

AI Basics

for everyday life.

A warm, practical introduction to AI
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AI is *not* Google.

If you talk to AI the way you search Google, you will get disappointing results. This is the single biggest reason beginners give up.

Google • Keyword Mindset

You type the *shortest words* possible and hope for a link.

"vacation italy cheap" → 10 blue links to read yourself.

Google helps you *find* information.

AI • Conversation Mindset

You *talk* to it the way you would talk to a knowledgeable friend.

Full sentences. Background. Questions back and forth.

AI helps you *work through* information.

Two ways to use AI.

Almost everything you'll ever do with AI fits into one of two buckets. Knowing which one you're in changes how you talk to it.

Mode One

Think.

Help me figure something out.

- Should we move Grandma in with us?
- What's a fair price for this car?
- How do I explain this to my teenager?
- Plan a Bible study on patience.

Mode Two

Do.

Help me produce something.

- Write a kind email to a contractor.
- Make a packing list for our trip.
- Draft thank-you notes to volunteers.
- Summarize this 12-page document.

Why beginners feel let down.

It is almost never that AI is bad. It is almost always one of these three.

1

Too little context.

They give AI three words and expect it to read their mind.

"plan a vacation" — to where? with whom? for how long? what budget?

2

One-shot requests.

They send one message, read the reply, and walk away.

It's a conversation, not a vending machine. Keep talking.

3

Expecting perfection.

First answer feels off, so they give up entirely.

AI gives you an 80% draft. Your job is to bring the last 20%.

Ask AI to ask *you* questions first.

Don't just ask for the answer. First, ask AI to understand your situation. This single habit will make AI feel ten times smarter overnight.

A Reusable Prompt You Can Memorize

*"I want help with ____.
Here's everything I know: ____.
Before you answer,
ask me any other questions
you need so you understand my situation."*

Works for vacations, emails, sermons, recipes, gifts, decisions — anything.

The Three Moves

1. Say what you want — and tell it everything you already know.

Dates, who's coming, where, budget, what you love, what you hate, anything relevant. More context = better answer.

2. Then ask it what else it needs to know.

"Before you answer, ask me any other questions that would help." It will fill in the gaps you forgot.

3. Answer its follow-ups. Then ask for the plan.

Now the answer is built around *your* life — not a generic stranger's.

★ Live Demo · Watch With Me

Planning a family vacation.

Same goal, two different ways of asking. Watch what happens.

The Google Way

You type:

"Plan me a vacation."

What you get back:

A generic list of "top 10 destinations" — Paris, Bali, Yellowstone.

No idea about your budget, your kids' ages, that your husband hates flying, or that you only have a long weekend.

You close the tab. "AI isn't that helpful."

The Conversation Way

You type:

"Help me plan a summer trip for our family. Before suggesting anything, ask me 5 questions so you understand us."

What you get back:

- How many people, and what ages?
- What's your budget feel like?
- Do you want to fly or drive?
- Beach, mountains, or city?
- Anyone who needs special care?

Expect 80%. Verify the rest.

AI is a strong, fast, tireless assistant.
It is *not* the final authority on anything that matters.



80%

A great draft

*The last 20% is yours:
facts, names, dates,
tone, judgment.*

If it matters, verify it.

- Dates, prices, hours, addresses — *double-check.*
- Names of people and places — *double-check.*
- Bible verses and quotes — *always look up.*
- Medical, legal, financial — *ask a real human.*

Use AI with *wisdom,* *intention,* and *discernment.*

Remember

It's a conversation,
not a search box.

Practice

Ask AI to ask *you*
questions first.

Always

If it matters,
verify it.

20 starter prompts for everyday life.

Copy any of these into ChatGPT, Claude, or Gemini. Add your own details. Let it ask you questions.

Use AI to THINK

1. Help me weigh whether to take on this new responsibility. Ask me 5 questions first.
2. I'm worried about a hard conversation with my adult child. Walk me through how to think about it.
3. Help me build a simple monthly budget. Ask about my income and bills first.
4. What questions should I be asking before I sign this lease?
5. I want to start a small group at church. Help me think through what kind.
6. My elderly parent needs more help. What are my options and trade-offs?
7. Help me plan a sabbatical week — what would actually restore me?

