

What Is a Chatbot?

Name _____

Date _____

Find out how a chatbot writes its answers, and why they need checking.

Why is the sky blue?

The sky looks blue because of

?

sunlight ✓

pizza

Tuesday

It picks a likely next piece, again and again.

1 The Next-Word Game

A language model predicts what is likely to come next. You can do it too. Finish each one.

1. Once upon a _____
2. Happy birthday to _____
3. The cat sat on the _____
4. Twinkle, twinkle, little _____
5. My favorite food is _____

Ask a friend to do number 5. Did you write the same word? Some blanks have many likely answers.

2 True or False?

Circle TRUE or FALSE.

- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. A chatbot looks up every fact in an encyclopedia before it answers. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 2. A chatbot builds its reply one small piece at a time. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3. A chatbot can say something false and still sound very sure. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 4. A chatbot has feelings, the way a person does. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 5. It is safe to type your password into a chatbot. | TRUE | FALSE |

Good to know: The small pieces of text a language model works with are called **tokens**. A token can be a whole word or just part of a word.

3 Check It First?

For answers that matter, check with a reliable source or a trusted adult. Circle the best choice.

- | | | |
|---|----------|----------------|
| 1. A fact for your school project | CHECK IT | FINE FOR IDEAS |
| 2. Silly names for a pet dragon in your story | CHECK IT | FINE FOR IDEAS |
| 3. A question about your health | CHECK IT | FINE FOR IDEAS |
| 4. Instructions for something risky | CHECK IT | FINE FOR IDEAS |
| 5. Ideas for a birthday party game | CHECK IT | FINE FOR IDEAS |

4 Three Smart Questions

Before you trust an answer, ask: Where could I check this? What might the AI be missing? Does it still make sense when I think about it myself? Write a question you might ask a chatbot, then where you could check the answer.

5 In Your Own Words

Why can a chatbot give an answer that sounds right but is wrong?

Answers for grown-ups. 1: 1 time, 2 you, 3 mat, 4 star. Number 5 has many answers. 2: 1 False (it produces likely text), 2 True, 3 True, 4 False, 5 False. 3: 1 Check it, 2 Fine for ideas, 3 Check it, 4 Check it, 5 Fine for ideas. 5: It writes text that is likely to come next. It is not looking up facts.

KEEP LEARNING

Goes with the book **How Artificial Intelligence Works for Kids Ages 8–12** by Laith Sad.

Book on Amazon: [amazon.com/dp/B0HM3R4D29](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0HM3R4D29)

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