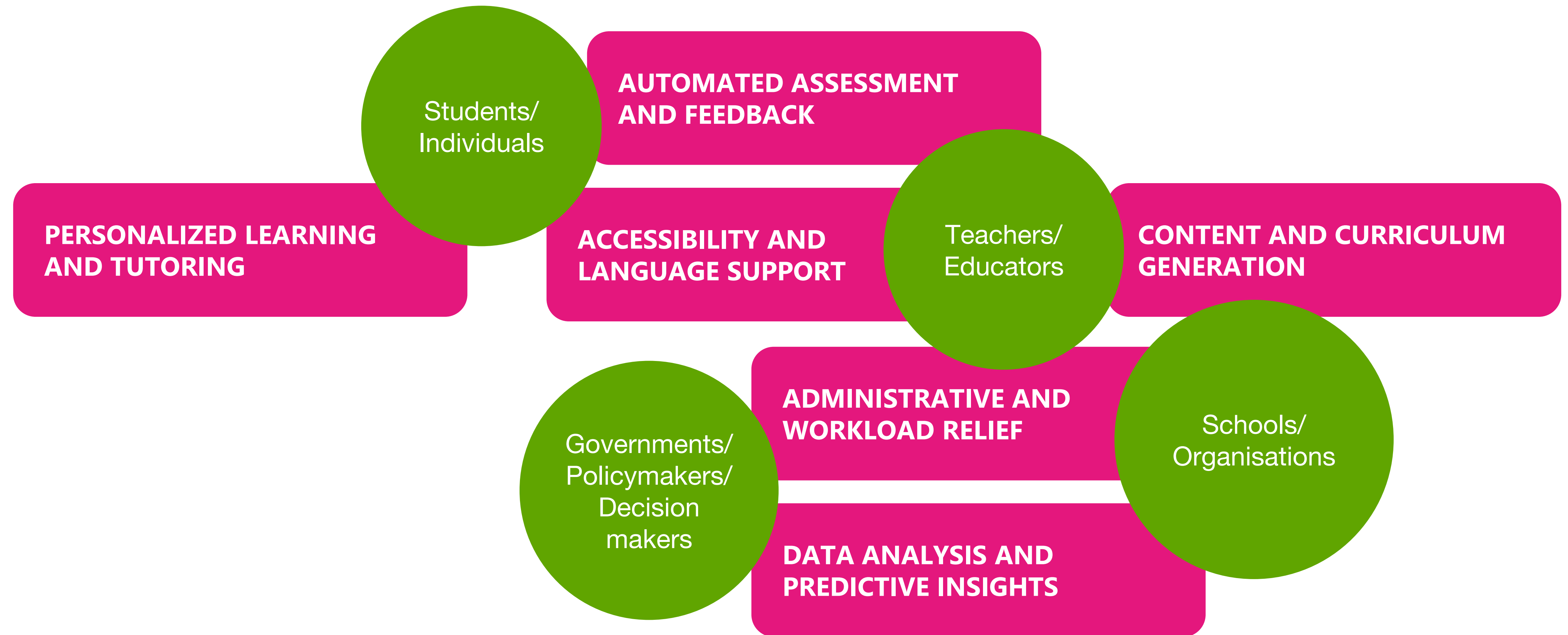
AUTOMATION

SPEED

SCALABILITY

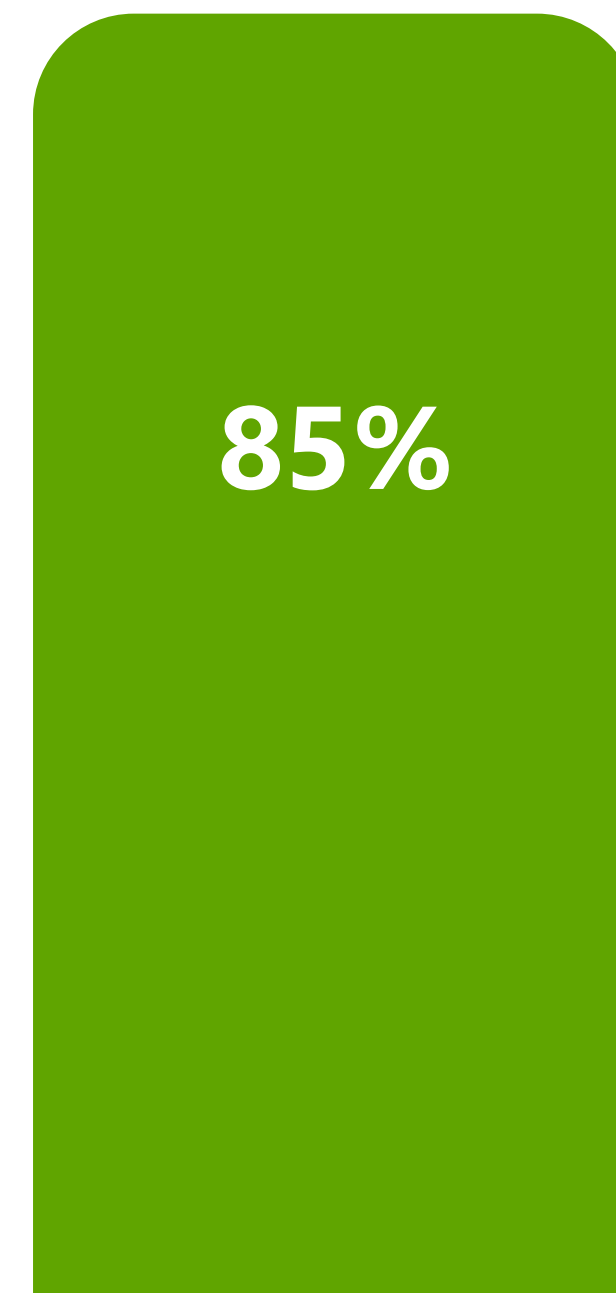
CONTENT

WHAT CAN WE DO WITH AI?



WHAT PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS USE AI?

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS USE AI?

