## What is artificial intelligence (AI)?

### It depends who you ask.

Back in the 1950s, the fathers of the field, [Minsky](http://web.media.mit.edu/~minsky/" \t "https://www.zdnet.com/article/what-is-ai-heres-everything-you-need-to-know-about-artificial-intelligence/_blank) and[McCarthy](http://www-formal.stanford.edu/jmc/" \t "https://www.zdnet.com/article/what-is-ai-heres-everything-you-need-to-know-about-artificial-intelligence/_blank), described artificial intelligence as any task performed by a machine that would have previously been considered to require human intelligence.

That's obviously a fairly broad definition, which is why you will sometimes see arguments over whether something is truly AI or not.

Modern definitions of what it means to create intelligence are more specific. Francois Chollet, an AI researcher at Google and creator of the machine-learning software library Keras, has said intelligence is tied to a system's ability to adapt and improvise in a new environment, to generalise its knowledge and apply it to unfamiliar scenarios.

"Intelligence is the efficiency with which you acquire new skills at tasks you didn't previously prepare for," [he said](https://youtu.be/PUAdj3w3wO4?t=1591" \t "https://www.zdnet.com/article/what-is-ai-heres-everything-you-need-to-know-about-artificial-intelligence/_blank).

"Intelligence is not skill itself; it's not what you can do; it's how well and how efficiently you can learn new things."

It's a definition under which modern AI-powered systems, such as virtual assistants, would be characterised as having demonstrated 'narrow AI', the ability to generalise their training when carrying out a limited set of tasks, such as speech recognition or computer vision.

Typically, AI systems demonstrate at least some of the following behaviours associated with human intelligence: planning, learning, reasoning, problem-solving, knowledge representation, perception, motion, and manipulation and, to a lesser extent, social intelligence and creativity.

Resource: <https://www.zdnet.com/article/what-is-ai-heres-everything-you-need-to-know-about-artificial-intelligence/>