

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 72

Is AI Lying to You Artificial Intelligence Chatbots

Key words & expressions · English + Español

10 words

Your English Toolbox

1

to hallucinate

alucinar datos falsos · inventarse información con total confianza

DEF

(in AI context) to generate false, made-up, or incorrect information with complete confidence — to produce convincing content that is factually wrong

Hallucinate was adapted from its medical meaning (perceiving things that don't exist) to describe a specific failure mode of large language models. Understanding this term is increasingly essential for educated English conversation about technology.

ES

(En contexto de IA) Generar información falsa, inventada o incorrecta con total confianza — producir contenido convincente que es factualmente incorrecto.

Adaptado de su significado médico para describir un modo de fallo específico de los modelos de lenguaje grandes.

AI can hallucinate facts, citations, and even entire books that never existed — always verify.

AI can hallucinate facts, citations, and even entire books that never existed — always verify. -> La IA puede alucinar datos falsos como hechos, citas e incluso libros enteros que nunca existieron — verifica siempre.

The chatbot hallucinated a law that didn't exist and the lawyer didn't check — it became international news.

The chatbot hallucinated a law that didn't exist and the lawyer didn't check — it became international news. -> El chatbot se inventó con total confianza una ley que no existía y el abogado no lo comprobó — se convirtió en noticia internacional.

2

to verify

verificar · comprobar con fuentes fiables

DEF

to check that something is true, accurate, or genuine by examining evidence or cross-referencing sources

Verify is the critical skill of the information age — and of language learning. When you hear a new word, verify its meaning with a reliable source. When AI generates text, verify the facts. The habit of verification is intellectual hygiene.

ES

Comprobar que algo es verdadero, preciso o genuino examinando evidencias o cotejando fuentes. Es la habilidad crítica de la era de la información — y del aprendizaje de idiomas.

Always verify AI-generated information before using it — even the most confident-sounding output can be wrong.

Always verify AI-generated information before using it — even the most confident-sounding output can be wrong. -> Verifica siempre la información generada por IA antes de usarla — incluso el resultado que suena más seguro puede estar equivocado.

She developed the habit of verifying every new word she learned in at least two different contexts.

She developed the habit of verifying every new word she learned in at least two different contexts. -> Desarrolló el hábito de comprobar con fuentes fiables cada nueva palabra que aprendía en al menos dos contextos diferentes.

3

to fact-check

verificar los hechos · verificar que una afirmación es precisa comparándola con fuentes fiables

DEF

to verify that a claim or piece of information is accurate — by checking it against reliable sources

Fact-check is the media literacy and critical thinking verb. In the age of AI-generated and misinformation-heavy content, fact-checking is an essential skill. For English learners, it also models good research practice: do not accept what you read or hear at face value — verify, cross-reference, and check the source.

ES

Verificar que una afirmación o pieza de información es precisa — comprobándola con fuentes fiables. El verbo de la alfabetización mediática y el pensamiento crítico. En la era del contenido generado por IA verificar los hechos es una habilidad esencial.

Fact-check any AI-generated content before using it — even confident-sounding errors can be plausible.

Fact-check any AI-generated content before using it — even confident-sounding errors can be plausible. -> Verifica los hechos de cualquier contenido generado por IA antes de usarlo — incluso los errores que suenan seguros pueden ser plausibles.

She developed a habit of fact-checking before sharing any article and noticed how often even reputable sources contained errors.

She developed a habit of fact-checking before sharing any article and noticed how often even reputable sources contained errors. -> Desarrolló el hábito de verificar los hechos antes de compartir cualquier artículo y notó con qué frecuencia incluso las fuentes de prestigio contenían errores.

a reliable source

4

una fuente fiable · una fuente de información en la que se puede confiar — porque es precisa y acreditada

DEF

a source of information that can be trusted — because it is accurate, credible, expert, and transparent about its methods

Reliable source is the research skill concept. Not all information is equal — the source determines the trustworthiness of a claim. In English academic and professional contexts, being able to evaluate sources is fundamental. Reliable sources are peer-reviewed, authored by experts, and transparent about evidence. Wikipedia, AI chatbots, and anonymous blogs are not reliable sources.