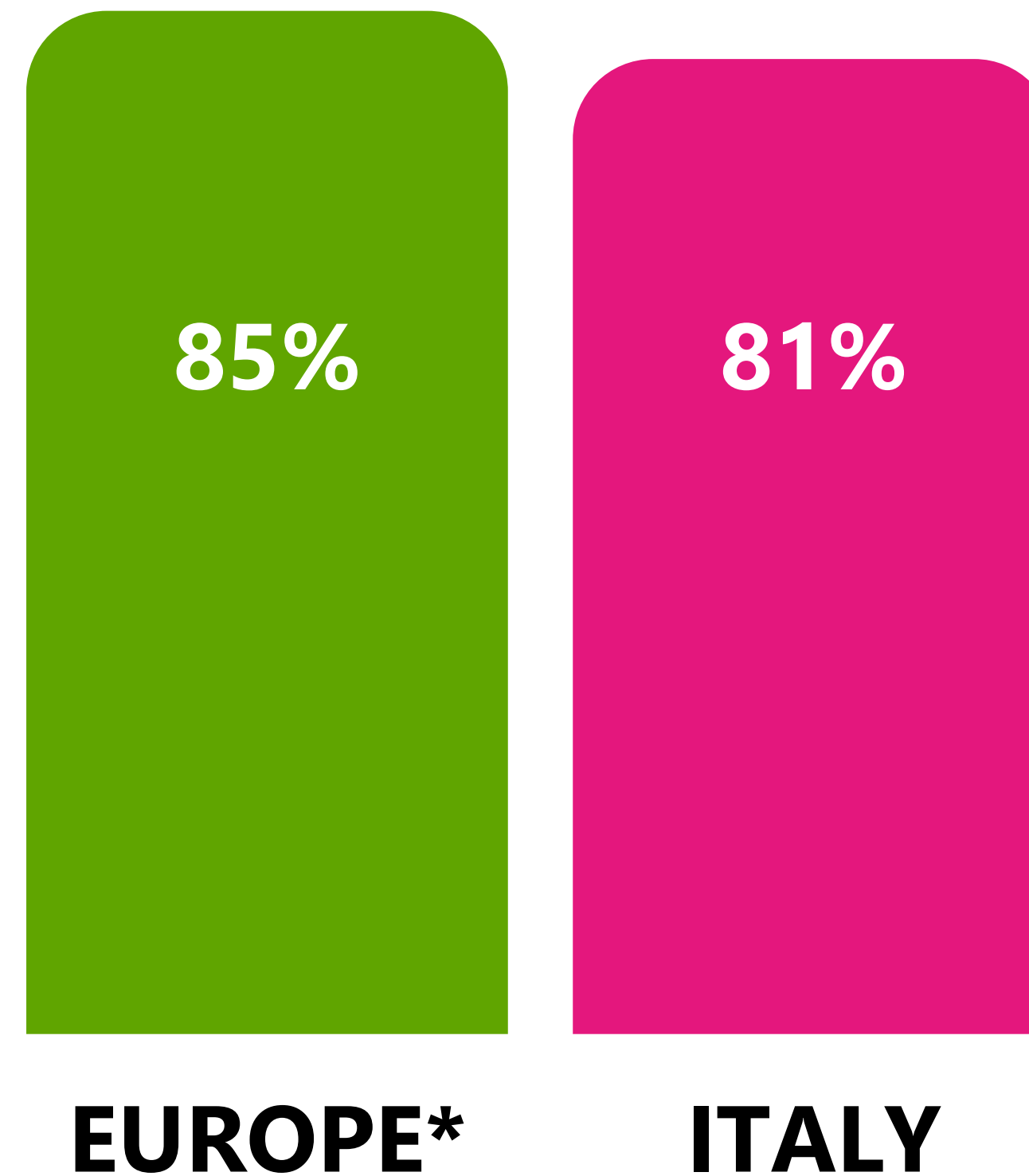


EUROPE*

***EUROPE:** Austria, Germany, Spain, France, Italy and the United Kingdom.

The GoStudent Future of Education Report 2025. <https://www.gostudent.org/en-gb/education-report/2025/>

