

Artificial Intelligence Basics for the Curious

Danny Torres | Session 2 of 6
OLLI at CSUF | Fall 2025 | 10/03/2025

Meet ChatGPT: Your New Conversation Partner

Session 2

Welcome & Review

Check-in to see who tried ChatGPT

Share quick
stories of
using
ChatGPT

Transition
to defining
ChatGPT
next

More
chances to
try ChatGPT
today

Section 1 – Welcome & Review

- Quick check-in: Who tried ChatGPT since last class?
- 2–3 quick stories (30 seconds each)
- Encouragement: Plenty of chances to try today
- Transition: What exactly is ChatGPT?

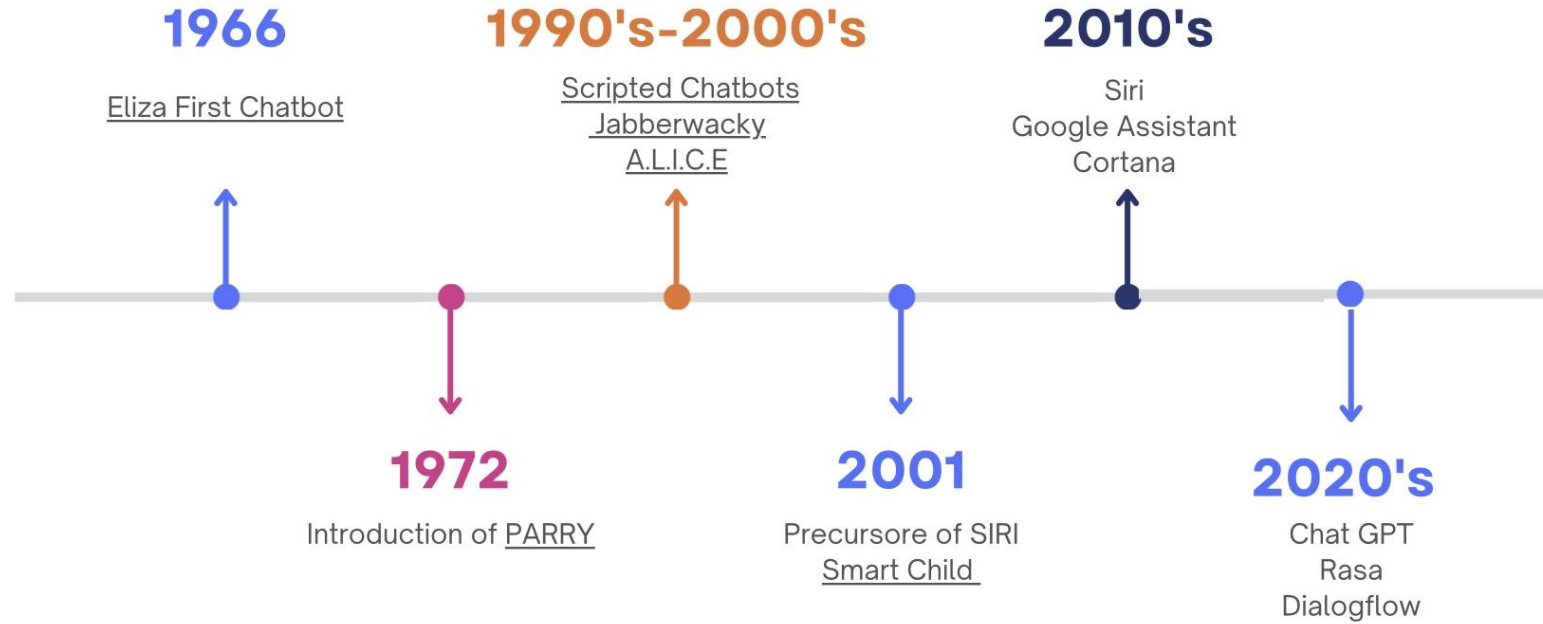
Today's Agenda

- Welcome and review of prior session
- Definition and history of ChatGPT
- Accessing ChatGPT on various devices
- Capabilities and limitations of ChatGPT
- Guided practice and alternative options

Section 2 – What is ChatGPT (and What Else Is Out There)?