ES

Una fuente de información en la que se puede confiar — porque es precisa, creíble, experta y transparente sobre sus métodos.

El concepto de la habilidad de investigación. No toda la información es igual — la fuente determina la confiabilidad de una afirmación.

Always identify the source before accepting a claim — ask who wrote it, when, and on what evidence.

Always identify the source before accepting a claim — ask who wrote it, when, and on what evidence. -> Siempre identifica la fuente antes de aceptar una afirmación — pregunta quién la escribió, cuándo y con qué evidencia.

She learned to always verify claims against a reliable source before presenting them in her reports.

She learned to always verify claims against a reliable source before presenting them in her reports. -> Aprendió a siempre verificar las afirmaciones con una fuente fiable antes de presentarlas en sus informes.

5

to cross-reference

contrastar · verificar información comparándola con otras fuentes independientes

DEF

to check information by comparing it with other independent sources — to confirm accuracy through multiple lines of evidence

Cross-reference is the verification technique. One source confirming a fact is not proof. Two independent sources confirming the same thing is much stronger. Cross-referencing is what distinguishes careful researchers from credulous ones. In the AI age, cross-referencing AI output against known-accurate sources is essential.

ES

Verificar información comparándola con otras fuentes independientes — confirmar la precisión a través de múltiples evidencias.

La técnica de verificación. Una fuente que confirma un hecho no es prueba. Dos fuentes independientes que confirman lo mismo es mucho más sólido.

Cross-reference any important claim before relying on it — one source is not enough.

Cross-reference any important claim before relying on it — one source is not enough. -> Contrasta cualquier afirmación importante antes de depender de ella — una fuente no es suficiente.

She cross-referenced the AI's statistics against official reports and found three significant inaccuracies.

She cross-referenced the AI's statistics against official reports and found three significant inaccuracies. -> Contrastó las estadísticas de la IA con informes oficiales y encontró tres inexactitudes significativas.

to take with a pinch of salt

6

tomar con cautela · ser algo escéptico sobre la información — no confiar plenamente sin verificación

DEF

to be somewhat sceptical about information — to not fully trust or believe it without further verification

Take with a pinch of salt is the scepticism idiom. It means treating a claim with some doubt — not dismissing it entirely, but not accepting it uncritically either. The phrase is used extensively in English to signal healthy scepticism. 'I'd take that with a pinch of salt' is a sophisticated, native-sounding way to express doubt.

ES

Ser algo escéptico sobre la información — no confiar plenamente ni creerla sin verificación adicional. El modismo del escepticismo. Significa tratar una afirmación con cierta duda — no descartarla, pero tampoco aceptarla sin crítica.

Take AI-generated information with a pinch of salt — it is often plausible but sometimes wrong.

Take AI-generated information with a pinch of salt — it is often plausible but sometimes wrong. -> Toma la información generada por IA con cautela — a menudo es plausible pero a veces es incorrecta.

She learned to take online reviews with a pinch of salt after realising how easily they could be manipulated.

She learned to take online reviews with a pinch of salt after realising how easily they could be manipulated. -> Aprendió a tomar las reseñas online con cautela después de darse cuenta de lo fácilmente que podían ser manipuladas.

misleading

7

engañoso · que da una impresión falsa — no es mentira técnica pero lleva a creer algo incorrecto

DEF

giving a false or inaccurate impression — not technically lying but causing the listener or reader to believe something incorrect

Misleading is the partial truth adjective. Something misleading is not necessarily false — it may be technically accurate but presented in a way that creates a wrong impression. AI hallucinations are often misleading in this way: the words are real, the format is professional, the claim sounds credible — but the content is wrong.

ES

Que da una impresión falsa o inexacta — no mintiendo técnicamente pero haciendo que el oyente o lector crea algo incorrecto.

El adjetivo de la verdad parcial. Algo engañoso no es necesariamente falso — puede ser técnicamente preciso pero presentado de forma que crea una impresión incorrecta.