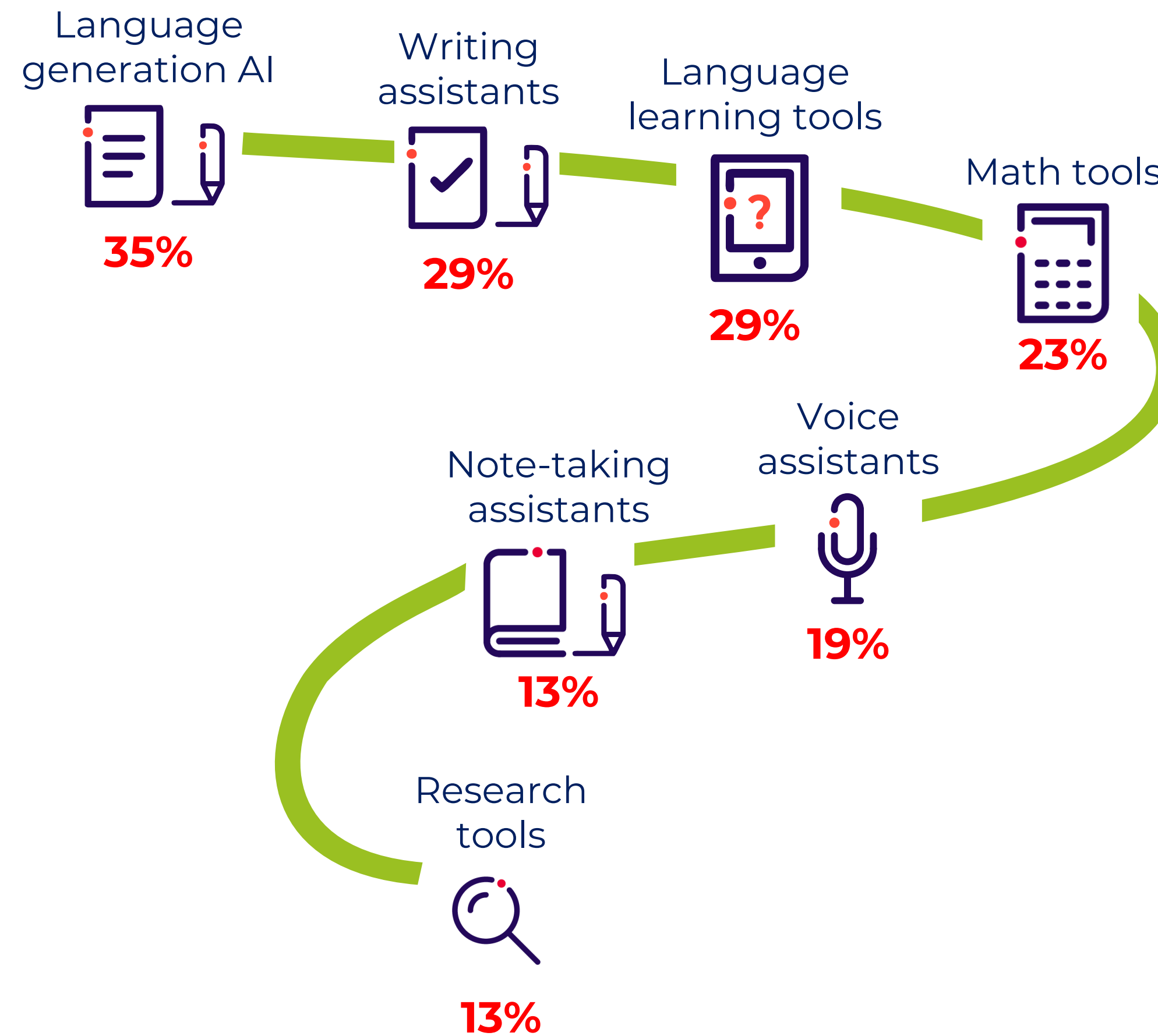
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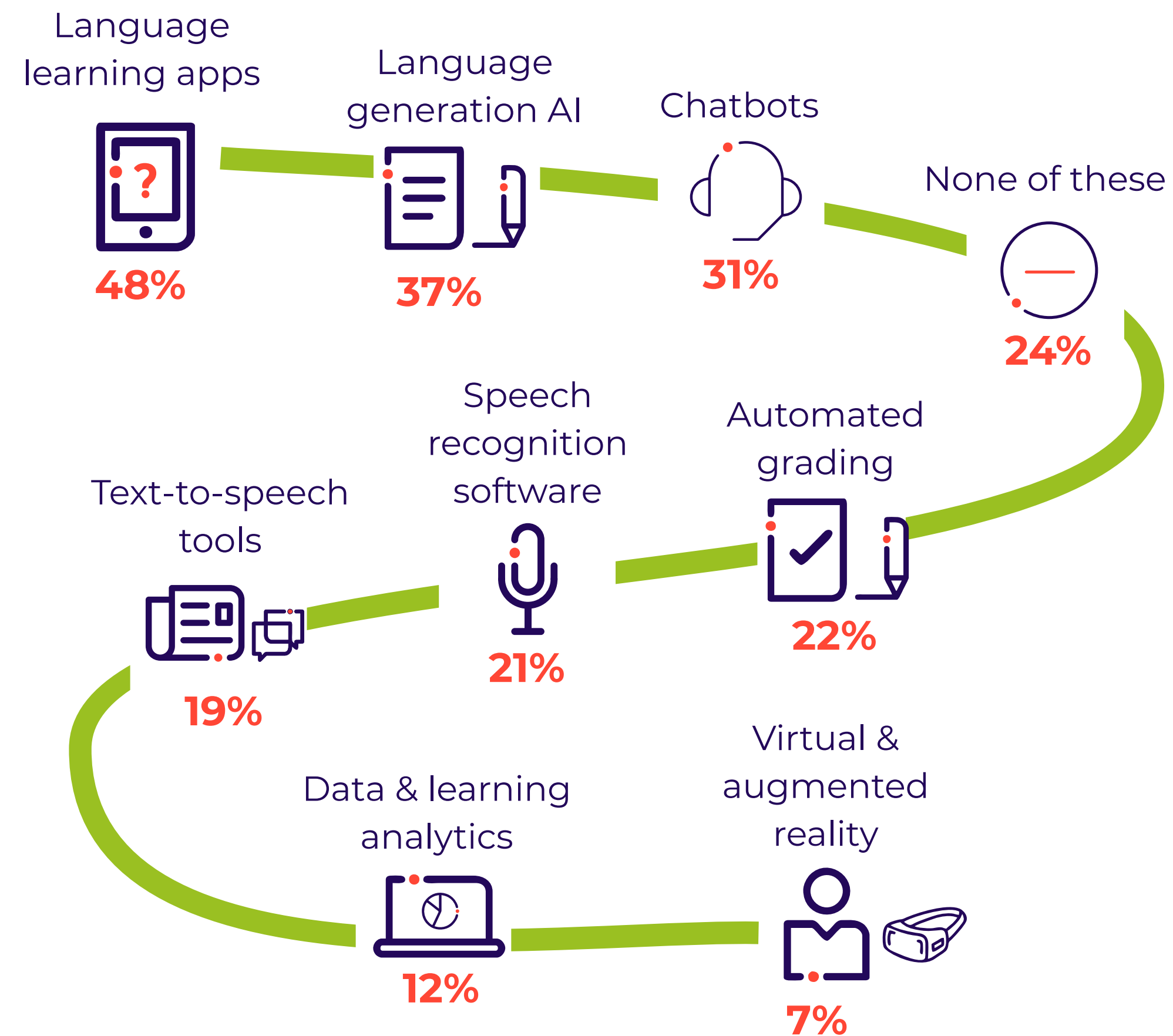
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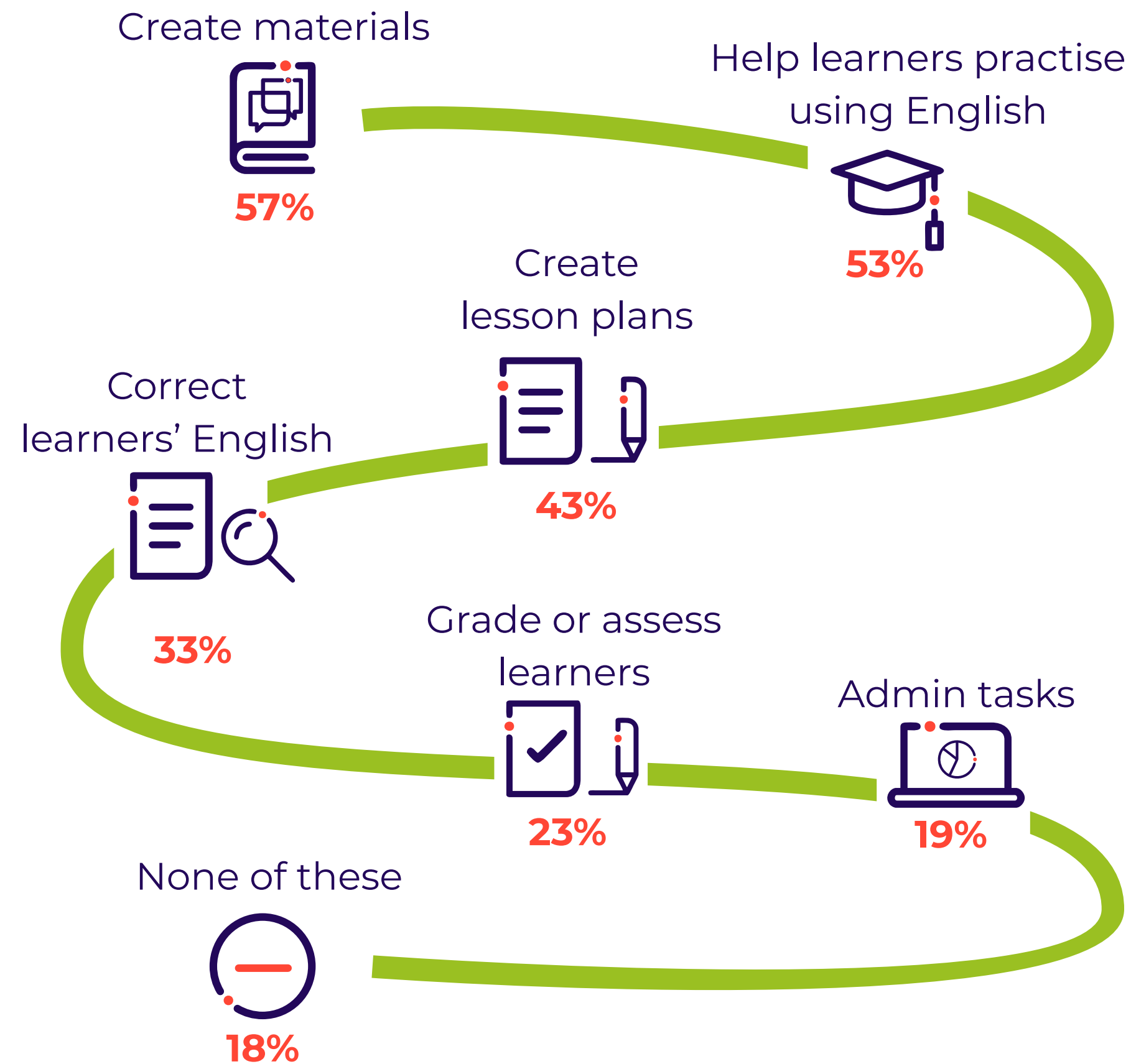
WHAT AI TOOLS DO STUDENTS USE?



WHAT AI TOOLS DO TEACHERS USE?



