



WHAT IS AN LLM?

How AI models like ChatGPT and Claude work, in plain words.

An LLM (Large Language Model) is trained on huge amounts of text to predict the next word piece, over and over, until a full answer appears.

KEY IDEAS

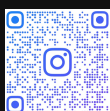
Term	Meaning
Token	A small chunk of text (a word or part of one). Models read and write tokens
Training	Learning patterns from huge amounts of text. Done once, takes a lot of computing
Inference	Using the trained model to answer your prompt
Prompt	The instructions and question you give it
Context window	How much text the model can look at at once
Parameters	The numbers the model learned. More usually means more capability

GOOD TO KNOW

- It is not looking answers up in a database. It generates text from patterns it learned.
- It can sound confident and still be wrong (this is called a hallucination). Check important facts.
- Clear prompts with context and examples give better answers.

TRY IT YOURSELF

1. Ask the same question twice. Notice the wording changes.
2. Ask for the answer "in 3 bullet points for a beginner".
3. Ask about something very recent and see whether it knows.



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