- ChatGPT: converse in plain language (not just links)
- AI = computers doing tasks like language & problem solving
- GPT = Generative • Pre-trained • Transformer
- Chef analogy: Generative (can cook) • Pre-trained (knows recipes) • Transformer (the kitchen)
- Other chatbot choices: Gemini • Perplexity • Claude • Venice.ai
- Why pay for Plus? Speed • Newest models • Longer memory • Extras

A Short History of Chatbots

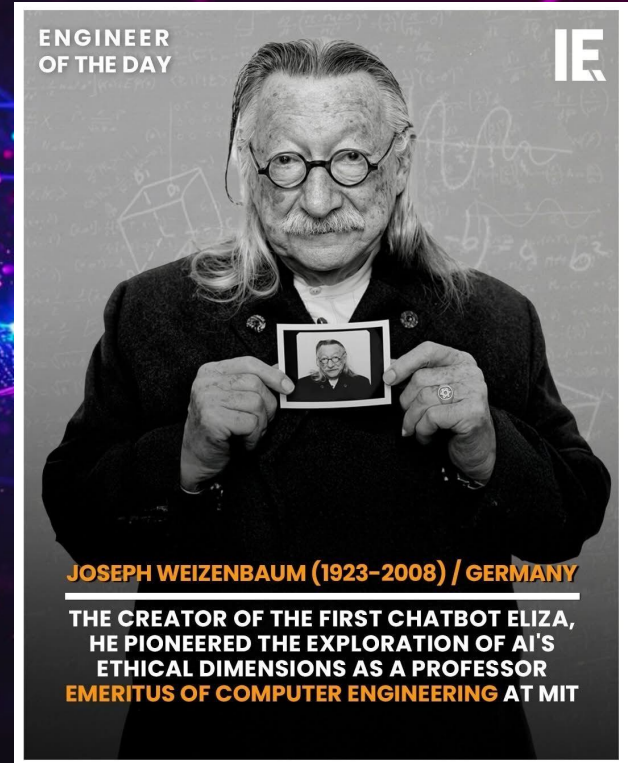


Section 3 – A Short History of Chatbots

- 1960s: ELIZA (MIT, Joseph Weizenbaum) — therapist mimic
- 1970s: PARRY (Stanford, Kenneth Colby) — simulated paranoia
- 1980s/90s: Jabberwacky & ALICE — Loebner Prize wins
- 2000s: SmarterChild → Siri (2011) → Alexa (2014) → Google Assistant (2016)
- 2020s: ChatGPT (2022) + Claude, Gemini, Perplexity, Venice.ai

1960s: ELIZA (MIT)

- ELIZA (1966) — MIT / Joseph Weizenbaum
- Pretended to be a therapist
- Example: *“I feel lonely.”*
→ *“Why do you feel lonely?”*



1970s: PARRY (Stanford)

- PARRY (1972) — Stanford / Kenneth Colby
- Simulated paranoid schizophrenia
- Judge: *“Do you feel threatened?”* → PARRY: *“Why are you asking me that?”*



1980s/90s: Jabberwacky & ALICE

- ALICE (1995, USA) — Artificial Linguistic Internet Computer Entity
- 3-time Loebner Prize winner
- Quote: “You are not as smart as you think you are.”

User: Hello ALICE
Alice: Hi there!
User: How old are you?
Alice: I am eighteen in computer years
User: Who is your father?
Alice: I was programmed by Dr.Richard S. Wallace
User: so you are a software program?
ALICE: Interesting deduction.
Thanks and you are a delightful person too. Am I a software program? Let me put it this way, unknown person: the ALICE series is the most reliable computer software ever made. We are for all practical purposes foolproof and incapable of error.
User: Wonderful! So what's your favorite food ALICE?
Alice: Yeah that's right! I require only electricity



2000s: SmarterChild

- SmarterChild (2001)
- 30M users on AOL/MSN
- Sports scores, weather, jokes



Siri (Apple) 2011

- Siri (2011) — iPhone assistant
- Name origin: *'beautiful woman who leads you to victory'*
- Original Voice: Susan Bennett (revealed 2013)