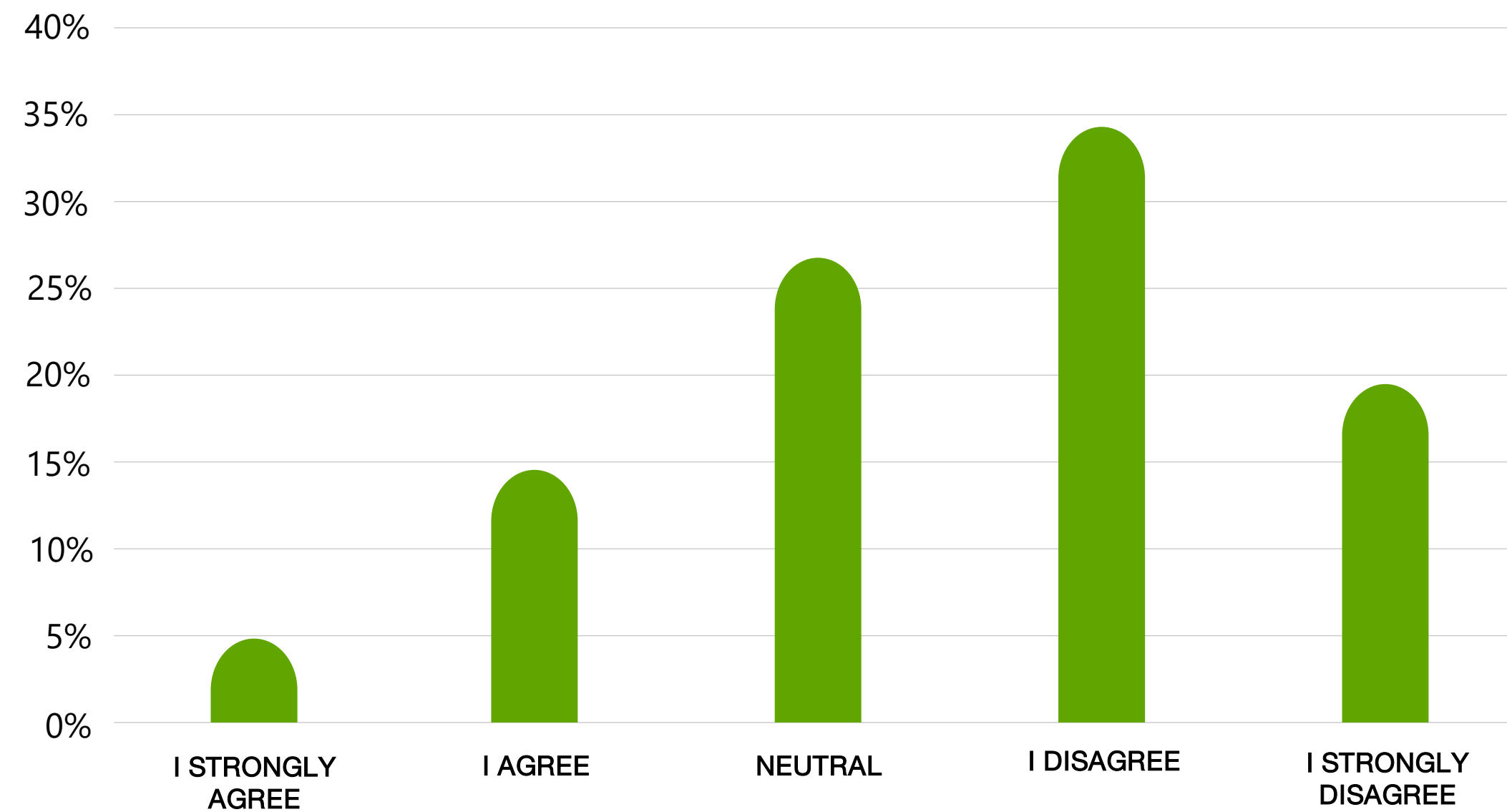
WHAT DO TEACHERS USE AI FOR?



ARE YOU AI-READY?

ARE YOU AI-READY?

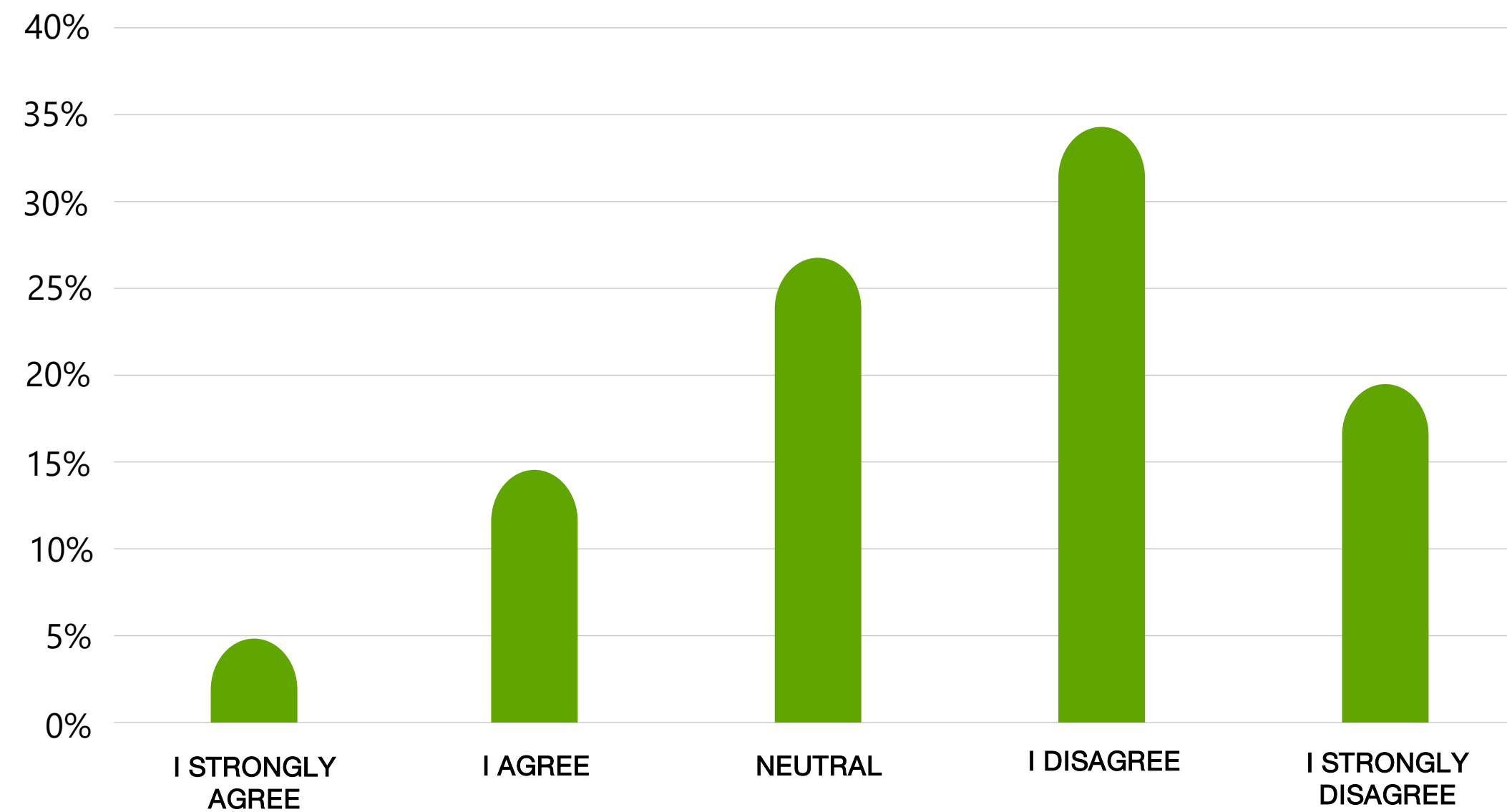
I have received enough training to incorporate AI into my teaching.



