

AS-41 • AI Smart • AI Move of the Day

AI Is a Really Good Guesser

AI is not a brain in a box. It is a really good guesser. It predicts the next word, then the next word, then the next word — until an answer appears.

Start the 60-second move

Copy the prompt

YOUR CURRENT LEVEL

0 XP

Level 1: AI Mystery Viewer

Drop the brain-in-a-box idea

Ask for a 60-sec explanation

See next-word prediction

Learn what LLM means

Know the trust limit

Save the over-trust rule

The mental model

When an AI like ChatGPT answers, it is not thinking exactly like a human. It is using patterns from huge amounts of text to predict what words should come next.

This mental model helps you use AI better — and trust it less blindly.

1 Start with the simplest version

AI is not magic. It is pattern prediction at huge scale.

Try the next-word game

If I write: “**The sun rises in the...**” your brain quickly guesses the next word.



AI does a much bigger version of this. It predicts likely words, one after another, using patterns it has learned.

THOUGHT BULB

AI can produce smart-looking answers because it has learned many patterns. But a pattern is not the same as perfect understanding.

☐

I understand that AI is not a tiny human brain inside a computer.

2 Ask AI for a 60-second explanation

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

This prompt asks for the core idea without jargon: next-word prediction.

COPY-PASTE PROMPT

Explain how an AI like ChatGPT actually works, for a 14-year-old, in 60 seconds. Use the idea of predicting the next word. No jargon.

Copy prompt

CAUTION BOARD

If AI uses jargon, ask it to translate. Do not pretend you understand fancy words. “No jargon” means “explain like a real person.”

☐ I used the 60-second explanation prompt in an AI tool.

3 Read the answer with this checklist

A good explanation should make AI less mysterious, not more mysterious.

60s

Simple explanation draft

AI like ChatGPT works by predicting what word should come next. It has seen patterns in huge amounts of text, so when you ask a question, it builds a likely answer word by word.

It is not a brain in a box. It does not automatically know truth the way a person checks a fact. It is a powerful pattern guesser, which is why it can be useful — and why you should not over-trust it.

Must include

“Predicting the next word.”

Must avoid

Confusing jargon without translation.

Must warn

Useful does not mean always true.

☐

I can explain next-word prediction in my own words.

4 **Translate the only jargon you need**

LLM is not a secret code. Translate it immediately.

JARGON TRANSLATION

LLM means **Large Language Model**. Plain English: an AI system trained on lots of text to predict and generate language.

1

It reads your prompt

Your question gives it direction.

2

It finds patterns

It uses patterns learned from huge amounts of text.

3

It predicts words

It chooses likely next words, one after another.

4

It forms an answer

The answer may be useful, but it still needs judgement.

☐

I can translate LLM into plain English.

5

Understand why this stops over-trust

If AI is a powerful guesser, you still need to check important answers.

AI is useful for

AI needs checking for

Explaining, brainstorming, drafting, comparing, practising, summarising, asking better questions.

Facts, numbers, quotes, dates, health, law, money, official rules, and anything serious.

Good use

“Explain this topic three ways so I understand it.”

Risky use

“Give me exact facts and I will submit them without checking.”

THOUGHT BULB

Once you know AI predicts likely words, you stop treating every answer like a final truth. You start using AI as a thinking partner, not a replacement brain.

☐

I understand why knowing how AI works helps me avoid over-trusting it.

6 Optional: make your AI Move card

A small reminder of the 60-second explanation.

CARD COPY

Title: AI Move of the Day

Move: Explain how AI “thinks” in 60 seconds.

Prompt: “Explain how an AI like ChatGPT actually works, for a 14-year-old, in 60 seconds. Use the idea of predicting the next word. No jargon.”

Core idea: AI is not a brain in a box. It is a really good guesser.

Closer: Knowing this, you will never over-trust it again.

☐

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

Final 5-minute move

Explain AI to someone in one sentence: “AI predicts the next word using patterns from lots of text.” Then add the safety line: “That means I still check important facts.”

My one-sentence explanation

Example: AI is a really good guesser that predicts the next word using patterns from lots of text, so I use it for help but check important facts.

☐ I know AI predicts likely next words.

☐ I know LLM means a text-trained AI language system.

☐ I will not over-trust AI just because it sounds smart.

NOTEBOOK LINE

Write this down: **“AI predicts likely words. I still use my judgement.”**

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Questions? Teachers and parents, write to us. Students, speak with your teacher or a grown-up first.