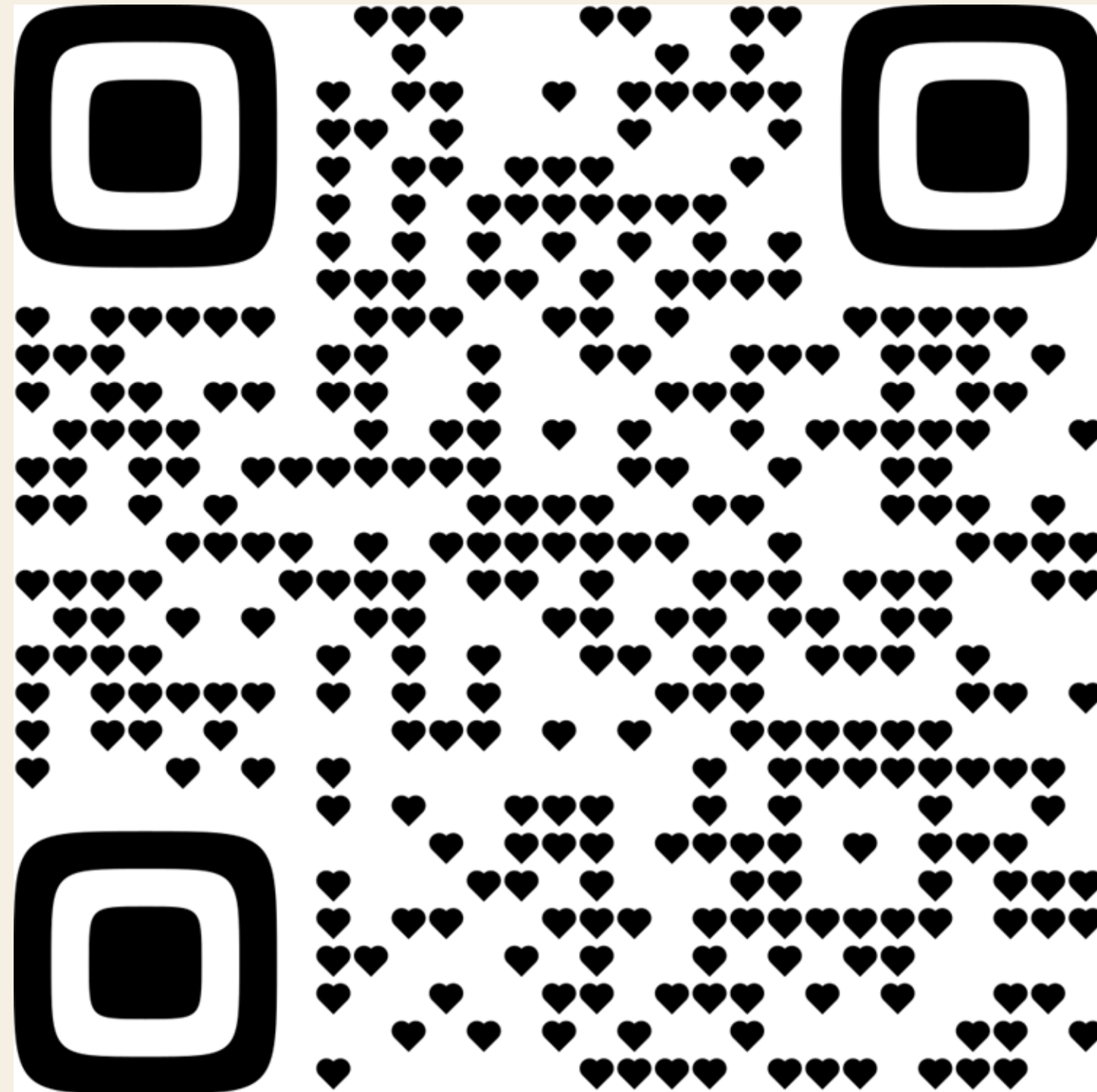
Use AI to DO

8. Draft a kind but firm email asking a contractor to fix something.
9. Write a thank-you note to the volunteers who served Sunday breakfast.
10. Make a 7-day packing list for a trip to [destination] in [season].
11. Summarize this article in 5 bullet points for my book club.
12. Suggest 10 dinner ideas using what's in my pantry: [list].
13. Turn these rough notes into a clear announcement for the bulletin.
14. Write a short, warm condolence message — I'll personalize it.