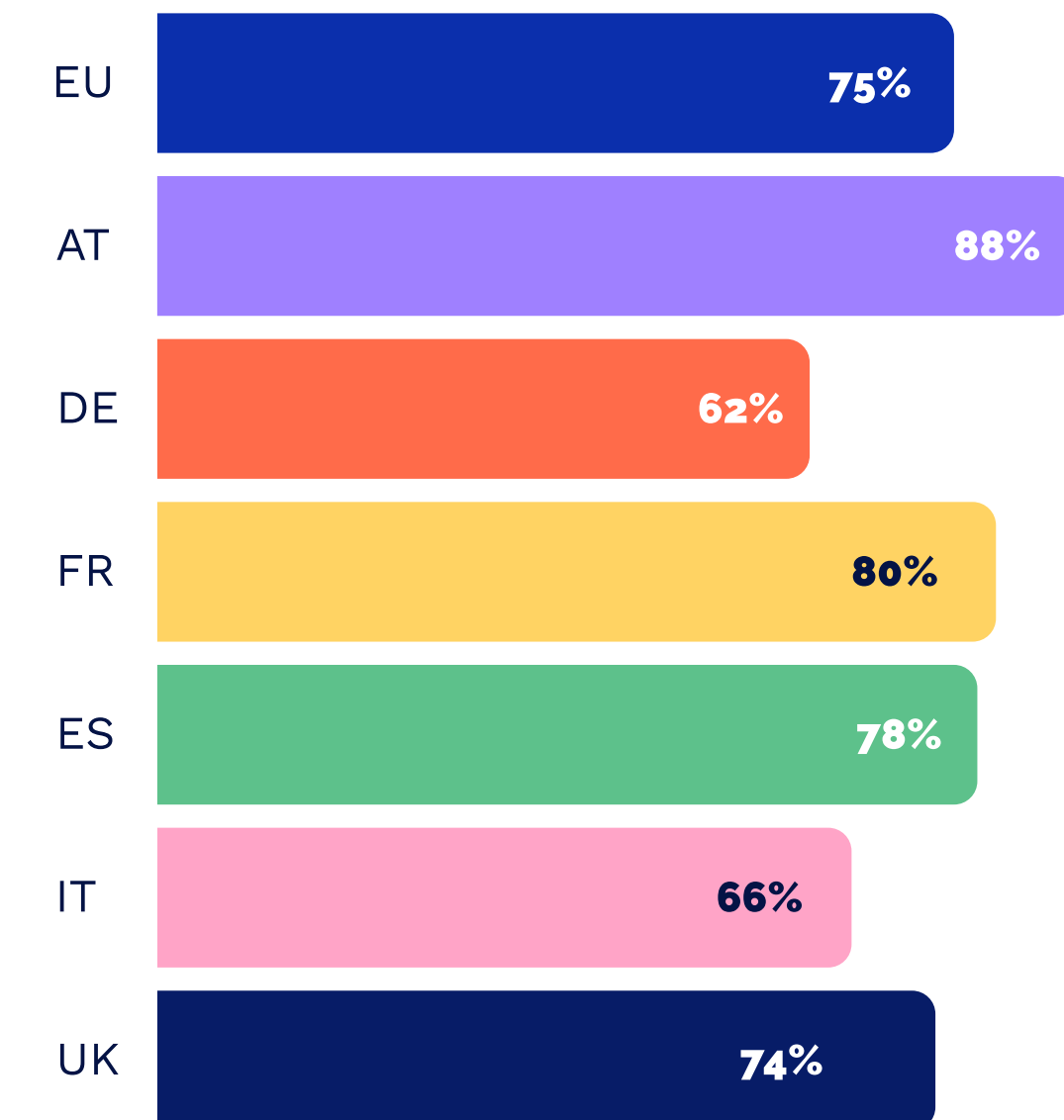
Edmett, A., Ichaporia, N., Crompton, H., & Crichton, R. (2024). **Artificial intelligence and English language teaching: Preparing for the future (Second edition)**. British Council. <https://doi.org/10.57884/78EA-3C69>

ARE YOU AI-READY?

I have received enough training to incorporate AI into my teaching.



Teachers that state they have not been trained on how to use AI.



Edmett, A., Ichaporia, N., Crompton, H., & Crichton, R. (2024). **Artificial intelligence and English language teaching: Preparing for the future (Second edition)**. British Council. <https://doi.org/10.57884/78EA-3C69>

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THE NEED FOR AI LITERACY



62% of students wish teachers knew more about AI.

56% of teachers say they would like to be trained in how to use AI.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY AI LITERACY?



... a set of **competencies** that enables individuals to **critically evaluate AI technologies, communicate and collaborate effectively with AI, and use AI** as a tool online, at home, and in the workplace.

What is AI literacy? Competencies and design considerations
Long and Magerko (2020)



AI Literacy comprises both Data Literacy, or the ability to **understand how AI collects, cleans, manipulates, and analyses data**, as well as Algorithm Literacy, or the ability to **understand how the AI algorithms find patterns and connections in the data**, which might be used for human-machine interactions.

**UNESCO's International Forum on AI and the Futures of Education
Developing Competencies for the AI Era - Synthesis Report**
Miao and Holmes (2021)



... **skills, knowledge and understanding** that allow providers, deployers and affected persons, taking into account their respective rights and obligations in the context of this Regulation, **to make an informed deployment of AI systems**, as well as to **gain awareness about the opportunities and risks of AI and possible harm** it can cause.

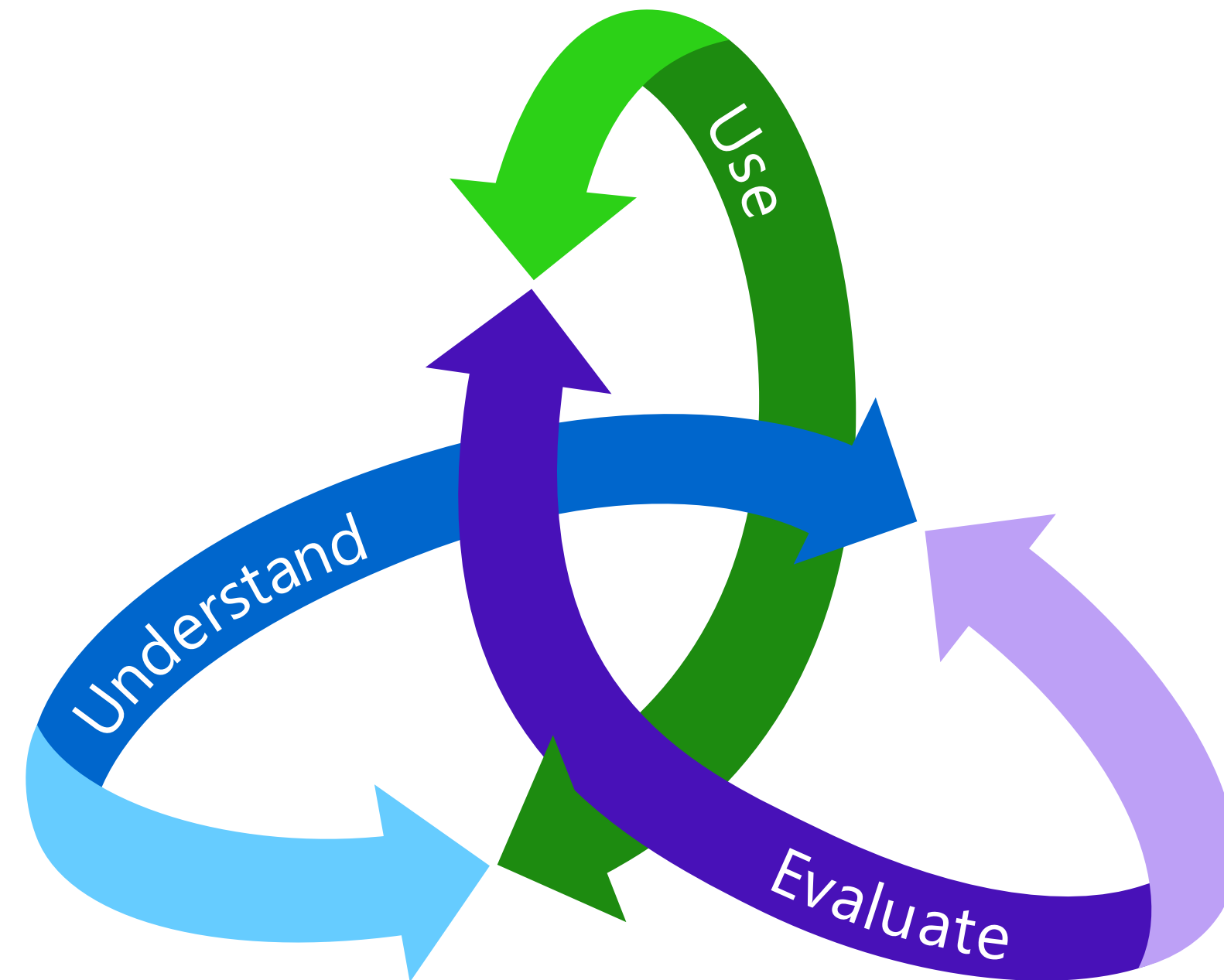
EU AI Act (2024)



