

AS-49 · AI Smart · AI Move of the Day

AI Only Knows What It Read

AI only knows what it read. And it did not read everything. Training data is its whole world — so that world creates strengths, blind spots, and bias.

Start the slow burn

Copy the prompt

YOUR CURRENT LEVEL

0 XP

Level 1: AI Knows Everything Believer

Understand training data

Ask the AI prompt

Map knows well / badly / biased

Connect data to capability

Name one blind spot

Use the check-first rule

The simple idea

Training data means the text, examples, and patterns an AI learned from. Plain English: it is the reading pile that shaped what the AI can answer.

If something was common in that reading pile, AI may handle it well. If something was missing, rare, local, recent, or unfairly described, AI may struggle.

1 See the “reading pile” problem

AI does not learn from reality directly. It learns from data about reality.

Imagine AI’s world as a giant reading pile

Some topics appear everywhere. Some barely appear. Some appear with mistakes or stereotypes.

popular science

world history

coding examples

English articles

small-town local facts

rare languages today’s school notice your teacher’s exact instructions new events private family context

THOUGHT BULB

AI can sound like it has seen everything. It has not. It is strongest where its training data had lots of good examples.

☐ I understand training data as the reading pile that shaped AI.

2 **Ask AI to explain its own blind spots**

Open Claude, ChatGPT, Gemini, or Perplexity. Paste this prompt.

This prompt makes AI connect three ideas: what it read, what it can answer, and where it may be biased.

COPY-PASTE PROMPT

Explain simply: AI learns from text on the internet. How does that affect what it knows well, what it knows badly, and what it might be biased about?

Copy prompt

CAUTION BOARD

If the AI answer sounds too perfect, ask for examples of blind spots. A useful answer should admit limits, not pretend AI sees everything.

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT

Give me 3 examples:

1. A topic AI may know well because there is lots of public text about it
2. A topic AI may know badly because it is local, recent, rare, or private
3. A topic where AI may repeat bias from its data

Copy follow-up prompt

☐

I asked AI how training data affects what it knows and where it may be biased.

3 Use the three-bucket map

Training data affects what AI knows well, badly, and unfairly.

1

2

3

Knows well

Topics with lots of clear public text: common school concepts, popular coding examples, widely discussed history, famous books.

Still check important facts.

Knows badly

Local, recent, rare, private, or school-specific information: your class notice, a new rule, a small local event, niche community knowledge.

Use real sources first.

May be biased

If the data contains stereotypes, unfair patterns, or one-sided views, AI may repeat them in a polished way.

Ask: who is missing?

SIMPLE TRANSLATION

Data → **capability** → **bias**. What AI read affects what it can do, what it misses, and what unfair patterns it may repeat.

☐

I can sort AI knowledge into knows well, knows badly, and may be biased.

4 Connect data to capability

Capability means what AI is actually able to do well.

A

Data

What examples AI learned from.

Was the topic common, accurate, current, and balanced?

B

Capability

How well AI can answer.

Does it have enough good patterns to help?

C

Bias

What unfair or one-sided patterns it may repeat.

Who is over-represented, under-represented, or described unfairly?

Question type	AI risk	Better student move
“Explain photosynthesis simply.”	Usually lower risk, but details can still need checking.	Use AI to understand, then compare with textbook.
“What did my school announce today?”	High risk. AI probably does not know your school’s latest notice.	Check school circular, teacher, or official group.
“What is happening in my town this week?”	Local and recent information may be weak or outdated.	Use local official pages or trusted current sources.

Question type	AI risk	Better student move
“Describe what people from X group are like.”	Bias risk. AI may repeat stereotypes.	Avoid generalising people. Ask for multiple perspectives and check fairness.
☐ I can connect training data to capability and bias.		

5 Name one topic AI might know poorly

Look for local, recent, rare, or private topics.

Local

Your school’s latest event, a nearby road closure, a local club result, a small-town issue.

Recent

Something from this week, a new policy, a changed exam date, a newly released result.

Rare

A niche hobby, a less-written-about language, a small community tradition, a specialised local practice.

Private

Your family context, your exact teacher instructions, your personal situation, private documents.

One topic AI might know poorly

Example: my school's changed exam schedule

Where I should check instead

Example: school circular, teacher, official website, textbook, parent/teacher group, local official source.

☐

I named one local, recent, rare, or private topic AI might know poorly.

6

Use the check-first rule

When data may be weak, do not ask AI to be the final source.

CHECK-FIRST RULE

If the topic is **local, recent, rare, private, or about people unfairly described**, treat AI as a helper, not the source of truth.

BETTER PROMPT FOR BLIND-SPOT TOPICS

This topic may be local, recent, rare, or easy to get wrong: [topic].

Help me make a checklist of what I should verify from real sources. Do not pretend to know the final answer if you are unsure.

Copy check-first prompt

CAUTION BOARD

Do not paste private details into AI just to improve context. For private or personal matters, use a trusted person or official source.

☐

I know when to use AI as a checklist helper instead of a final source.

7 Optional: make your AI Move card

A small reminder of the training-data lesson.

CARD COPY

Title: AI Move of the Day

Move: Understand how training data affects what AI knows.

Prompt: “Explain simply: AI learns from text on the internet. How does that affect what it knows well, what it knows badly, and what it might be biased about?”

Core idea: AI only knows what it read, and it did not read everything.

Closer: Name one topic AI might know poorly: local, recent, rare, or private.

☐

I made, sketched, or saved the AI Move card.

Final 5-minute move

Pick one question you might ask AI this week. Decide whether AI probably knows it well, badly, or might be biased about it.

My training-data check

Example: AI may know photosynthesis well because it is common in textbooks. AI may know my school's exam change badly because it is recent and local.

☐ I know training data is the reading pile that shaped AI.

☐ I can spot local, recent, rare, or private blind spots.

☐ I will check real sources when AI's data may be weak or biased.

NOTEBOOK LINE

Write this down: **"AI only knows what its data taught it. I check the blind spots."**

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