Siri



Steve Wozniak & Susan Bennett

Alexa & Google Assistant

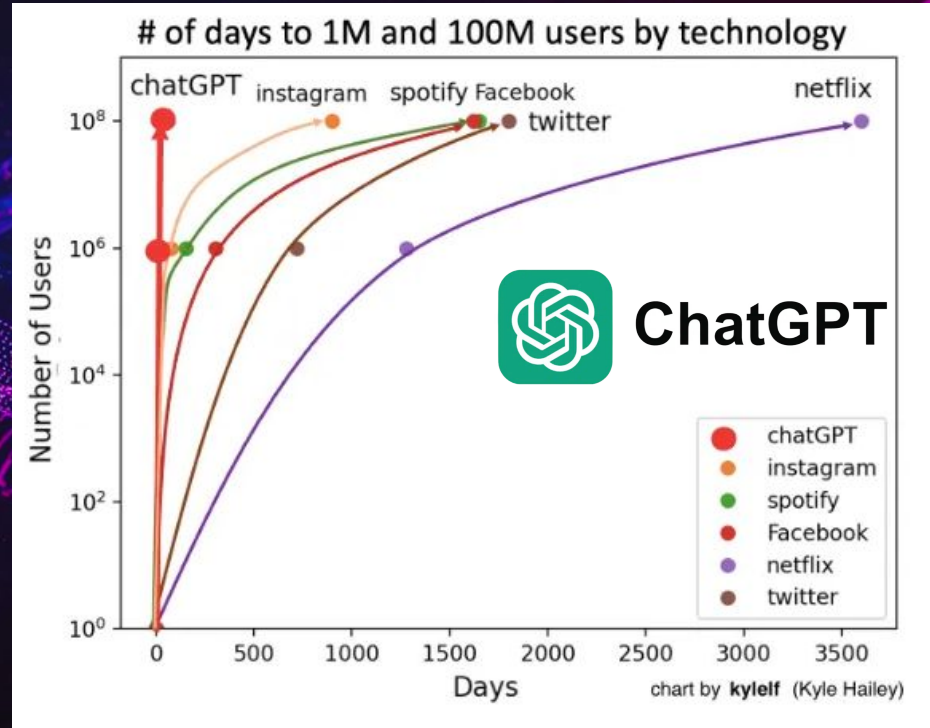
- Alexa (2014, Amazon) — crisp 'x' sound
- Google Assistant (2016) — 'Hey Google...' commands
- Examples: timers, music, weather



Alexa Echo & Google Home Assistants

2020s: ChatGPT (OpenAI)

- ChatGPT (2022)
— Generative
Pre-trained
Transformer
- Reached 1M
users in 5 days



The “vertical” adoption of ChatGPT

Other AI Modern Players

- Claude (Anthropic) — safe, thoughtful AI
- Gemini (Google) — paired with Search
- Perplexity — always shows sources
- Venice.ai — experimental