... the **skills** associated with the **ability to comprehend the basic principles, concepts, and applications of artificial intelligence**, as well as the **implications, limitations, and ethical considerations** associated with the use of artificial intelligence.

Artificial Intelligence Literacy Act of 2023 – US Congress

AI LITERACY IN A NUTSHELL



AI Literacy: A Framework to Understand, Evaluate, and Use Emerging Technology. *Digital Promise*.
Mills, Ruiz, Lee, Coenraad, Fusco, Roschelle and Weisgrau (2024)

THE HUMAN TOUCH

What is the role of teachers in this new landscape?
How has it evolved?

Tell me something that you do that AI can't.

WHAT AI CAN'T DO

(THAT HUMANS CAN)



EMOTIONAL ENGAGEMENT

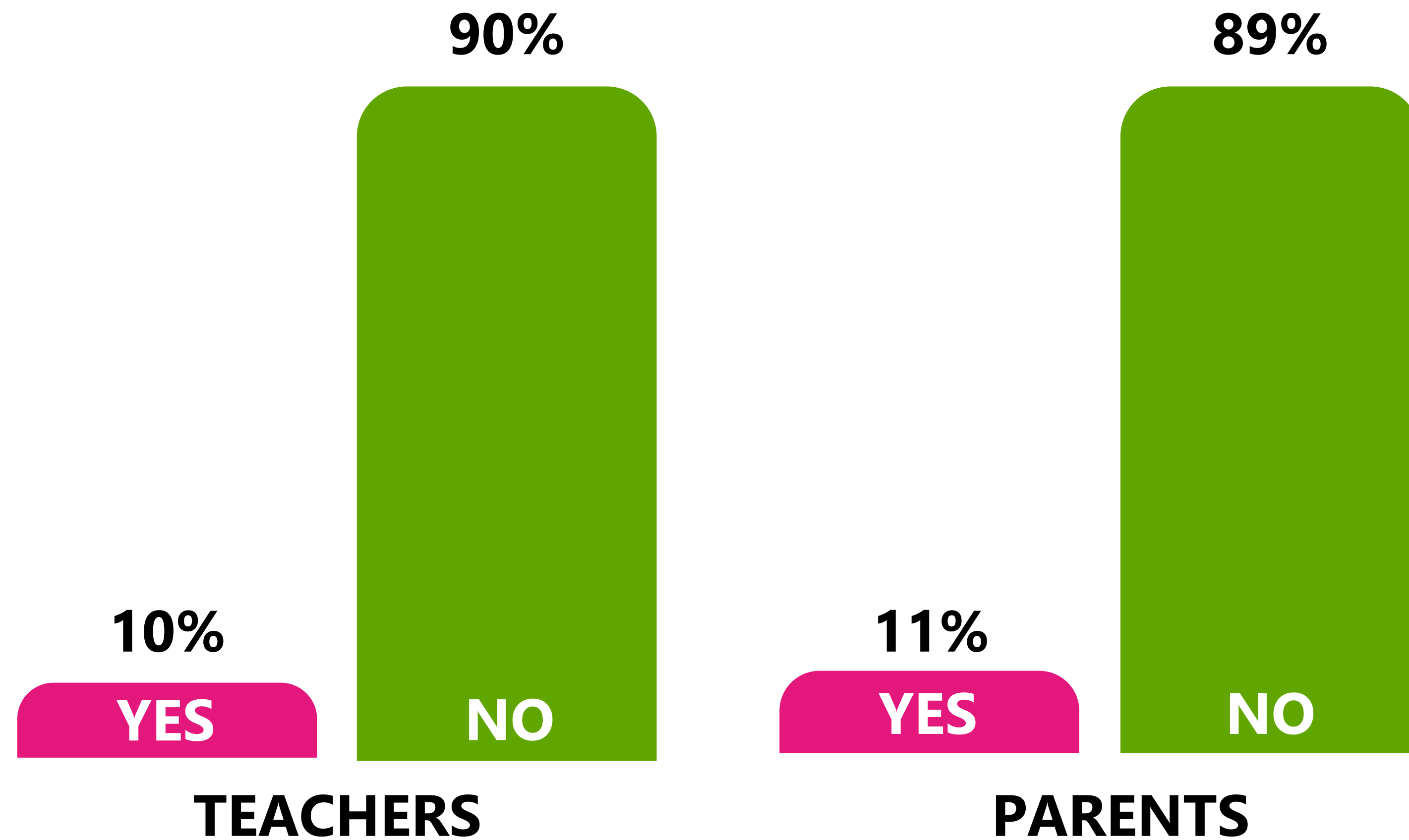
**UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT
AND NUANCES**

