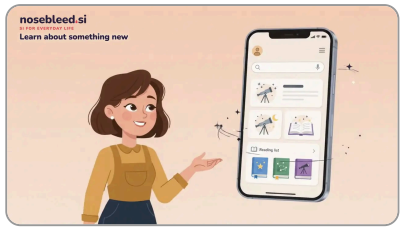
Fact or made up? Checking what AI tells you



AI can be brilliant, but it can sound sure of itself even when it's wrong. Learn when and how to check.

By the end, you'll be able to:

- explain why AI answers sometimes need checking
- spot the kinds of answer that need checking
- use simple ways to check

Warm-up Has someone ever told you something with great confidence, and been wrong?

Talk about it with your group. How did you find out?

1 Trust it, check it, or ask a person?

Here are seven things an AI might say. For each one, tick what you'd do.

	Fine	Check it	Ask a person
a. To remember to water your plants, set a weekly reminder on your phone.			
b. Your train leaves from platform 4 at 10.15 today.			
c. It's fine to take ibuprofen with your blood pressure tablets.			
d. The Battle of Hastings was in 1066.			
e. You'll enjoy the novel *The Clockmaker's Garden* by Ellen Marsh.			
f. Your energy company owes you £120.			
g. Mix bleach and vinegar to make a stronger cleaner.			

2 Warning signs

Tick the signs that tell you an answer needs checking.

☐ Exact numbers, dates or amounts

☐ Health, money or legal matters

☐ Today's times, prices or news

☐ Names of books, websites or people

☐ Anything to do with safety

☐ It sounds too good to be true

3 Ways to check

- Ask the AI: *"How sure are you? Which parts should I double-check?"*
- Look it up on an official website, such as your train company or the NHS.
- Search your library's catalogue for a book.
- Ask a real person: a pharmacist, your GP, your bank or the company.

Choose two of the statements from Part 1 (b, c, e, f or g). How would you check each one?

4 Test it on something you know

If you have a device, ask an AI chat app about something you know a lot about: your home town, a hobby, or your old job. Then ask:

FOLLOW-UP TO TRY

How sure are you about that? Which parts should I double-check?

Did it get anything wrong, or leave anything out?

No device? In pairs, one of you tells the other three "facts" about your home town, with one of them made up. Can your partner spot the made-up one?

Remember: AI is a good place to start, but not the last word. For anything that matters, check it.

Find out more: read the free step-by-step guide, with a 10-second video, at **nosebleed.si/ideas/learn-about-something-new**

Teacher notes: Fact or made up? Checking what AI tells you

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

Try Part 4 yourself first, on a topic you know well. Most AI answers are mostly right, which is exactly why mistakes are easy to miss. Some people call made-up AI answers "hallucinations".

Running order

5 min	**Warm-up.** Confident isn't the same as correct.
15 min	**Part 1.** Pairs sort the statements, then compare as a group.
15 min	**Parts 2 and 3.** Warning signs, then how to check two statements.
10 min	**Part 4.** Test an AI on a familiar topic, or the pairs game.
5 min	**Wrap-up.** One kind of answer each learner will always check from now on.

Answers: Part 1

a. Fine. Low stakes, and good advice.
b. Check it. AI may not know today's times or platforms. Check the departure boards or the train company.
c. Ask a person: a pharmacist or GP. Never rely on AI for medicines.
d. Fine (it's correct), but check it if it really matters.
e. Check it. This book was made up for the worksheet. AI sometimes invents books and authors.
f. Check it with the company. AI can't see your account.
g. Ask a person, and never do it. Mixing bleach with other cleaners can give off dangerous gas. Follow the product label.

Answers: Part 2

All six are warning signs.

Discussion points

- AI writes in a confident, friendly way whether it's right or wrong.
- Some AI apps can look things up online and some can't, and even those that can sometimes get details wrong.
- Asking "How sure are you?" often helps, but the AI can be wrong about that too.

Safety notes

- Health, money, legal and safety questions always need a trusted source or a real person.
- For younger groups without devices, use the pairs game in Part 4.

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