

Does every AI follow the same rules? — AI has laws too

Five-Minute AI Lessons · Oct 21, 2026

The law doesn't block AI completely, and it doesn't leave it alone either. It sorts uses into boxes by risk and treats each one differently.

In a nutshell

- 1 AI has laws too. But they don't treat every AI the same way — they **sort uses into boxes by how risky they are** and set different rules for each.
- 2 The European Union's AI Act shows this most clearly. It splits uses into four boxes: **banned outright · high-risk · must disclose · minimal**.
- 3 In South Korea, the AI Basic Act also took effect in January 2026. One rule that stands out: **content made by AI has to be labeled as made by AI**.

The bigger the risk, the stricter the rules

Banned outright



Can't be used at all

High-risk



Pass checks · human oversight

Must disclose



Say it's AI

Minimal



No special rules

The law doesn't look at 'what technology is it' but 'what are you doing with it.' The same face recognition goes in a low box when it unlocks your phone, and a top box when it's used to secretly pick people out.

Key idea: look at the use, not the tech, and sort it into boxes by how risky it is

Same list, different boxes

① Banned outright

Too risky to use at all

Homework helper

Photo touch-up

AI-made video

Admissions & gr...

Helping diagnose

Reading moods f...

Ranking people...

The uses seen as most dangerous don't get conditions — they're banned outright. Reading moods from faces at sch...

② High-risk

Allowed, but must pass checks

Homework helper

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This is AI in places where your life is on the line, like admissions, grades, or finding out what's wrong when...

③ Disclose · ④ Minimal

Just say so, or use it freely

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Ranking people...

If you're talking to an AI instead of a person, or AI made up a video or picture, you have to be told so. Somet...

Here are seven ways AI gets used. Tap each risk box: only the uses in that box light up, and the rest fade.

Try it yourself in the web lesson · next-token.net/en/learn/day-45/

Just three questions

Q1

Which is closest to how AI laws set their rules?

- ① The same rules for every AI
- ② Ban all new AI
- ③ Different rules for different levels of risk
- ④ Let the makers decide

Q2

What happens to a use in the 'high-risk' box?

- ① It can't be used at all
- ② There are no rules
- ③ Just change its name
- ④ It must pass checks and run with human oversight

Q3

What rule applies to an AI-made video?

- ① Say AI made it
- ② It's banned
- ③ Lower its quality
- ④ Make it shorter

Know the why, too

Q1

③

One rule for everything would be too loose on risky uses and too tight on safe ones. So the uses are sorted into boxes by risk, and each box gets its own rules.

Q2

④

High-risk doesn't mean banned. It's for places where people's lives are on the line, like admissions, grades or finding what's wrong when you're sick, so it's allowed on condi...

Q3

①

The problem is that people can be fooled, so instead of banning it, the rule is to say 'AI made this.' The same goes for chats that pretend to be a person: they have to say th...

**The law doesn't block AI completely, and it doesn't leave it alone either.
It sorts uses into boxes by risk and treats each one differently.**



Tomorrow: Neural networks — Part 5 starts. Let's open up AI and see what's inside.