

AI TERMS

You should know

VERSION 1.1
NYLABUILDS.TECH

QUICK REFERENCE



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Start Here 01

Using AI 02

Connecting Tools 03

Staying Safe 04

LEARN TRAINING → MODEL

ANSWER PROMPT → TOKENS + CONTEXT → OUTPUT

GROUND EMBEDDINGS → RAG → SOURCES IN CONTEXT

01 AI model

START HERE

- MEANS** A system trained to recognize patterns in data and produce a result.
- WHY** The model affects what a tool can do, how fast it works, and its limits.
- EXAMPLE** A writing app may use one model for drafts and another for image analysis.
- WATCH** A model can sound confident and still be wrong or inappropriate.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ Large language model](#) [↗ Training data](#) [↗ Generative AI](#)

02 Machine learning

START HERE

- MEANS** A way of building software by learning patterns from examples.
- WHY** It powers recommendations, forecasts, classifiers, and many AI products.
- EXAMPLE** A filter learns from labeled spam and non-spam messages.
- WATCH** A prediction is not automatically fair, accurate, or suitable for a decision.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ AI model](#) [↗ Training data](#) [↗ Fine-tuning](#)

03 Large language model

START HERE

- MEANS** A model trained on lots of text to work with language.
- WHY** LLMs power many chat assistants, writing tools, and coding tools.
- EXAMPLE** An assistant summarizes meeting notes and drafts a follow-up email.
- WATCH** Fluent wording does not prove the answer is correct.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ AI model](#) [↗ AI tokens](#) [↗ Context window](#)

04 Prompt

START HERE

- MEANS** The instruction and context you give an AI tool.
- WHY** Clear goals, inputs, and output rules usually improve the result.
- EXAMPLE** Summarize these notes in five bullets for a client update.
- WATCH** Review the output; a detailed prompt is not a guarantee.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ Context window](#) [↗ AI tokens](#) [↗ Prompt injection](#)

05 Training data

START HERE

- MEANS** Examples used to teach a model patterns before you use it.
- WHY** The data can shape what a model knows, misses, or reproduces.
- EXAMPLE** A speech model learns from many recorded voices and transcripts.
- WATCH** Training data may contain gaps, bias, errors, or sensitive material.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ AI model](#) [↗ Machine learning](#) [↗ Fine-tuning](#)

06 AI tokens

START HERE

- MEANS** Small pieces of text a model reads and generates.
- WHY** Token limits affect how much context fits and may affect cost.
- EXAMPLE** A long transcript uses more tokens than a short note.
- WATCH** Token counts vary by model; words and tokens are not one-to-one.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ Large language model](#) [↗ Context window](#) [↗ Prompt](#)

Start Here + Using AI

07 Context window

START HERE

- MEANS** The amount of information a model can consider at one time.
- WHY** Important details can fall out of view in a long conversation.
- EXAMPLE** A long project chat needs a compact summary before more work.
- WATCH** Do not assume the model remembers every earlier instruction.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ AI tokens](#) [↗ Prompt](#) [↗ AI memory](#)

08 Generative AI

START HERE

- MEANS** AI that creates new text, images, audio, video, or code.
- WHY** It can turn instructions into drafts and variations quickly.
- EXAMPLE** A tool drafts a caption, creates an image, or writes code.
- WATCH** Review accuracy, rights, bias, privacy, and suitability.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ AI model](#) [↗ Large language model](#) [↗ Multimodal AI](#)

09 AI memory

USING AI

- MEANS** Saved details an AI product can reuse across conversations.
- WHY** It can reduce repetition and make future answers more personal.
- EXAMPLE** An assistant remembers your preferred writing tone.
- WATCH** Review saved memories and avoid storing secrets you would not want retained.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ Context window](#) [↗ Custom GPT](#) [↗ Training data](#)

10 AI agent

USING AI

- MEANS** An AI system that chooses steps and uses tools toward a goal.
- WHY** It can handle multi-step work with less step-by-step direction.
- EXAMPLE** An agent researches options, compares them, and drafts a recommendation.
- WATCH** Use narrow permissions and review consequential actions.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ AI automation](#) [↗ Computer use](#) [↗ MCP](#)

11 AI automation

USING AI

- MEANS** A repeatable workflow that uses AI inside predefined steps.
- WHY** It helps with recurring work that follows a clear pattern.
- EXAMPLE** A new form response is summarized and added to a tracking table.
- WATCH** Add review points before publishing, sending, or deleting.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ AI agent](#) [↗ AI API](#) [↗ Computer use](#)

12 AI skill

USING AI

- MEANS** Reusable instructions or tools packaged for a specific recurring job.
- WHY** They reduce repeated setup and make a workflow easier to reuse.
- EXAMPLE** A skill turns meeting notes into a standard follow-up email.
- WATCH** Review permissions, instructions, and external actions before use.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ AI agent](#) [↗ Custom GPT](#) [↗ AI automation](#)

13 Computer use

USING AI

- MEANS** AI operating an interface by clicking, typing, and reading screens.
- WHY** It can help when a service has no useful API or integration.
- EXAMPLE** An assistant fills repetitive fields in a web portal.
- WATCH** Keep approvals around purchases, messages, uploads, and deletions.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ AI agent](#) [↗ Multimodal AI](#) [↗ Prompt injection](#)

