

AS-37 · AI Smart · AI Move of the Day

Hallucination in 60 Seconds

AI just told me Sachin scored his 100th century in 2011. He didn't. AI made that up — and had no idea it was wrong. That is a hallucination: a confident wrong answer.

Start the quick move

Build the explanation

YOUR CURRENT LEVEL

0 XP

Level 1: AI Beginner

See the fake fact

Ask AI for a 60-sec explanation

Translate the jargon

Learn why it happens

Practise a fact check

Use the check-it rule

Today's 60-second AI word

Hallucination means an AI confidently gives a wrong or made-up answer. The word sounds weird, so translate it immediately: **hallucination = confident wrong answer**.

This is one of the most important AI words you can learn. AI can sound certain even when it is wrong.

1 Start with the fake fact

A real example is easier than a definition.

AI got this wrong

“Sachin scored his 100th century in 2011.”

That sounds like the kind of cricket fact an AI might say with confidence. But it is wrong. The dangerous part is not only the mistake — it is the confidence.

THOUGHT BULB

AI does not “know” in the same way a person knows. It predicts likely words. Sometimes likely-sounding words become wrong facts.

☐

I understand that AI can give a wrong fact confidently.

2 Ask AI to explain hallucination in under 60 seconds

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

This prompt makes AI explain the word simply, with one example. It also reminds AI not to drown you in jargon.

COPY-PASTE PROMPT

Explain what an AI hallucination is to a 14-year-old in under 60 seconds, with one quick example of AI getting a fact wrong.

Copy prompt

CAUTION BOARD

Funny twist: AI can hallucinate while explaining hallucinations. So still check the example if it gives you a specific fact.

☐

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

3 Check the answer: does it translate the jargon?

Every time you use the word “hallucination,” say what it means in the same sentence.

Good

“An AI hallucination is when AI gives a confident wrong answer.”

Too jargony

“A hallucination occurs due to probabilistic generation.” True-ish, but not useful yet.

Good

Too vague

“AI made up a fact that sounded real.”

“AI sometimes has issues with factuality.” What issue? Say it plainly.

60s

Simple explanation draft

An AI hallucination is a confident wrong answer. It happens when AI produces something that sounds real, but the fact, quote, source, number, or detail is made up or incorrect.

Example: if AI says Sachin scored his 100th century in 2011, it sounds specific — but it is wrong. So when AI gives a surprising fact, do not just admire it. Check it.

☐

I can translate “hallucination” as “confident wrong answer.”

4 Learn why it happens

Not scary. Just important.

1

AI predicts words

It often builds an answer by predicting what words should come next.

2

Sounding right is not being right

A sentence can sound smooth even when the fact inside it is false.

3

Missing info can become fake info

When AI does not know, it may still try to complete the answer instead of saying “I’m not sure.”

THOUGHT BULB

The danger is not that AI makes mistakes. Humans make mistakes too. The danger is that AI can make mistakes in a polished, confident voice.

☐

I understand why AI can sound right while being wrong.

5 Practise the “surprising fact” check

Next surprising fact AI gives you, check it.

You do not need to fact-check every tiny sentence. Start with facts that are: surprising, specific, important, numerical, historical, medical, legal, financial, or about a real person.

Check numbers

Dates, percentages, rankings, prices, marks, scores, salaries.

Check real people

Quotes, achievements, biographies, claims about what someone said.

Check serious topics

Health, law, money, admissions, jobs, official rules, deadlines.

OPTIONAL FACT-CHECK PROMPT

You gave me this fact:

[paste fact]

How can I verify it? Give me 2 types of reliable sources I should check. If you are not sure the fact is correct, say so.

Copy fact-check prompt



I know which AI facts need checking first.

6

Optional: make your AI Move card

A small reminder of the hallucination move.

CARD COPY

Title: AI Move of the Day

Move: Understand hallucination in 60 seconds.

Prompt: “Explain what an AI hallucination is to a 14-year-old in under 60 seconds, with one quick example of AI getting a fact wrong.”

Translation: Hallucination = confident wrong answer.

Closer: Next surprising fact AI gives you, check it.

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

Final 5-minute move

Ask AI for one surprising fact about a topic you like. Then check that fact using a real source before you repeat it.

The next AI fact I will check

Example: AI said _____. I will check it on _____.

☐ I can explain hallucination as a confident wrong answer.

☐ I know AI can sound certain and still be wrong.

☐ I will check surprising facts before trusting them.

NOTEBOOK LINE

Write this down: **“If AI gives me a surprising fact, I check it before I use it.”**

Back to top

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