

DAY 21–35 · Part 3 · What It Can Do

Part 3 Review — What It Can Do

From shrinking text to handing over a job · one layer deeper · DAY 21-35

No test — a review to read through

Summarizing is choosing what to throw out

- 1 Summarizing isn't cutting a text off from the front.
- 2 AI skims the whole thing first, then asks of every sentence, **how important is this?**
- 3 Then it keeps only the high scorers and rewrites them in its own words.

Where words that weren't there sneak in

- 1 If you don't say the length and who it's for, AI decides the throw-out rule for you.
- 2 Because the last step rewrites things in its own words, **wording that wasn't in the original** can slip in.
- 3 So a summary you get back has to be matched against the original at least once.

Translation carries meaning, not words

- 1 Translation isn't swapping one word for another.
- 2 You catch the meaning of the whole sentence first, then **build it again in the other language.**
- 3 That's why a word-by-word 'You're taking my hair' says nothing to an English ear.

Idioms and the missing subject

- 1 An idiom isn't the sum of its words — the whole chunk carries one meaning.
- 2 Languages like Korean drop the subject often, so you have to read **what the whole sentence is about** to fill it back in.
- 3 Google put this approach into its real translation service in 2016, and clumsy literal output dropped sharply.

Pieces to hand over, pieces to keep

- 1 AI isn't a machine that writes for you — it's a tool for turning your own writing over and looking at it.
- 2 Your ideas, your experience and checking the facts stay **yours**; tightening and shortening you can hand over.
- 3 Whatever AI writes still goes out with your name on it.

Hand over the listing, keep the choosing

- 1 Getting twenty title options is fine to hand over, but the moment you pick one, that title is your judgment.
- 2 The **what I think** box in a book report is material only you have — hand it over and it turns into a book blurb, and readers notice fast.
- 3 For any number going into a talk, find where that number was first published, check it, and write down the source.

Getting the code is only the start

- 1 It's true that code comes out when you describe what you want.
- 2 But the real half of coding sits **after the code appears.**
- 3 Running it, reading the errors and fixing them — that's where it lives.

A red error isn't a scolding, it's a note

- 1 An error message says which line stopped and why.
- 2 Don't trim it down — **show the whole thing**, that's the fastest repair.
- 3 For anything big, run each chunk as you go and the broken spot shows up right away.

Drawing by clearing away the speckle

- 1 A picture AI doesn't fetch a picture from somewhere.
- 2 It starts from a screen full of dots and draws by **clearing the speckle away bit by bit.**
- 3 Your description is the handle that sets which way the clearing goes.

Whatever you don't say, AI decides

- 1 Color, placement, time of day, mood — say nothing and the common choice fills the gap.
- 2 That's why the same description gives you **a slightly different picture every time.**
- 3 Detailed and greedy aren't the same thing: stuff too much in at once and a few items drop out instead.

Thirty pictures per second

1 Video isn't a moving picture — it's still pictures stitched together fast.

2 One second usually holds **twenty-four to thirty** of them.

3 So making video is tens of times heavier than yesterday's picture-making.

Harder than the volume is the connecting

1 One picture 1920 wide and 1080 tall holds about 2.07 million dots.

2 One second swells to **about 62.2 million dots.**

3 If the cup is on the left in frame 2 and on the right in frame 3, the video looks wrong instantly.

It listens by chopping sound up small

1 AI doesn't take in your speech whole.

2 It writes the sound down as numbers 16,000 times a second and sweeps it with **a 25-millisecond window**.

3 Each piece on its own is just a pattern of highs and lows.

Neighbors decide the letters

- 1 Say 'their' and 'there' out loud and the sound is almost the same.
- 2 So AI also looks at **whether a word fits its neighbors** before it picks.
- 3 That's why a name it has never heard goes wrong so often.

A list of places, or one solid block

- 1 Search doesn't give you an answer, it gives you a list of places to go.
- 2 AI takes what it has already read and builds **one solid block of sentences**.
- 3 There's only one thing to read, so it's fast — but where the words came from isn't written down.