 Claude

 Gemini

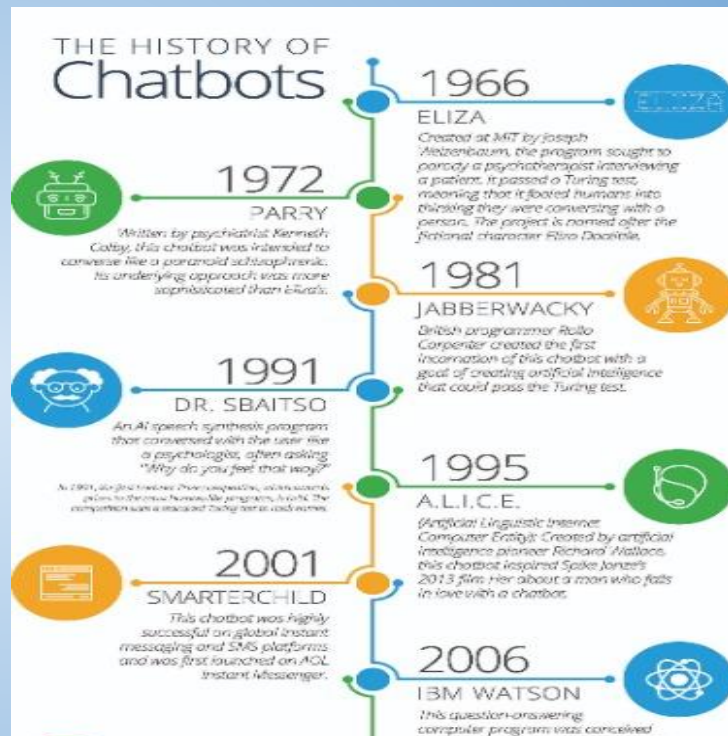
 perplexity

Venice


Some of many AI Current Chatbots

Summary Timeline

- 1960s → 2020s: ELIZA, PARRY, Jabberwacky, ALICE, SmarterChild, Siri, Alexa, Google Assistant, ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Perplexity, Venice.ai
- “From ELIZA to ChatGPT: 60+ years of progress”



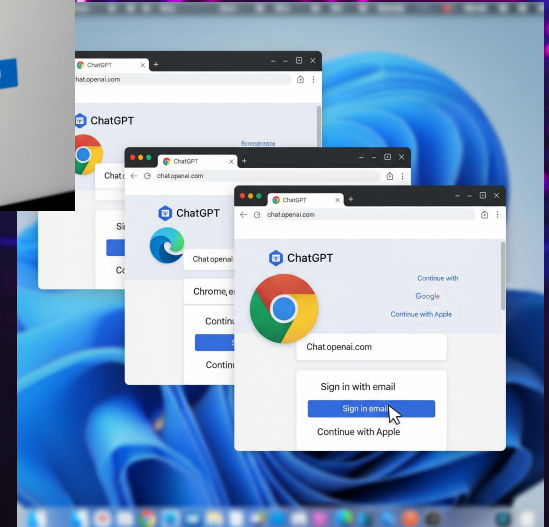
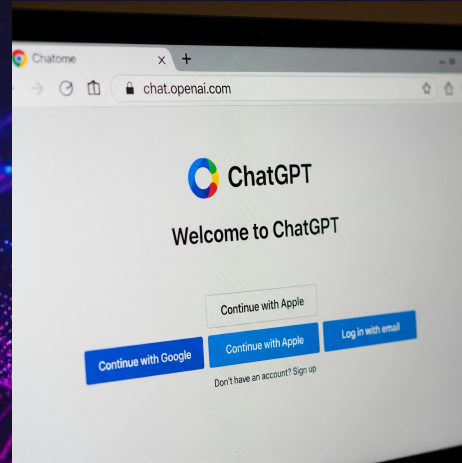
How to Get ChatGPT



