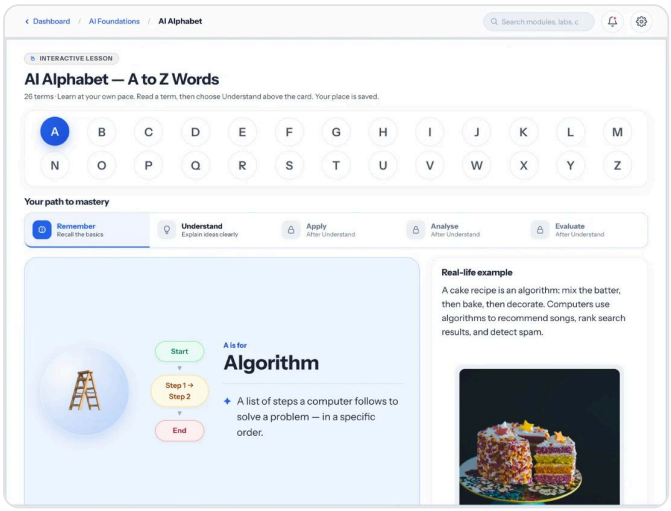
AI Alphabet

A to Z Words

All grades | 60 minutes | Role: **Codebook Keeper** | **Free**, no account needed



The big idea

AI is not one thing but a field of many ideas, and each has a word: algorithm, data, prompt, hallucination. The AI Alphabet takes 26 of them through the same five steps. A learner who can use a word in a real sentence, and spot it used wrongly, can judge claims about AI instead of repeating them.

The learner's job

Learners are the **Codebook Keeper** at Halden Institute · Records Room. People all over town use these words every day. Most of them learned the words from this book. Their task: get every word right. The rest of the building quotes you.

By the end, learners can say

- I can understand 26 foundational AI words in simple language
- I can connect each AI term to an everyday example
- I can use AI vocabulary in short, everyday sentences of their own
- I can distinguish correct from incorrect uses of AI terms in real tools and conversations

Before class

- One computer or tablet for each learner or pair, with EdSutra open. Module 1 is free and needs no account.
- Open the studio once on each device before class, so the Unit still runs if the internet drops.
- Play letter A through all five steps yourself, so you know where learners will click.
- Give each pair four letters to take through all five steps today, for example A, B, H and R.
- Plan return visits: the Unit is finished only when Understand, Apply and Evaluate are passed for all 26 words. Progress is saved.

Words to introduce

Algorithm: A list of steps a computer follows, in order, to solve a problem.

Data: The raw material AI learns from: words, numbers, images, sounds or readings.

Machine learning: AI that gets better at a task by learning from data, not written rules.

Bias: A repeated error that can make AI treat some groups unfairly.

Prompt: The instruction or question you give a generative AI tool.

Hallucination: A fluent, confident answer from an AI that is factually wrong.

Running the lesson 60 minutes

Open 5 min

"Imagine everyone in town learned their AI words from one book. If one meaning in it were wrong, what would happen?"

Before anyone clicks, ask: what do algorithm, bias, hallucination and robot mean? Write the class's meanings on the board and come back to them in Evaluate.

Step	What learners do	Ask the class	Listen for
1. Remember 8 min	For each of their letters, learners read the word card, press Hear it, and read the real-life example beside it. Then they choose Understand on the step bar.	• Which word did you already know, and which one surprised you? • Can you say your word's meaning to your partner without looking?	A short meaning in their own words, tied to an everyday example such as a recipe for algorithm.
2. Understand 10 min	Learners read three definitions and pick the one that best explains the word. A wrong pick shows the key idea, and they can try again.	• Why were the two wrong definitions tempting? • Which wrong definition sounded most like something people say about AI?	The right definition says the same idea in new words; the wrong ones describe a different idea.
3. Apply 10 min	Learners pick the word that fills the blank in a real-life sentence. For A, the phone that finds the fastest route home runs a navigation algorithm.	• What clue in the sentence pointed to the right word? • Where else have you seen this word used this way?	They point to what is happening in the sentence and match it to the word's meaning.
4. Analyze 13 min	Learners read four statements, find the one that does not fit the word, then pick the best reason why. Both parts must be right.	• What do the three statements that fit have in common? • Which reason did you reject, and what was wrong with it?	The shared idea behind the three, such as steps in order for algorithm, and why the odd one lacks it.
5. Evaluate 14 min	Learners judge a claim about the word as True, False or Depends, then pick the best reason. For H: "If an AI sounds fluent and confident, its answer is probably correct."	• Look back at our words on the board. Which meanings would we change now? • When is "Depends" the honest answer, and not a way to dodge?	A verdict with a reason from the word's meaning, such as: sounding sure is not the same as being right.

Steps follow Bloom's revised taxonomy, in the order the Unit presents them.

Deepen the thinking

Critical thinking	Why do short, confident claims about AI, like "more data always makes it better", so often turn out to need "it depends"?
AI thinking	Algorithm, machine learning and neural network are all in the alphabet. How are they related? Is every algorithm machine learning?
Ethics and fairness	Voice recognition often makes more mistakes with some accents than others. Who loses out when that happens, and how could the training data change it?
Connect to life	Which AI word have you heard used wrongly, in an ad, a video or a conversation? What did the speaker really mean?

Misconceptions to listen for

"AI is one thing."
The alphabet shows many separate ideas: data, models, tools, ethics, and you. Each word names a different part of the field.

"These words are too technical for me."
Every word comes with a plain meaning and an everyday example first, like a cake recipe for algorithm. The checks come after.

"If an AI sounds confident, it is probably right."
Hallucination's claim says exactly this, and it is False. Fluent answers can still be wrong; checking them is your job (Y is for You).

In real life the card learners see at the end of the Unit

- News stories, ads and school notices now use words like algorithm, chatbot and deepfake.
- A homework helper or chatbot can give a confident answer that is still wrong: a hallucination.
- A music app picks what plays next with an algorithm: a set of steps that follows your past choices.

Try it this week. Pick three AI words you hear this week on TV, in class or online. Explain each one to someone at home in one plain sentence.

Watch out for. A word can sound smart and still be used wrong. AI isn't always right: chatbots can be confidently wrong, and not every robot uses AI.

Talk about it. If an AI tool gets something wrong, who should check it: the tool, the company, or you?

Exit ticket

1. In one plain sentence, what is an algorithm? Give an everyday example.

   _____

2. Pick one claim you judged. Was it True, False or Depends, and why?

   _____

3. Use one of your words correctly in a sentence about your own life.

   _____

Going further

Module 1's Computer Vision Lab Examples are free, and the camera is optional: learners can spot AI Alphabet words at work there, such as data and algorithm. For homework, use the "Try it this week" activity from the In real life card.