The fork is whether the source shows

- 1 Once several sources melt into one block, picking out the single wrong line is hard.
- 2 Even when AI attaches a link, whether that link **actually says that** you only know by clicking.
- 3 In a 2023 study, only 51.5% of sentences were fully supported by their links.

What speeds up is the front end

- 1 Researching with AI makes starting faster.
- 2 It throws out search terms and outline options quickly, so **the finding-and-sifting front end** is what speeds up.
- 3 Numbers, years, people's names and quotes you have to click through and check yourself.

Words that mix in while shrinking

- 1 While a long text is being shortened, wording that wasn't in the original can mix in.
- 2 A sentence you can't find in the original is **better left out**.
- 3 In 2023 a lawyer in the United States was fined after filing fake case law that AI had made up.

Just the answer, or the steps?

- 1 Ask about the same problem and what comes back changes completely depending on whether you asked for the answer or the steps.
- 2 There's one test for choosing — **will I have to do this on my own later?**
- 3 If you'll be on your own, take the steps; if you only need to know whether it's right, take the answer.

Make it walk the steps and AI solves better too

- 1 Research in 2022 found that adding 'explain it step by step' raised accuracy on math problems a lot.
- 2 Getting the same type wrong three times is a sign that **something in the middle is empty.**
- 3 Reading an explanation isn't the same as being able to solve it, so close the page and solve it again.

Collect → table → fix → chart

1 You can't chart scattered material straight away.

2 A table has rules — **one row per case, one value per cell.**

3 Line things up like that and both you and AI can calculate right away.

The boxes AI is good at, and the ones you have to look at

1 Lining rows up and calculating is where AI is fast.

2 Whether units got mixed, whether cells are blank, whether a strange value crept in — **you, who collected the material**, know best.

3 A chart drawn before the fixing is pretty and wrong.

A talk breaks into pieces

- 1 Preparing a talk isn't one lump.
- 2 Narrowing the topic, gathering material, building slides, rehearsing — it **breaks into pieces**.
- 3 The pieces AI is good for are the rough draft and the labor-heavy work.

The pieces with your name on them

- 1 Deciding what to say, checking the numbers, rehearsing and answering questions are yours.
- 2 The most dangerous talk is the one with lovely sentences that **collapses at a single question.**
- 3 A wrong number stays under your name too.

The knob between boring and off-the-wall

- 1 AI picks the next word by probability.
- 2 Grab only the high-probability ones and it turns boring; **reach down to the low ones** and it turns odd.
- 3 That handle for widening and narrowing really exists, and it's called temperature.

Pull a wide pile, then pick yourself

- 1 Turn the knob up and the usable ideas and the throwaway ideas grow together.
- 2 Turn it down for translation and summarizing, **up for an idea session.**
- 3 Even with no knob on screen, saying 'twenty more, and weirder' gets a similar effect.

Goal → break up → order → check

1 When you're stuck, don't ask AI for the answer — ask it to break the job up.

2 Planning isn't knowing the right answer, it's deciding **what to do first**.

3 Goal, break up, order, check — fill those four boxes and you have a plan.

Give conditions and you get a plan you can use

- 1 Tell it the time you have, the size of the thing, and what you can actually do.
- 2 With no conditions, AI will make **any plan at all, plausibly.**
- 3 The check box isn't extra work — it's the box that buys you time to undo things.

If you can undo it, hand it off

- 1 An AI that takes only a goal and then searches, opens files and retries on failure by itself is called an agent.
- 2 There's really one test for what you can hand over — **can you undo it when it's wrong?**
- 3 A file name you can undo; money sent and a report handed in you cannot.

Leave a box where a person looks

- 1 Agents often miss the things people find easy.
- 2 In the first evaluation in 2023, people finished 92% of errand-style problems and agents finished **only 15%**.
- 3 On tasks in real websites it was 78.2% for people against 14.4% for agents.

**Listing and shrinking go to AI,
picking and checking stay with me.**



Part 4 looks at what to watch out for.