Introduction to Generative AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a part of our everyday lives in many ways:













recommendations



customer service

AI can do repetitive jobs, make daily life easier, adapt to our needs, or help us make decisions.

Generative AI is a type of AI that can create text, images, and other media. You can try it with online tools like **ChatGPT** by OpenAI, **Copilot** by Microsoft, **Gemini** by Google, or **Claude** by Anthropic.

In recent years, Generative AI has become easier to access, offering exciting new possibilities for teachers and learners. For example, it can be used as a teaching assistant or an interactive learning tool.

This guide will help you use Generative AI efficiently and responsibly. We'll learn how to write effective prompts, look at useful examples, and share tips on ethical and responsible AI use.

Remember that AI is a tool, not a replacement for teaching. When used wisely, it can boost your expertise and empower your learners to achieve their goals.

How does Generative AI work?

Generative AI models are **trained on large amounts of data**. This allows them to recognise patterns, predict outcomes, and create content that looks human-made.

Although the technology doesn't "understand" ideas, it **uses patterns to create likely responses**.

Language teachers can use Generative AI to create personalised learning materials and interactive activities that meet their learners' different needs.

How to explain this to young learners?

Generative AI is like a smart robot that looks at many examples and learns from them to make new things, like stories or pictures.

The robot doesn't really understand what it's making, but it knows how to put things together in a way that looks right.

What is a prompt?

A prompt is what you give to the AI to guide its response.

It can be a word, phrase, or sentence that explains the situation to the AI and helps it create relevant text or media.

For example, if you type "Write a story about a brave knight," the AI will create a story based on that idea.

Your prompts can help shape the AI's output and direct the content in a specific way.

Prompt writing, also known as prompt engineering, is not really a technical skill.

It relies on communication, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving.

If you are a good communicator, you can also be a good prompt engineer!

How to write effective prompts?

Writing effective prompts helps Generative AI give the best results.

There are many ways to write a good prompt. Let's try these three steps:

1. Define the ROLE

2. Provide the TASK

3. Explain the FORM

Define the role you want the AI to take. This will help the AI include the right context and perspective.

Provide the task you want the AI to perform.

Being specific will get you the desired outcome.

Explain the form, structure, or language you want the AI to use in its response.

Example

Example

Example

You are a teacher at a secondary school, teaching English as a foreign language.

Write a short story about a teenager adjusting to life after moving to a new city using Past Simple and Present Simple only. Write one short paragraph and three reading comprehension multiple choice questions at the end of the text.

By including the role, task, and form in your prompt, you can guide the AI to create more relevant content. This is especially useful for creating tailored learning materials and activities for your learners.

Go to any available Generative AI chatbot and try it out.

Don't be afraid to experiment – be creative!