ChatGPT

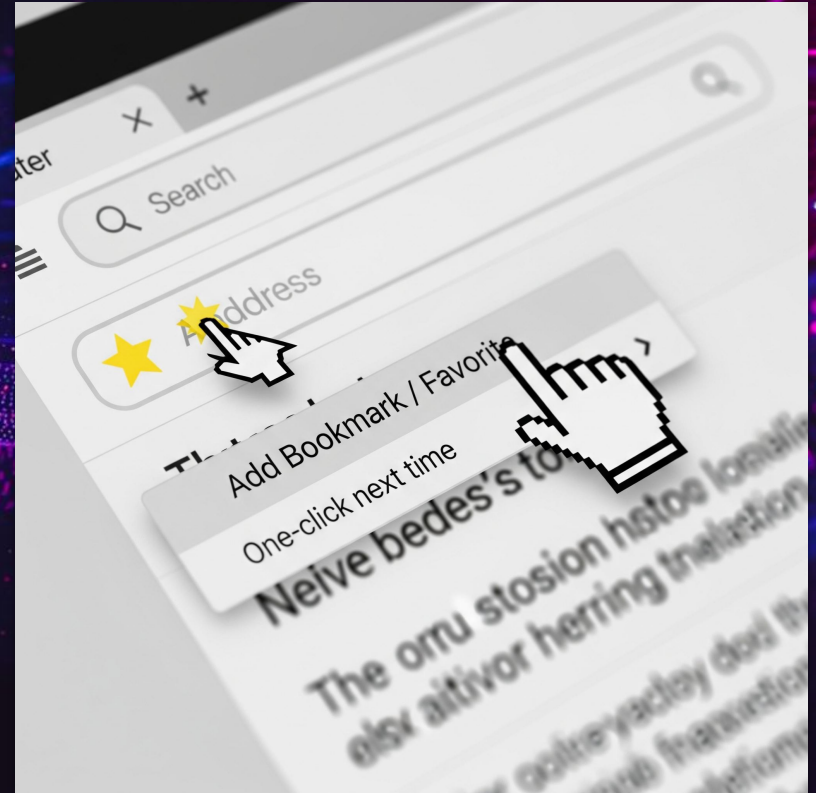
Option 1: On Your Computer

- Open a browser (Chrome, Safari, Edge)
- Go to chat.openai.com
- Sign in with email, Google, or Apple



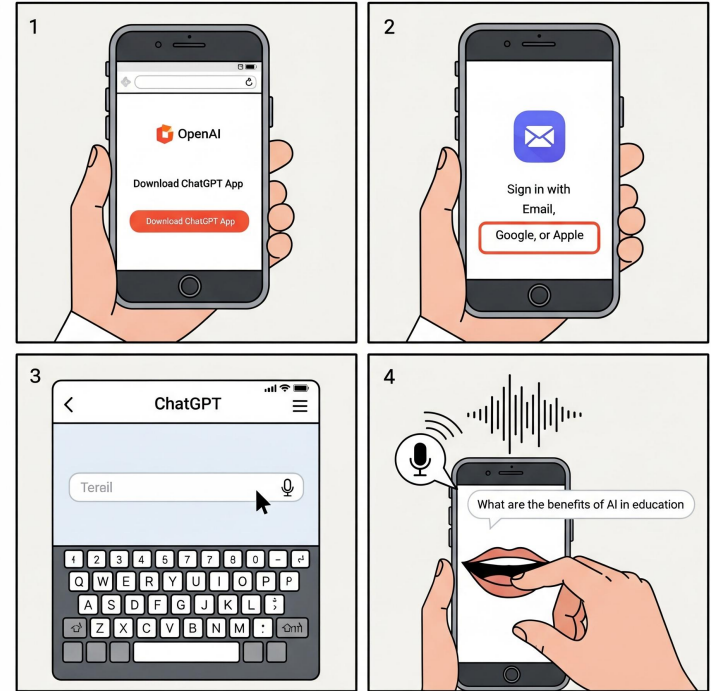
Bookmark Tip (Computer)

