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What Is AI? A Simple, Honest Explanation for Fresh Graduates

By Mahesh Ramanujam, FCA · March 15, 2026 · promptedgrad.com/what-is-ai-2026/

Key Points

1

AI (Artificial Intelligence) is software that learns patterns from data and uses those patterns to make predictions or generate outputs.

2

There are three types to know: Narrow AI (does one thing well, like Gmail spam filters), Generative AI (creates text/images, like ChatGPT), and AGI (human-level AI — does not exist yet).

3

AI does not think. It predicts the most statistically likely output based on its training data. This is why it can be confidently wrong.

4

You are already using AI daily: Google search, YouTube recommendations, UPI fraud detection, and Swiggy delivery estimates all use AI.

5

AI is a tool, not a replacement for thinking. It amplifies whatever capability you bring to it — good inputs produce good outputs.

6

Every graduate needs AI awareness in 2026 — not to build AI, but to use it responsibly and effectively in their chosen profession.

Key Takeaway

AI is not magic, not sentient, and not a threat in itself. It is the most powerful productivity tool of this generation — and it is free.

Read the full article free at:

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