AI responses can be misleading even when they sound confident — always check the underlying claim.

AI responses can be misleading even when they sound confident — always check the underlying claim. -> Las respuestas de IA pueden ser engañosas incluso cuando suenan seguras — siempre verifica la afirmación subyacente.

The statistic was technically accurate but deeply misleading because it lacked crucial context.

The statistic was technically accurate but deeply misleading because it lacked crucial context. -> La estadística era técnicamente precisa pero profundamente engañosa porque le faltaba contexto crucial.

to double-check

8

volver a comprobar · verificar algo por segunda vez — confirmar que una comprobación anterior fue correcta

DEF

to verify something a second time — to confirm that an earlier check or assumption was correct

Double-check is the verification habit. It is the practice of not trusting your first look — going back to confirm. In professional English, double-checking is expected for anything important: figures, deadlines, names, facts. It is not a sign of insecurity but of care. 'Let me double-check that' is a perfectly natural professional phrase.

ES

Verificar algo por segunda vez — confirmar que una comprobación o suposición anterior fue correcta. El hábito de verificación. La práctica de no confiar en tu primera revisión — volver para confirmar.

Double-check important figures before sending — a second look catches the errors the first misses.

Double-check important figures before sending — a second look catches the errors the first misses. -> Vuelve a comprobar las cifras importantes antes de enviar — una segunda mirada detecta los errores que la primera pasa por alto.

She always double-checked meeting times across time zones to avoid the expensive mistake of getting them wrong.

She always double-checked meeting times across time zones to avoid the expensive mistake of getting them wrong. -> Siempre volvía a comprobar los horarios de las reuniones en las zonas horarias para evitar el costoso error de equivocarse.

critical thinking

9

el pensamiento crítico · el proceso de analizar y evaluar la información en lugar de aceptarla sin cuestionarla

DEF

the disciplined process of analysing, evaluating, and questioning information or arguments — rather than accepting them uncritically

Critical thinking is the meta-skill of the information age. It involves asking: What is the source? What is the evidence? What assumptions are being made? Are there alternative explanations? What are the logical weaknesses? For English learners, critical thinking in a second language is doubly challenging — it requires both linguistic and analytical competence.

ES

El proceso disciplinado de analizar, evaluar y cuestionar información o argumentos — en lugar de aceptarlos sin crítica.

La meta-habilidad de la era de la información. Implica preguntar: ¿Cuál es la fuente? ¿Cuál es la evidencia? ¿Qué suposiciones se hacen?

Critical thinking is the most valuable skill in an age of AI-generated content — question everything.

Critical thinking is the most valuable skill in an age of AI-generated content — question everything. -> El pensamiento crítico es la habilidad más valiosa en una era de contenido generado por IA — cuestiona todo.

She applied critical thinking to the report and identified three claims that were presented as facts but had no evidence.

She applied critical thinking to the report and identified three claims that were presented as facts but had no evidence. -> Aplicó el pensamiento crítico al informe e identificó tres afirmaciones que se presentaban como hechos pero no tenían evidencia.

10

to spot an error

detectar un error · notar un error — especialmente uno que podría pasarse por alto

DEF

to notice a mistake — especially one that might otherwise be overlooked

Spot an error is the quality control verb. In professional English, being the person who spots errors before they go public is valued highly. For language learners, learning to spot errors in their own writing and speaking — by slowing down, proofreading, and listening critically — is a key editing skill.

ES

Notar un error — especialmente uno que podría pasarse por alto fácilmente.

El verbo del control de calidad. En el inglés profesional, ser la persona que detecta errores antes de que se hagan públicos es muy valorado.

Spot errors in AI output by reading slowly and asking: does this actually make sense?

Spot errors in AI output by reading slowly and asking: does this actually make sense? -> Detecta errores en el output de IA leyendo despacio y preguntando: ¿esto tiene realmente sentido?

She spotted an error in the final report that would have been embarrassing if sent to the client.

She spotted an error in the final report that would have been embarrassing if sent to the client. -> Detectó un error en el informe final que habría sido vergonzoso si se hubiera enviado al cliente.