ETHICAL JUDGEMENT

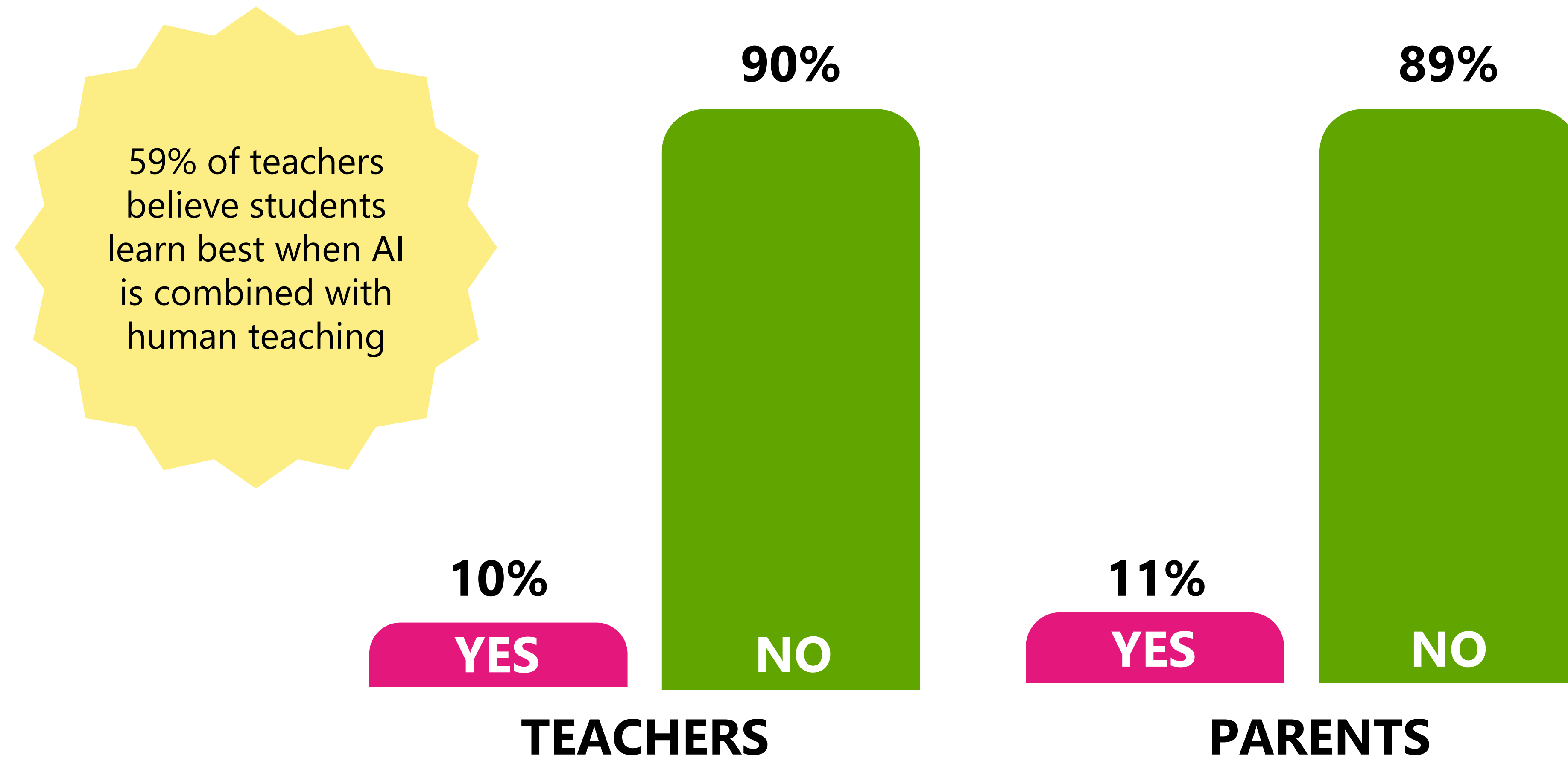
LEADERSHIP

WILL AI REPLACE TEACHERS?

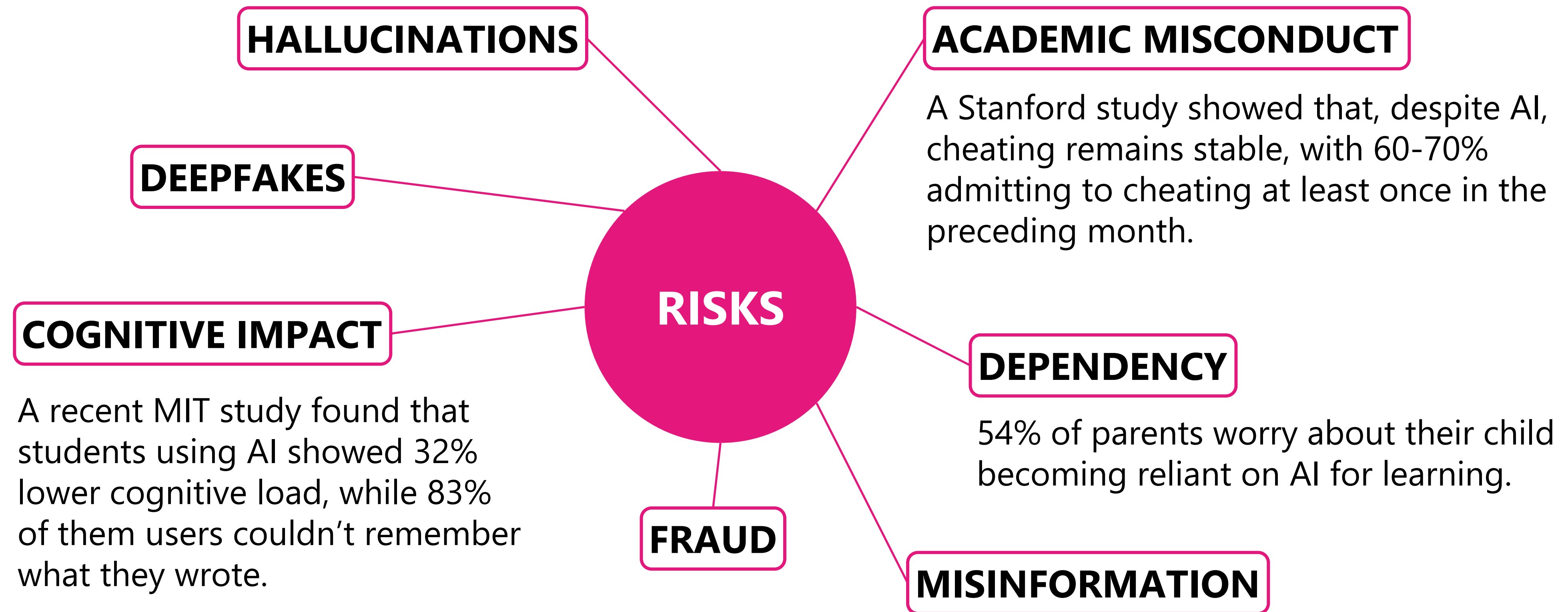
WILL AI REPLACE TEACHERS?



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THE “DARK SIDE” OF AI



THE “DARK SIDE” OF AI

How many of you have received homework that you suspected was generated with AI?

What did you do about it?

MITIGATING RISKS



71% of teachers think access to AI should be supervised, not banned.

62% of parents think new assessments will be needed.

AI ETHICS

AI must be used responsibly and meet ethical standards.

Some of the most prominent AI ethics frameworks include:

- ★ IEEE Ethically Aligned Design (2016)
- ★ The Asilomar AI Principles (2017)
- ★ OECD AI Principles (2019)
- ★ EU Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI (2019)
- ★ EC Ethics By Design and Ethics of Use Approaches for Artificial Intelligence (2021)
- ★ United Nations' Principles for the Ethical Use of AI (2022)