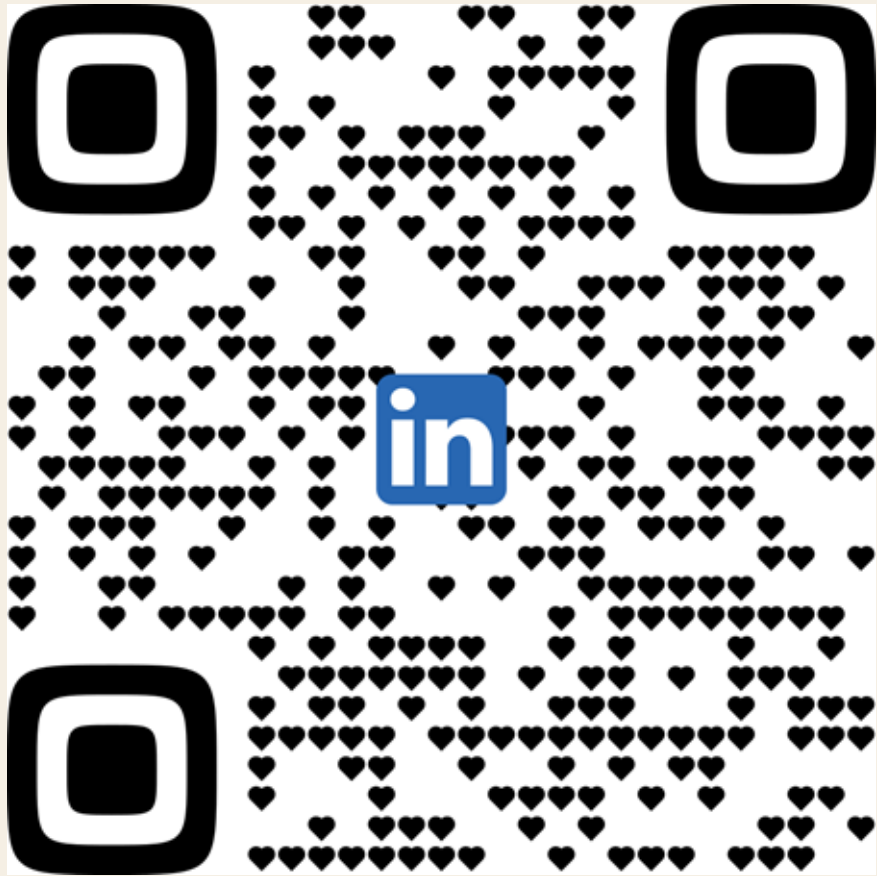
Use AI to LEARN

15. Explain how a 401(k) works as if I'm 65 and new to investing.
16. Help me understand the news story about [topic] — give me the background.
17. Teach me to use my new phone's camera, step by step.
18. Walk me through pruning my tomato plants for a beginner.
19. Give me a one-week reading plan to study the book of James.
20. Quiz me on what I just read so I remember it tomorrow.

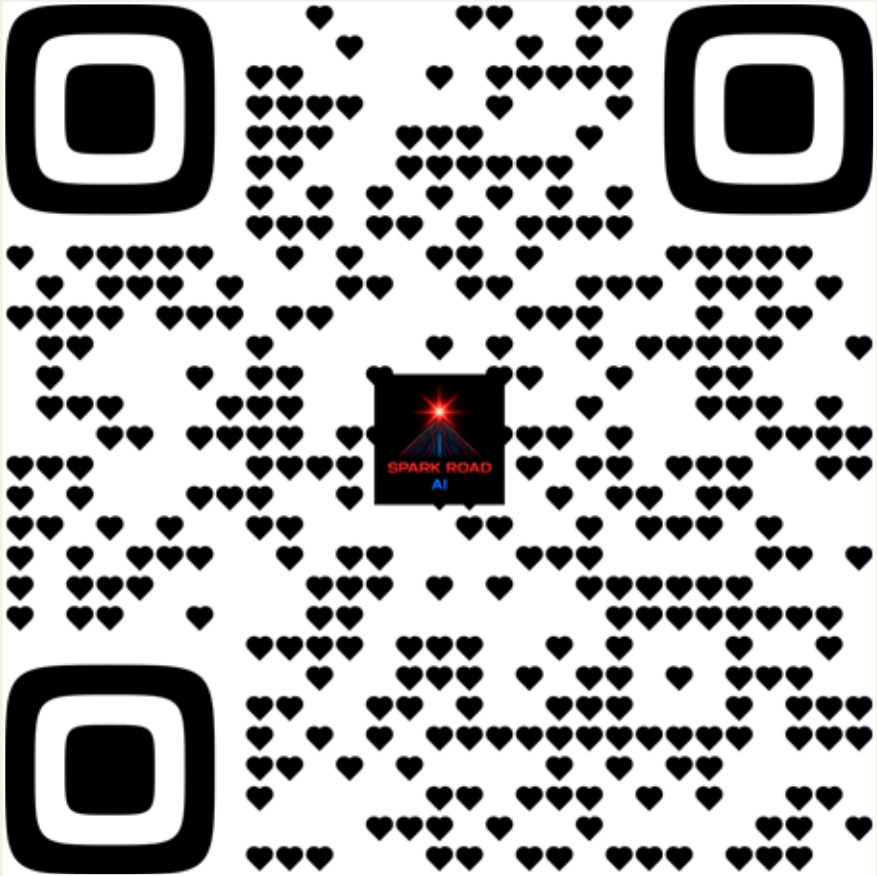
Grab a copy of these slides.



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Unfortunately I lost the full chat we did in the session because I had it set as temporary. However, here is a version that I recreated that is pretty close.

<https://www.genspark.ai/agents?id=3b45f5b1-1717-4a54-8ec4-0a81ba93ffe0>

Here is a link to the notes from the session.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kvw-x1_8qE69fCaA0lj0lmAt90UJo0GcEgQzbZQ2uRI/edit?usp=sharing