

AI Glossary

27 Essential Terms

Whether you're new to AI or just need a quick refresher, this guide breaks down the most common terms into easy-to-understand language anyone can follow.

Term	Definition
Agent	An AI agent is like a helpful robot assistant that can do tasks on its own. You give it a goal, and it figures out the steps to complete it—like booking a trip or finding information across multiple websites.
AI (Artificial Intelligence)	AI is a computer program that can think, learn, and solve problems—kind of like a super-smart helper. It can answer questions, write stories, recognize pictures, and even help with homework.
Algorithm	An algorithm is a set of step-by-step instructions that tells a computer how to solve a problem. It's like a recipe that the computer follows to get from a question to an answer.
API (Application Programming Interface)	An API is like a special door that lets different computer programs talk to each other. It's how apps and websites connect to AI so they can use its smarts.
Chatbot	A chatbot is an AI you can have a conversation with by typing messages, just like texting a friend. It reads what you write and types back answers.
Context Window	The context window is how much the AI can "remember" during your conversation. It's like the AI's short-term memory—it can only hold so much at once before older stuff gets forgotten.
Deep Learning	Deep learning is a smart way computers learn by using layers of mini-decisions, kind of like how your brain has layers of neurons. It helps AI recognize faces, understand speech, and more.
Embedding	An embedding turns words or ideas into numbers so the computer can understand them. It's like giving every word a special address that shows how it relates to other words.
Fine-Tuning	Fine-tuning is when you teach an AI extra lessons after its main training. It's like a student who learned general math, then takes extra classes to become great at geometry.
Generative AI	Generative AI creates new things—like writing stories, making pictures, or composing music. Instead of just finding answers, it actually builds something new from scratch.
GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer)	GPT is a type of AI brain that's good at understanding and writing text. It learned from tons of books and websites, so it can chat, write, and answer questions.
Grounding	Grounding means connecting AI answers to real, reliable information—like facts from trusted websites. It helps the AI give accurate answers instead of making things up.

Term	Definition
Hallucination	A hallucination is when an AI makes something up that sounds true but isn't. It's like when someone tells a story and accidentally adds things that didn't really happen. Always double-check important facts!
Inference	Inference is when the AI uses what it learned to answer your question. Training is like studying for a test, and inference is like taking the test and giving answers.
LLM (Large Language Model)	An LLM is a super-powerful AI that's amazing at understanding and writing language. It learned from billions of words, so it can chat, summarize, translate, and write almost anything.
Machine Learning	Machine learning is how computers learn from examples instead of being told exactly what to do. It's like learning to catch a ball by practicing, not by reading instructions.
Model	A model is the "brain" of an AI. It's the part that learned from millions of books and websites so it can understand your questions and give helpful answers.
Multimodal	Multimodal means the AI can understand different types of things—like text, pictures, and audio—all at once. It's like having eyes, ears, and reading skills combined.
Natural Language Processing (NLP)	NLP is how computers understand human language—the way we talk and write. It helps AI read your messages and respond in a way that makes sense.
Neural Network	A neural network is a computer system designed to work like a human brain. It has connected pieces that pass information to each other, helping the AI learn patterns and make decisions.
Parameters	Parameters are like the AI's brain cells—tiny settings that help it make decisions. More parameters usually mean the AI can understand more complicated things.
Prompt	A prompt is the question or instruction you type to talk to an AI. It's like raising your hand in class and asking the teacher something. The better your question, the better answer you'll get!
RAG (Retrieval-Augmented Generation)	RAG is when AI looks up real information before answering, like a student checking their notes during a test. It helps the AI give more accurate, up-to-date answers.
Temperature	Temperature controls how creative or predictable the AI's answers are. Low temperature means safe, expected answers. High temperature means more surprising, creative responses.
Token	A token is a small piece of text—usually a word or part of a word. AI reads and counts tokens to understand your message. Think of tokens like puzzle pieces that make up sentences.
Training	Training is how an AI learns by studying huge amounts of information. It's like a student reading millions of books to become really smart before answering your questions.

Term	Definition
Transformer	A transformer is a special design that helps AI understand how words in a sentence relate to each other. It's the technology that makes modern chatbots so good at language.

 Pro Tip: The best way to learn AI is to try it yourself!

Start with simple prompts and experiment. The more you practice, the better you'll get communicating with AI.