

The autocomplete that ate the world

Module 01 · What AI Actually Is · Chapter 01

What you will learn

- ☐ What a "large language model" really is
- ☐ Why prediction produces usefulness
- ☐ The single habit that explains everything AI does well and badly

Your exercise

TRY IT YOURSELF · ABOUT 10 MINUTES

Open any free AI chat app. Type: Explain what you are in exactly three sentences, as if I am 12 years old. Read the answer twice. Then type: Now tell me one thing you genuinely cannot do. Save both answers in a note. You just collected your first two data points about what this machine is, straight from the machine itself.

My notes

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- An LLM is a giant next-word predictor trained on oceans of text.
- Prediction forces it to absorb knowledge, which is why it seems smart.
- It produces plausible text, not verified truth, treat outputs as drafts until checked.
- ChatGPT/Claude/Gemini are brands; the underlying thing is always a model that predicts.

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