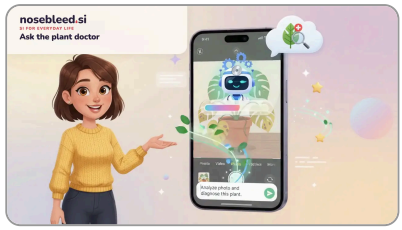
Ask the plant doctor



Use AI to work out what's wrong with a poorly plant, and what to do, then check its advice makes sense.

By the end, you'll be able to:

- describe a plant's problem clearly
- use AI to get a likely cause and simple steps
- check AI's advice against the clues

Warm-up Have you ever saved a poorly plant?

Talk about it with your group. Houseplants, tomatoes, roses: what went wrong, and what did you do?

1 Gather the clues

AI can't see your plant unless you share a photo, and even then the clues help. Tick the details worth giving.

	Helpful	Not needed
What the plant is, if you know		
What the leaves look like (yellow, brown spots, droopy)		
How often you water it		
Where it lives (sunny window, shady corner, outside)		
The price you paid		
How long it's been like this		

2 Ask AI

If you have a device, share a photo of a plant, or try this prompt.

TRY THIS PROMPT

My peace lily's leaves are turning yellow and soft. The soil always feels wet, and the pot has no hole in the bottom. It sits on a shady windowsill. What's the most likely cause, and what should I do? Please give simple steps, and tell me if you're not sure.

3 Check the advice

An AI gave this answer to the prompt above. Does it make sense? Why, or why not?

EXAMPLE AI ANSWER

Your peace lily is thirsty. Water it every day until the leaves perk up.

4 Your plant

Think of a plant you have, or had, that wasn't happy. Write a prompt describing it, with the clues from Part 1.

5 Good habits

- AI gives a **likely** cause, not a certain one. Watch how the plant responds.
- Ask: "Is this plant safe for cats and dogs?" if you have pets, and check the answer.
- Before using sprays or chemicals, read the label, and ask about gentler options first.

> **No device?** In pairs, one person describes a poorly plant. The other plays "plant doctor" and asks questions to find the cause.

Find out more: read the free step-by-step guide, with a 10-second video, at **nosebleed.si/ideas/ask-the-plant-doctor**

Teacher notes: Ask the plant doctor

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 the prompt yourself. If you can, bring a struggling houseplant (or a photo of one) for learners to try with a photo.

Running order

5 min	**Warm-up.** Plants we've saved, or lost.
10 min	**Part 1.** The clues that help.
15 min	**Parts 2 and 3.** Try the prompt, then check the answer.
15 min	**Part 4.** Learners describe their own plants.
5 min	**Wrap-up.** Likely, not certain.

Answers: Part 1

All helpful except the price.

Answers: Part 3

It doesn't make sense. Yellow, soft leaves, wet soil and no drainage hole point to **too much water**, not too little. Watering every day would make it worse. A better answer: let the soil dry out, and move it to a pot with a drainage hole.

Discussion points

- AI can contradict the clues you gave it. Read the answer against your description.
- Overwatering is one of the most common reasons houseplants struggle.
- In the UK, the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) website has trusted advice on plant problems.
- Some common houseplants, including peace lilies, can be harmful to pets if eaten.

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