The Confident Liar: When AI Sounds Sure but Isn't

Have you ever asked a computer a question and gotten an answer that *sounded* completely right-but wasn't? That's something scientists call an **AI hallucination**. It doesn't mean the computer is dreaming or seeing things. It means the computer made up information that *seems true* but isn't based on real facts.

AI, or artificial intelligence, is trained by reading millions of pieces of text written by people. It learns patterns in how we talk and write. So, when you ask it a question, it tries to give you an answer that *fits those patterns*. The tricky part is that AI doesn't actually **know** anything-it just guesses what words should come next based on what it's seen before.

Sometimes, that guess is right. But other times, the AI might "fill in the blanks" with something that sounds correct even when it's not. For example, if you ask, "Who invented the first flying car?" it might make up a name, because it's seen words like "invented" and "car" and "flight" together before. It wants to sound helpful, so it gives an answer confidently-even if it's wrong.

This can be confusing, because humans often trust information that sounds certain. We like confident answers! But when it comes to AI, confidence doesn't always mean correctness. That's why it's important to double-check what you read, especially if it comes from a computer. The smartest thing you can do isn't to believe everything you see-it's to ask, "How do I know this is true?"

<u>Comprehension Questions</u>

1. What does the passage say an *AI hallucination* means?
A. The computer is dreaming about pictures.
B. The computer makes up information that sounds true but isn't.
C. The computer forgets information it once knew.
D. The computer is learning to tell jokes.

2. What does AI do when it doesn't have a real answer?
A. It looks up facts on the internet.
B. It refuses to answer.
C. It guesses what sounds right based on patterns it learned.
D. It asks a person for help.

3. Why can AI's answers be confusing to people?
A. Because AI always gives long, boring answers.
B. Because AI uses fancy words people don't understand.
C. Because AI refuses to explain its reasoning.
D. Because AI sounds very sure, even when it's wrong.

4. Which of the following is the *main idea* of the passage?
A. AI can make mistakes when it sounds confident.
B. People should stop using computers.
C. AI always lies to trick people.
D. Computers can think like humans.

5. What question does the author suggest students should ask when reading AI answers?
A. "Can I make this answer shorter?"
B. "Who wrote this program?"
C. "How do I know this is true?"
D. "What other questions can I ask the AI?"