

ChatGPT Glossary: 50 AI Terms Explained

A plain-English reference to the words used in ChatGPT and artificial intelligence.

No.	Term	Plain-English definition
01	Artificial intelligence (AI)	Computer systems doing tasks that usually need human abilities, such as understanding language or recognising patterns.
02	Machine learning	A way for computers to learn patterns from examples and improve at a task without being given every rule by hand.
03	Deep learning	A type of machine learning that uses many connected layers to find complex patterns in large amounts of data.
04	Generative AI	AI that creates new content, such as text, pictures, audio or code, in response to instructions.
05	Large language model (LLM)	An AI model trained on vast amounts of text so it can interpret and produce human language.
06	Language model	A computer model designed to recognise patterns in language and predict what words or tokens are likely to come next.
07	ChatGPT	An AI assistant from OpenAI that responds to questions and instructions in a conversational format.
08	Model	The learned system that processes input and produces an output, such as a reply, prediction or image.
09	Training data	Examples used to teach an AI model patterns, relationships or skills before it is used.
10	Training	The process of adjusting a model using examples so it becomes better at a particular task.

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Terms 11 to 20

No.	Term	Plain-English definition
11	Algorithm	A set of steps or rules a computer follows to solve a problem or complete a task.
12	Neural network	A computing system made of connected units that process information in layers, inspired loosely by the brain.
13	Transformer	A neural network design that helps language models understand how words relate to one another across a passage.
14	Token	A piece of text, such as a word or part of a word, that a language model reads or generates.
15	Prompt	The instruction or question a person gives an AI system to guide the response it produces.
16	Prompt engineering	The practice of writing and refining instructions to get more useful, relevant results from an AI model.
17	System prompt	Higher-priority instructions that set an AI assistant's role, behaviour and boundaries for a conversation.
18	Context window	The amount of text and other information a model can consider at one time while producing a response.
19	Chatbot	Software that interacts with people through conversation, using rules, AI or a mix of both.
20	Inference	The process of using a trained model to generate an answer, prediction or other result.

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Terms 21 to 30

No.	Term	Plain-English definition
21	Hallucination	A confident-sounding AI response that is false, invented or unsupported by reliable evidence.
22	Bias	A repeated leaning in data or system behaviour that can produce unfair or unbalanced results.
23	Accuracy	How often an AI system's answers or predictions are correct according to a chosen measure.
24	Training set	The portion of data used to teach a model during training.
25	Validation set	Separate examples used during development to check and tune a model before final testing.
26	Test set	Examples kept aside until evaluation to measure how well a model handles data it has not used before.
27	Fine-tuning	Further training of an already trained model on selected examples to improve it for a specific task or style.
28	Parameter	A value inside a model that is learned during training and influences how the model processes information.
29	Hyperparameter	A setting chosen before or during training, such as learning rate, that affects how the model learns.
30	Overfitting	When a model learns its training examples too closely and performs poorly on new, unfamiliar data.

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Terms 31 to 40

No.	Term	Plain-English definition
31	Embedding	A list of numbers representing the meaning or features of text or other data so a computer can compare it mathematically.
32	Vector database	A database designed to store and search embeddings, often finding information with similar meaning.
33	Retrieval-augmented generation (RAG)	A method that finds relevant information from a source and supplies it to a model to help form its answer.
34	Grounding	Connecting an AI response to reliable information or sources rather than relying only on the model's learned patterns.
35	Multimodal AI	AI that can work with more than one kind of input or output, such as text, images, audio or video.
36	Image recognition	A computer vision task that identifies objects, people or other features in an image.
37	Speech-to-text	Technology that converts spoken words in an audio recording into written text.
38	Text-to-speech	Technology that turns written text into spoken audio.
39	Computer vision	The field of AI that enables computers to analyse and interpret images and video.
40	Speech recognition	Technology that detects and interprets spoken language, often to create a transcript or carry out a voice command.

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Terms 41 to 50

No.	Term	Plain-English definition
41	Temperature	A model setting that influences how varied or predictable its next-word choices are.
42	Top-p	A sampling setting that limits the model's choices to a selected share of the most likely next tokens.
43	Zero-shot learning	A model's ability to handle a task without being given task-specific examples in the prompt.
44	Few-shot learning	Guiding a model by including a small number of examples in the prompt.
45	Agent	An AI system that can plan steps and use tools to work towards a goal with limited ongoing direction.
46	Tool use	A model's ability to call an external function or service, such as a calculator or web search, during a task.
47	API	A defined way for one software service to request information or actions from another.
48	Open-source model	A model released with code, weights or documentation that people can inspect, use or adapt under its licence.
49	Responsible AI	Designing and using AI with attention to safety, fairness, privacy, transparency and its effects on people.
50	AGI	Artificial general intelligence: a theoretical AI with broad ability to learn and perform many kinds of intellectual tasks.

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