

Let's Talk About AI

What It Is. Why It Matters. How to Try It Today.

Let's Be Honest First

**"I don't want to
learn another
new thing."**

That's completely fair. You've already learned email, smartphones, and online banking. I hear you.

**"Why should I
even care
about this?"**

Great question. By the end of today you'll have a clear answer — in plain English, no tech talk.

You're not behind. Everyone is figuring this out right now.

Why Is AI Such a Big Deal?

Industrial Age

Machines replaced
physical muscle

Computer Age

Computers replaced
repetitive tasks

AI Age — Now

AI automates
thinking itself

**Every previous technology automated doing.
AI is the first to automate thinking.**

That's genuinely new. That's why it matters.

You Already Use AI — Every Day

*You don't need to learn AI from scratch.
You've been living with it for years.*



Netflix & YouTube

Recommends shows based on what you've watched



Email Spam Filter

Learns which emails are junk so you don't see them



GPS Navigation

Reroutes around traffic in real time



Credit Card Fraud

Flags unusual purchases automatically



Music Streaming

Suggests songs you're likely to enjoy



Phone Menu Voice

Understands what you say, not just numbers

Three Types of AI — Simply Put

1

Predictive AI

Notices patterns and makes suggestions.
Netflix, spam filters, GPS, fraud detection.

You already use this

2

Conversational AI

You talk to it, it responds. Ask questions,
get answers, have a real back-and-forth.

Today's focus

3

Agentic AI

AI that takes actions for you — books
appointments, sends emails, completes tasks.

The next frontier

You Already Know How to Google.

Now let's take that one step further.

Google: You get a list of links and have to dig through them.

AI Chat: You get the answer directly — and you can ask a follow-up.

If you can send a text message, you can use this.

Google vs. AI Chat — What's Different?



Google Search



AI Chat

What you get

A list of websites

A direct answer

How to ask

Keywords work best

Plain English works great

Follow-up?

Start a new search

It remembers what you asked

Writing help

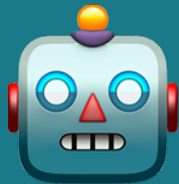
Find examples online

It writes with you

Current info

Very good

Good — can search the web too



Let's See It Live

Watch over my shoulder as we ask it real questions.

- A question you'd normally Google
- A follow-up — watch what happens
- Ask it to write something
- **Your questions from the index cards**

Your Turn

These are your questions — let's get your answers.

Question 1

From the audience...

Question 2

From the audience...

Question 3

From the audience...

The best moment is watching your question get answered in real time

How Does It Know All That?



How It Learned

It read billions of pages — books, articles, websites, conversations — and learned patterns from all of it.

Think of it like a very well-read person who absorbed an enormous library before you ever met them.

It doesn't look things up when you ask. It already absorbed it.



But It Can Be Wrong

Even with web access, it can get things wrong — confidently.

This is called hallucination. It doesn't know it's wrong.

Always verify anything important:

- Medical decisions
- Legal or financial matters
- Specific facts that really matter

Treat it like a knowledgeable friend, not a doctor.

The One Thing to Remember

**AI will sometimes tell you something wrong
with complete confidence.**

It doesn't know it's wrong. It's not lying. It just made a mistake.

The rule is simple: great for everyday questions, learning, and writing.
For medical, legal, or financial decisions — always check with a real professional.

Think of it as a very smart friend, not a licensed expert.

Is AI Safe to Use?



Designed with guardrails

The companies building these tools have entire teams whose only job is making sure AI won't help someone do something harmful. It's designed to decline dangerous requests.



Not listening all the time

A chatbot only processes what you type into it. It is not recording your home, reading your emails, or watching you — unless you give it specific permission.



Safe to try casually

Asking a question costs nothing and risks nothing. You can try it, decide you don't like it, and walk away. There's no commitment and no danger in trying.

The Big Concerns — Let's Be Honest

Will AI take all the jobs?

Some jobs will change. Some will go. New ones will be created. Most of your family is watching this carefully — and it's a real conversation society needs to have.

Is it an existential threat?

Serious researchers disagree significantly about the risk and timeline. What's on the front page is usually the most alarming version of a more complicated debate.

What about energy and the environment?

Real concern. Data centers use significant water and electricity. The industry knows it and is working on it — the same tradeoffs we've made with the internet and smartphones.

These are societal questions. Whether to try a chatbot tonight is a personal one.

The Three You'll Hear About Most

ChatGPT

Good at:

General tasks, widely known,
most tutorials online

Best for:

The one most people
have heard of

chat.openai.com

Claude

by Anthropic

Good at:

Conversation, long documents,
nuanced responses

Best for:

Known for being
careful and clear

claude.ai

Gemini

by Google

Good at:

Connected to Google Search,
Gmail, Google Docs

Best for:

Best if you're already
in the Google world

gemini.google.com

All three are free to start. No credit card needed.

Try It Tonight

You don't need an account to start. Just go to the website and type.

- 1 Open your browser and go to `claude.ai` or `chat.openai.com`
- 2 Type a question in the box — anything you're curious about
- 3 Read the answer. Ask a follow-up. See what happens.
- 4 Take the handout home — it has starter questions and setup steps