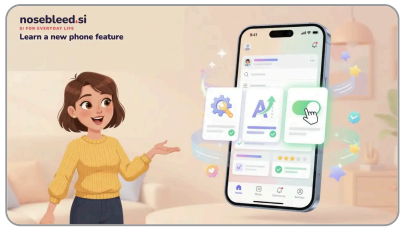
Your first chat: ask AI a clear question



Learn what an AI chat assistant is, and how a clear question gets a much better answer.

By the end, you'll be able to:

- say what an AI chat assistant can and can't do
- write a clear question, with the details AI needs
- ask a follow-up to improve an answer

Warm-up What have you heard about AI?

Tick the ones you've heard. Then talk about it: which do you think are true?

	Heard it	True?
It can write things for you		
It's always right		
It's only for young people		
It knows all about me		
It can explain things in plain English		

1 Vague or clear?

Read these two questions. Which would get the more useful answer?

A Dinner ideas?

B Please suggest three easy dinners for two people that take under 30 minutes, using chicken and rice. We don't like spicy food.

Part 1, continued: what does question B tell the AI that question A doesn't?

2 The four ingredients of a clear question

1. **What you want:**
   "Please suggest...", "Please explain...", "Please help me write..."
2. **The background:**
   who it's for, and what you already have or know.
3. **Any limits:**
   time, money, likes and dislikes.
4. **How you'd like the answer:**
   short, a list, or in plain English.

Choose one of these vague questions, and write a clearer version using the four ingredients.

☐ "Tell me about trains." ☐ "Help with a letter." ☐ "Birthday present?"

3 Try it, then ask a follow-up

If you have a phone, tablet or computer, open an AI chat app and start a new chat. Type your clearer question from Part 2. Then try one of these follow-ups:

FOLLOW-UPS TO TRY

"Please make that shorter." · "Please explain that more simply." · "Can you give me three more ideas?"

What changed after your follow-up?

> **No device?** Work with a partner. One of you asks a question out loud; the other plays "the AI", and asks for any details that are missing.

4 Good habits

- Start a **new chat** for each new topic.
- Never type **passwords, bank details** or anything private.
- AI can make mistakes, so **check anything important**.
- You **don't need to pay**: free versions handle everyday tasks.

Find out more: read the free step-by-step guide at **nosebleed.si/basics/get-started**

Teacher notes: Your first chat: ask AI a clear question

Time: 45 to 60 minutes

Level: beginners; no AI experience needed

Group: any size; works well in pairs

You'll need: a copy per learner; phones or tablets with an AI chat app (optional)

Before the session

Decide which AI chat app (or apps) the group will use, and try the activities yourself. Some learners may need help installing an app: only install from the official app store, and check the maker's name, as there are copycat apps. Free versions are fine.

Running order

5 min	**Warm-up.** Clear up myths, kindly. Many people are nervous, so keep it light.
10 min	**Part 1.** Compare the two questions together.
15 min	**Part 2.** Go through the four ingredients, then pairs improve a vague question.
15 min	**Part 3.** Learners try their question and a follow-up, or do the role-play.
5 min	**Wrap-up.** The good habits in Part 4.

Answers: warm-up

True: it can write things, and explain things in plain English.
Not true: it's not always right; it's for everyone; and it only knows what you tell it in the chat. (Apps may keep your chats, so it's worth checking the privacy settings.)

Answer: Part 1

B says how many people, the time limit, the ingredients, what they don't like, and how many ideas they want.

Part 2: example answers

"Please help me plan a train journey from Leeds to London next Saturday. I'm over 60 and want the cheapest ticket. Please explain it in plain English."

"Please help me write a short, polite letter to my council about a broken streetlight outside my house. It's been broken for two weeks."

"Please suggest five birthday presents under £20 for my 10-year-old granddaughter, who loves drawing and animals."

Safety notes

- No personal details in the chat: no full names, addresses, passwords or account numbers.
- Many AI chat apps have a minimum age, often 13 and sometimes 18. For younger groups, use the role-play, or demonstrate on a screen.

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