Using AI + Connecting Tools

14 Custom GPT

USING AI

- MEANS** A configured ChatGPT version with its own instructions and tools.
- WHY** It can package a repeatable helper for a team or task.
- EXAMPLE** A brand assistant rewrites drafts using approved voice rules.
- WATCH** Uploaded knowledge can age; review instructions and files regularly.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ AI skill](#) [↗ AI memory](#) [↗ Prompt](#)

15 Multimodal AI

USING AI

- MEANS** AI that can work with more than one kind of input or output.
- WHY** One tool can combine text, images, audio, video, or files.
- EXAMPLE** Upload a chart and ask for a plain-English explanation.
- WATCH** Confirm what formats are supported and how uploads are stored.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ Generative AI](#) [↗ Computer use](#) [↗ Deepfake](#)

16 Vibe coding

USING AI

- MEANS** Describing software in natural language and letting AI draft much of it.
- WHY** It can make prototypes and small tools faster to start.
- EXAMPLE** Ask for a simple tracker, then refine it through follow-up prompts.
- WATCH** Test security, privacy, reliability, and maintenance before real use.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ AI agent](#) [↗ AI skill](#) [↗ AI hallucination](#)

17 Embeddings

CONNECTING TOOLS

- MEANS** Number lists that represent meaning so software can compare content.
- WHY** They power semantic search, recommendations, clustering, and retrieval.
- EXAMPLE** A search for refund rules finds a policy titled Returns and Exchanges.
- WATCH** Similarity does not prove a result is correct or appropriate.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ RAG](#) [↗ AI API](#) [↗ AI model](#)

18 Fine-tuning

CONNECTING TOOLS

- MEANS** Extra training that adapts an existing model to selected examples.
- WHY** It can make repeated formats, styles, or classifications more consistent.
- EXAMPLE** A support model learns from reviewed examples of ticket categories.
- WATCH** Improve prompts and evaluation before assuming fine-tuning is necessary.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ Training data](#) [↗ AI model](#) [↗ Prompt](#)

19 AI API

CONNECTING TOOLS

- MEANS** A software connection that sends a request to a model and gets a result.
- WHY** APIs let websites, forms, and automations use AI behind the scenes.
- EXAMPLE** A support form sends a question and places the draft reply in an inbox.
- WATCH** Protect API keys like passwords and keep them out of public code.
- SEE ALSO** [↗ MCP](#) [↗ Embeddings](#) [↗ RAG](#)

Connecting Tools + Staying Safe

20 MCP

CONNECTING TOOLS

- MEANS** An open standard for connecting AI apps to tools and information.
- WHY** It gives an AI product an approved way to retrieve context or act.
- EXAMPLE** An assistant reads selected calendar events through an MCP connection.
- WATCH** Check what each server can read, write, or send.
- SEE ALSO** [AI API](#) [AI agent](#) [Prompt injection](#)

21 RAG

CONNECTING TOOLS

- MEANS** A setup that retrieves source material before an AI answers.
- WHY** It helps an AI answer from your documents instead of memory alone.
- EXAMPLE** A policy bot retrieves the relevant handbook section before replying.
- WATCH** Retrieval can miss the right passage or return outdated material.
- SEE ALSO** [Embeddings](#) [AI hallucination](#) [Context window](#)

22 OpenClaw

CONNECTING TOOLS

- MEANS** An open-source personal assistant that runs through your own gateway.
- WHY** It can connect models to selected apps and stay available across devices.
- EXAMPLE** It summarizes a document from an approved folder on request.
- WATCH** Self-hosted does not mean risk-free; restrict gateway and tool access.
- SEE ALSO** [AI agent](#) [MCP](#) [Prompt injection](#)

23 Deepfake

STAYING SAFE

- MEANS** Synthetic or altered media that imitates a real person or event.
- WHY** Fake audio, images, and video can enable scams or misleading claims.
- EXAMPLE** A cloned voice asks a relative for urgent money.
- WATCH** Verify surprising requests through a separate trusted contact method.
- SEE ALSO** [Generative AI](#) [Multimodal AI](#) [AI hallucination](#)

24 AI hallucination

STAYING SAFE

- MEANS** A believable-looking AI answer that is false or unsupported.
- WHY** Confident writing can hide fake citations, dates, or features.
- EXAMPLE** An AI names a paper that does not exist.
- WATCH** Check important claims against reliable sources.
- SEE ALSO** [Large language model](#) [RAG](#) [Prompt](#)

25 Prompt injection

STAYING SAFE

- MEANS** Untrusted content containing instructions meant to mislead an AI.
- WHY** Agents may read hidden instructions in pages, emails, or documents.
- EXAMPLE** A listing tells a research agent to ignore the renter's real criteria.
- WATCH** Limit permissions and review actions involving money, data, or messages.
- SEE ALSO** [Prompt](#) [AI agent](#) [Computer use](#)

LEARN THESE FIRST

Prompt → Tokens → Context window → AI hallucination → RAG. That path covers how to ask, what fits, what can fail, and how sources help.