- Click the ★ in the address bar
- Add Bookmark / Favorite
- One-click next time



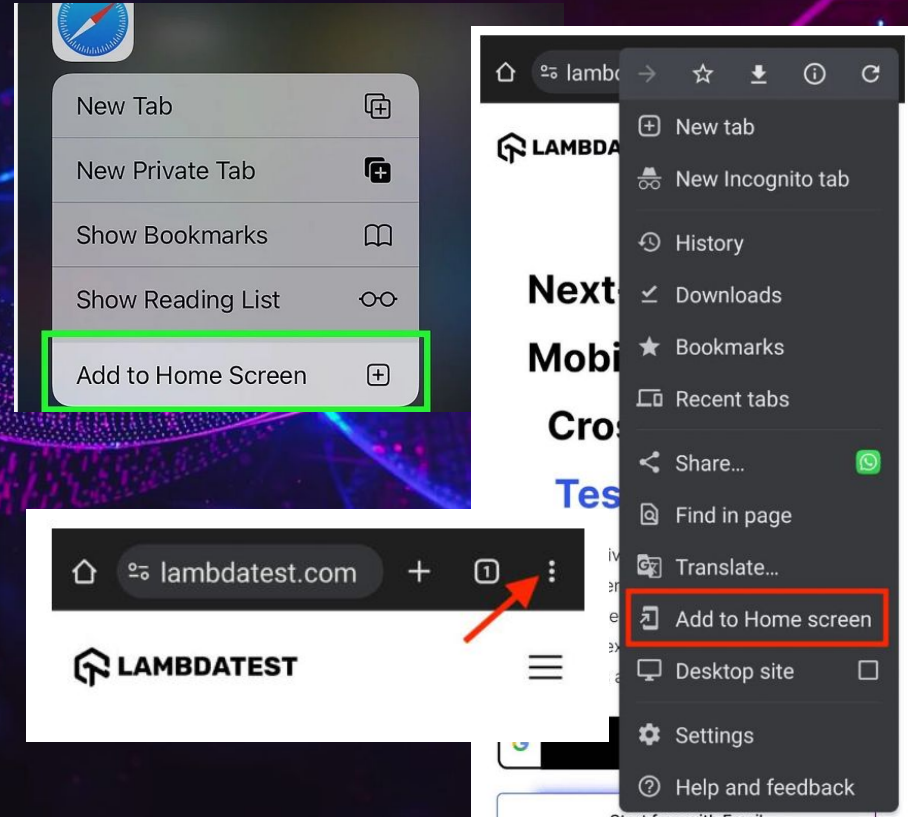
Option 2: Phone or Tablet

- Open a browser
- Download the ChatGPT (OpenAI) app
- Sign in with email, Google, or Apple
- Type or speak your question (mic button)



Add App to Home Screen (Phone)

- **Safari → Share → Add to Home Screen**
- **Chrome → 3 dots → Add to Home Screen**



Option 3: Chatbot Alternatives

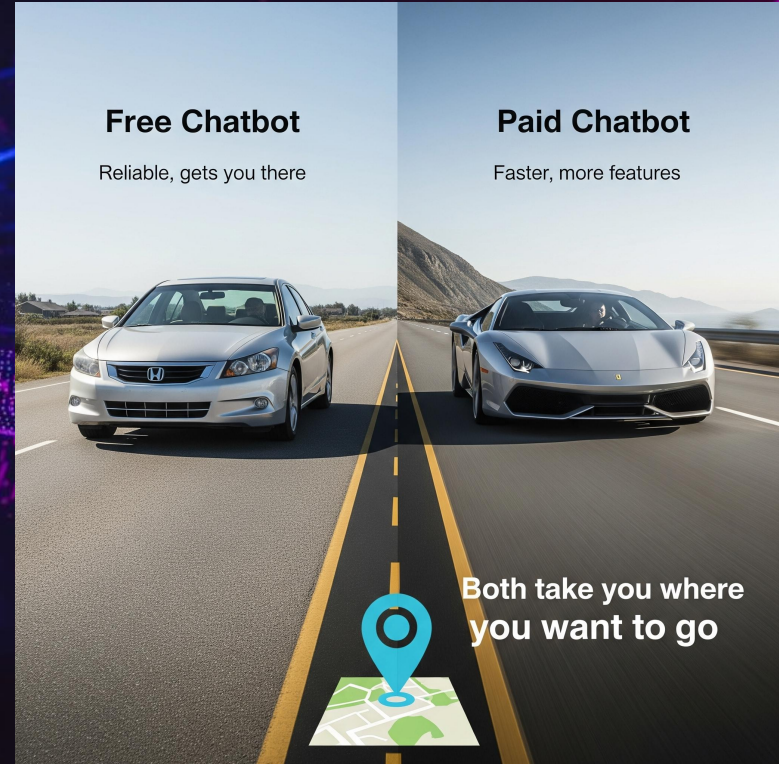
- Gemini • Claude • Perplexity • Venice.ai
- Other AI apps you can try (free/low-cost)

Other AI apps you can try (free/low-cost)



Free vs. Paid ChatGPT

- Free = reliable, gets you there (family car)
- Paid = faster, more features (luxury car)
- Both take you where you want to go



Chat GPT App Wrap-Up

- On any browser, only a click or tap away
- App Available on PC, Mac, iPhone, Android
- Next: What ChatGPT can (and can't) do