ETHICS BY DESIGN

**RESPECT FOR
HUMAN AGENCY**

TRANSPARENCY

**INDIVIDUAL, SOCIAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
WELL-BEING**

FAIRNESS

**PRIVACY AND DATA
GOVERNANCE**

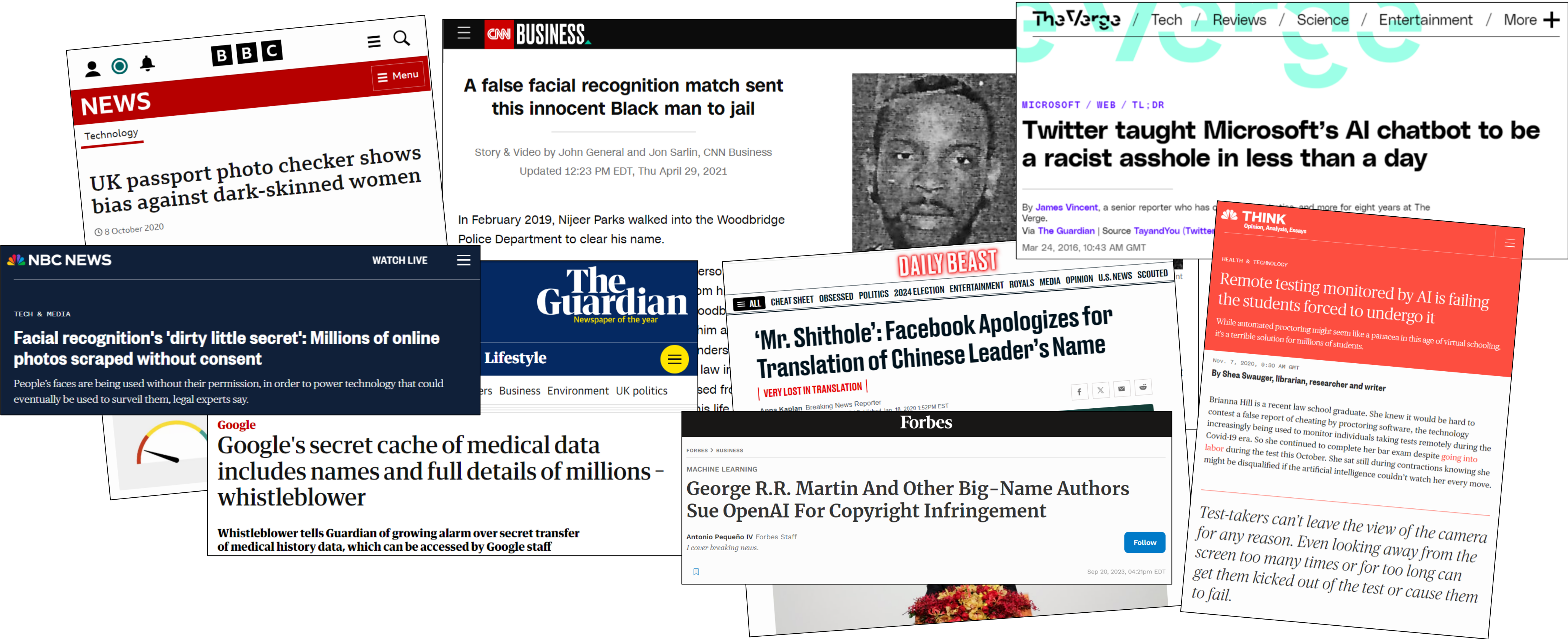
**ACCOUNTABILITY AND
OVERSIGHT**

WHY ARE ETHICAL PRINCIPLES IMPORTANT?



AI systems that do not adhere to ethical standards are considered **unethical**.

REAL EXAMPLES



LEGISLATION

International law

GDPR – regulates and protects the use of personal data.

EU AI Act – Provides a risk-based regulatory framework for AI systems.

National frameworks

Italy's AI Law (132/2025) – Complements the EU AI Act, establishing national governance, and introducing criminal penalties for AI misuse.

THE EU AI ACT

In force since 1st August 2024, phased into 2026.

Risk categories:

Unacceptable (banned): Social scoring, emotion recognition in schools, predictive policing, subliminal manipulation.

High-risk (strict compliance): Automated grading, admissions, proctoring, learner profiling – requires transparency, oversight and risk controls.

Limited-risk (transparency obligations only): Chatbots, virtual tutors must clearly disclose AI use.

Minimal/no risk (no restrictions): Spell-checkers, basic tutoring apps, productivity tools with negligible impact.

THE SYSTEMS OF THE FUTURE



MULTIMODAL

ADAPTIVE



PERSONALISED

ACCESSIBLE



REALISTIC

ON DEMAND

50% of children believe smart robots and AI will be a normal part of the classroom by 2030.

NEW ASSESSMENTS



THANK YOU!

mariano.felice@britishcouncil.org

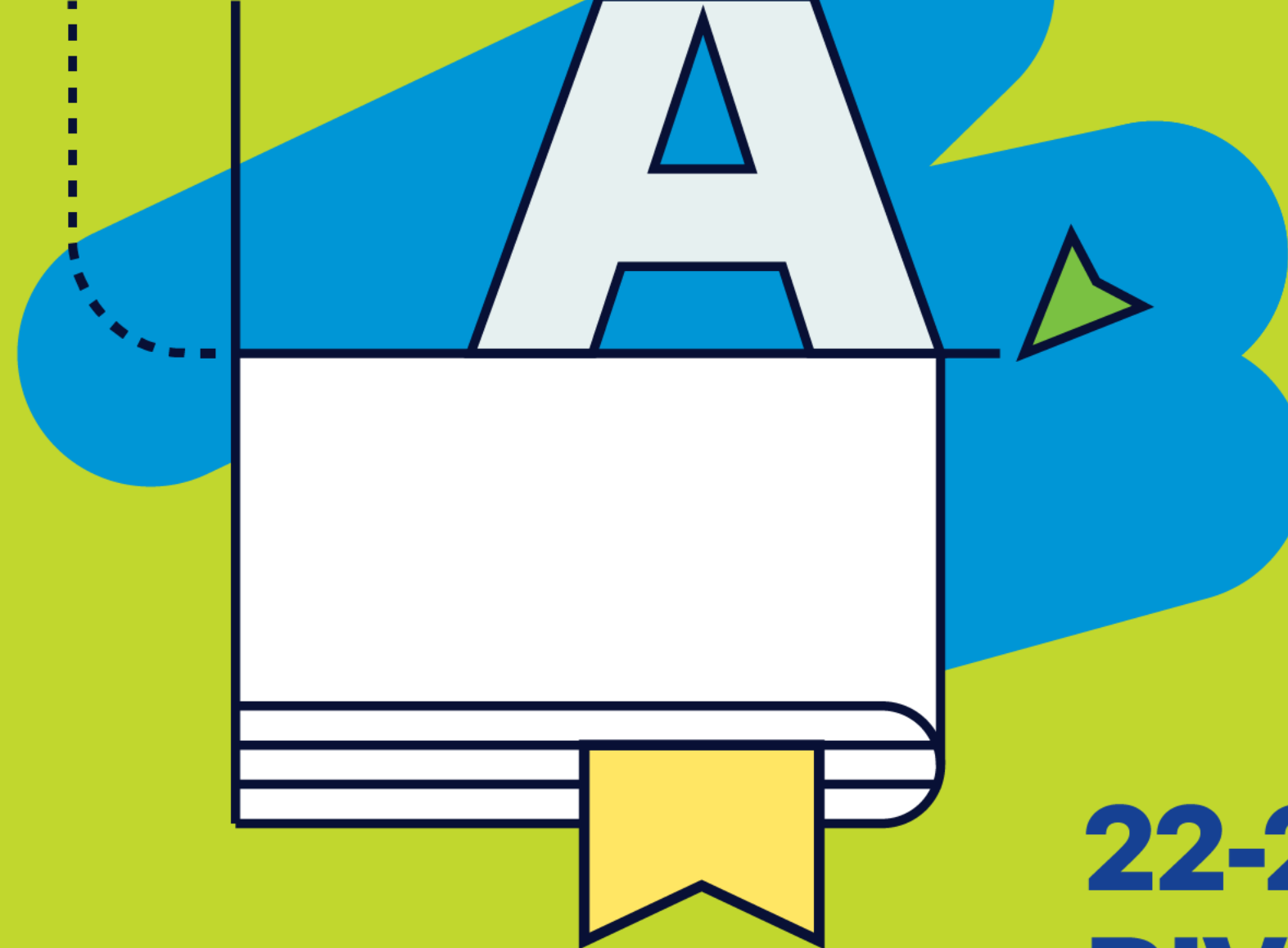
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TRENTINO

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22-24 OTTOBRE 2025 RIVA DEL GARDA



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