

Module 12: Discover what AI can do for you



What is AI?

- AI (Artificial Intelligence) is technology that can help with tasks by learning from information and patterns. It's not the same as human thinking, but it can do things like suggest words, answer questions, or make decisions based on what it's learned.
- You may not realise it, but AI is already part of many tools you use — like predictive text, directions in maps, or online shopping suggestions. In this session, you'll learn how to recognise AI, try it out, and stay in control when using it.



Examples of everyday AI

You might already use AI without knowing it! Here are some places you might see it:

- Voice assistants like Siri or Google Assistant
- Predictive text or autocorrect when typing
- Google Search suggestions
- YouTube or Netflix recommendations
- Online shopping suggestions (e.g. Woolworths, Amazon)
- Robot vacuums that map your home
- Navigation apps that reroute around traffic
- Chatbots - on websites (like Telstra) that answer company-specific question, or tools like ChatGPT that answer broader questions



Voice assistants

- Many phones and tablets come with built-in voice assistants that can answer questions or help with tasks.
 - On Android, say “Hey Google” or hold the home button. (Adjust settings if needed.)
 - On Apple, say “Hey Siri” or hold the side button. (Adjust settings if needed.)
- You can ask things like:
 - “What’s the weather today?”
 - “Set a timer for 10 minutes.”
 - “Remind me to water the plants at 5pm.”
 - “What’s the capital of New Zealand?”
- You can also buy smart speakers like Google Nest or Amazon Alexa that work in similar ways.



Chatbots and ChatGPT

- Chatbots are AI tools that respond to questions you type. ChatGPT is a popular example.
- ChatGPT can respond to questions like:
 - “Help me write a birthday message.”
 - “Plan 3 simple dinners for one.”
 - “What are 5 facts about koalas?”
 - “Give me 3 simple exercises I can do at home.”
 - “Explain how to grow tomatoes in Sydney.”
 - “Write a bedtime story for my 4-year-old grandson about dragons.”
 - “Create a cartoon image of a dog.”



AI risks

- Chatbots and voice assistants might sound confident, but sometimes they:
 - Get facts wrong or leave out important details
 - Make things up or “hallucinate” answers
 - Repeat common mistakes they’ve seen online
 - Try to please you. That means they might give an answer just because they think you want one, even if it’s not fully correct
- You should always double-check information, especially for health, legal or financial topics.



Safety tips

- Don’t share private or sensitive information with chatbots or voice assistants.
- Use common sense — if something seems wrong or odd, don’t rely on it.
- Be cautious of advice around health, money or legal issues — always ask a trusted source or professional.
- AI can reflect the biases or mistakes in the information it’s trained on — it’s not always neutral or fair.