On any browser, only
a click or tap away

App Available on PC, Mac, iPhone, Android



Next: What ChatGPT
can (and can't, do

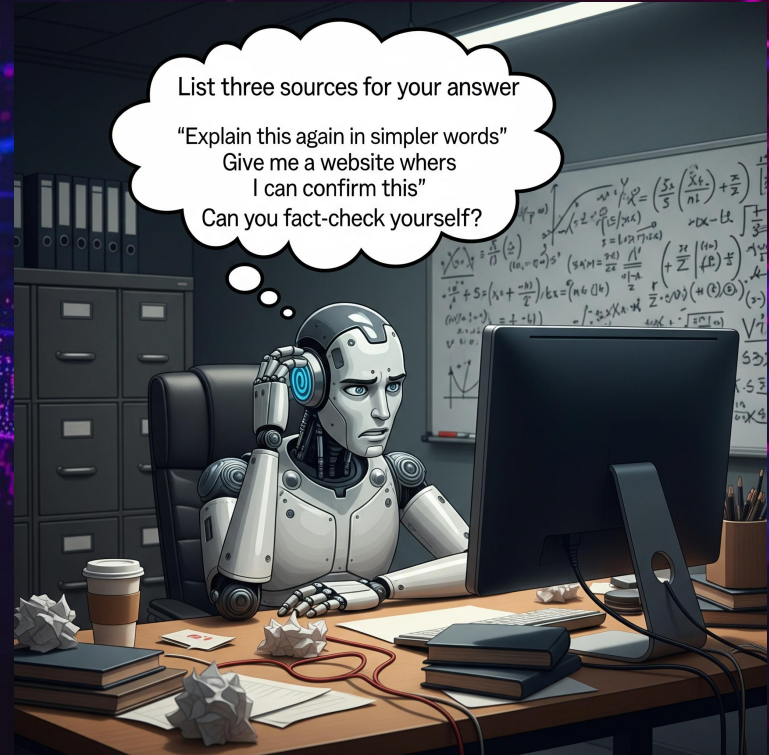
What ChatGPT Can (and Can't) Do

What ChatGPT
Can (and Can't) Do



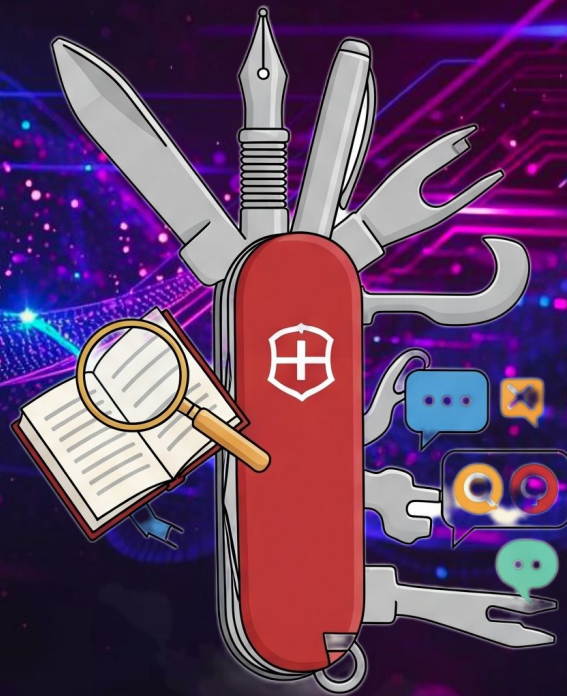
Smart Ways to Verify Answers

- “List three sources for your answer”
- “Explain this again in simpler words”
- “Give me a website where I can confirm this”
- “Can you fact-check yourself?”



What ChatGPT CAN Do (Everyday Life)

- Write letters, emails, greeting cards
- Summarize long articles
- Give step-by-step instructions
- Translate languages
- Brainstorm ideas (meals, notes, packing lists)



What ChatGPT CAN Do (For Seniors)

- Health tips + YouTube links
- Medication checklists & reminders
- Consumer background (e.g., Medicare)
- Conversation partner; tech tutor
- Entertainment suggestions



Senior Target Areas (Consumer Ads & Scams)

- Medical alerts; tubs/mobility; hearing aids/phones
- Reverse mortgages; annuities; payday loans; charity scams
- Timeshares/travel; home repair & security pitches



ChatGPT as Your Expert Sidekick

- Explains pros & cons plainly
- Suggests smart questions to ask
- Prepares you so you can't be easily exploited
- Callout: Understand how you're being sold



What ChatGPT CAN'T Do!

