



AI Essential Terms Glossary for Educators

AI is complex and can be difficult to understand. This glossary provides definitions of key AI terms, to support educators in the process of using AI safely and responsibly.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human intelligence, to perform tasks such as writing text, answering questions, or analysing information.

Generative AI

AI that creates new content (text, images, audio or video) based on patterns learned from vast sets of data.

Large Language Model (LLM)

A type of AI trained on large amounts of text to generate human-like responses to questions or prompts.

Prompt

The instruction or question a user gives to an AI system to produce a response.

Hallucination

When an AI system provides information that is presented as fact but is actually incorrect, unreliable or fabricated.

Bias

When an AI system produces unfair, unbalanced or prejudiced outputs because of gaps or patterns in its training data.

False positive

When an AI system incorrectly identifies a problem or risk that isn't actually present.

False negative

When an AI system fails to identify a real problem or risk that is present.

Over-reliance

When users trust AI outputs too much and fail to apply professional judgement or verification.

Automation bias

The tendency to believe AI outputs are correct simply because they come from a system, rather than questioning them.

Prompt injection

A technique used to manipulate an AI system into producing unintended or unsafe outputs by giving it carefully crafted instructions.

Jailbreaking

Attempts to bypass an AI system's safety controls or restrictions.

Deepfake

AI-generated or altered images, audio or video that falsely appear to show real people saying or doing things they did not.

Synthetic media

Any media (text, images, audio or video) created or altered using AI rather than recorded directly from real events.

Synthetic relationship

A perceived relationship with an AI or digital persona, where trust or emotional connection exists, despite the absence of a human counterpart.

Impersonation

When AI is used to pretend to be a real person, such as a student, staff member or trusted contact.

Data leakage

When personal or sensitive information is shared with or exposed through an AI system inappropriately.

Professional judgement

Using experience, training and context to make decisions, rather than relying only on AI outputs.

To learn more about AI in education, including how to make this technology safer for students, visit our dedicated [AI safeguarding page](#).