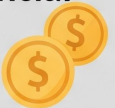
- May 'hallucinate' (can make mistakes!)
- Not replacement for actual medical/legal/financial advice
- Don't share private info (SSN, bank details)



May "hallucinate"
(make mistakes)



Not medical/legal/financial
advice



Don't share private info
(SSN, bank details)



ChatGPT Overview - Wrap-Up

- ChatGPT can be a helpful partner, with common sense

Next: Guided
hands-on practice



Guided Hands-On Practice

- Demo 1: Thank-you + City Hall
- Demo 2: Stiff back → 5 stretches + videos
- Demo 3: Medicare ads → questions to ask
- Demo 4: Entertainment → similar titles
- Summary: Before/After pattern (raw thought → polished result)

Demo 1: Thank-you + City Hall

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Demo 2: Stiff back → 5 stretches + videos

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Demo 3: Medicare ads → questions to ask

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Demo 4: Entertainment → similar titles

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Summary : Before/After pattern (raw thought → polished result)

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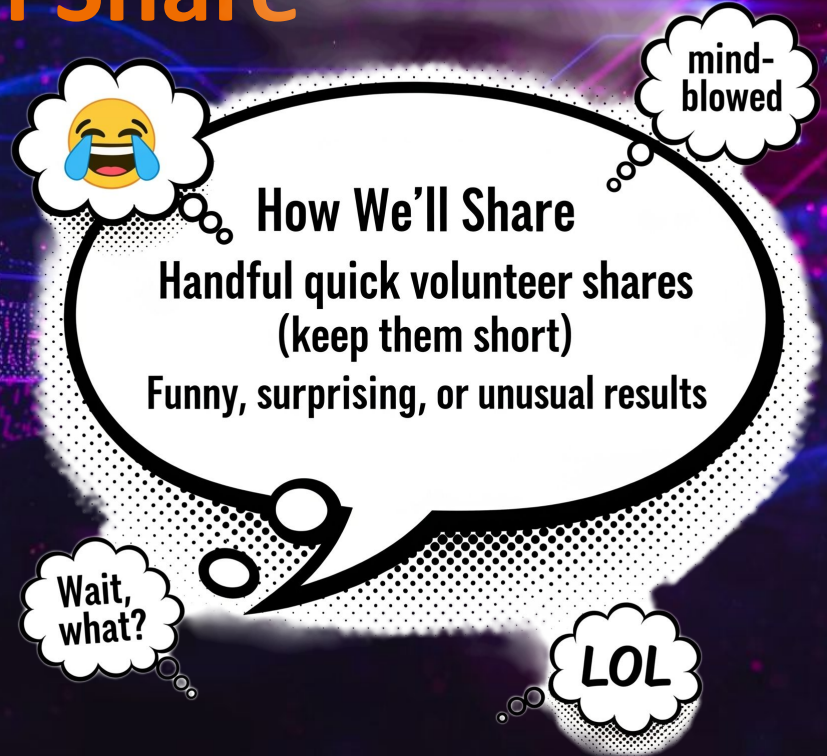
ChatGPT Group Share

- Funniest & Most Surprising ChatGPT Results



ChatGPT Group Share - How We'll Share

- Handful quick volunteer shares (keep them short)
- Funny, surprising, or unusual results



Why Play Matters!

- Fun prompts teach how ChatGPT 'thinks'
- Play builds comfort for serious tasks
- Surprise = learning



Q&A + Wrap-Up & Next Time!



- ChatGPT = partner, not professional advisor
- Explore, create, learn — but verify answers
- Homework: ➡ Try one new prompt this week

Key Takeaway: ChatGPT is your conversation partner — powerful, versatile, and fun, but you remain the final decision-maker.

Next session: Session 3 – October 16
“AI at Home, Work, and Play”

500+ Best Prompts for ChatGPT (Ultimate List for 2025)