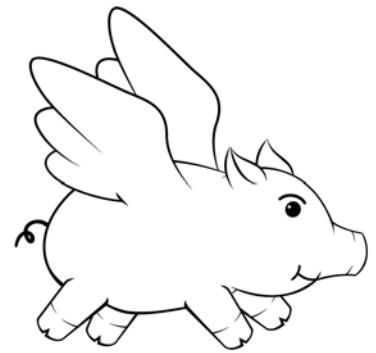


Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Myth Machine: How AI Creates Believable Fictions

Have you ever heard a story that felt so *real* you almost forgot it was made up? That's a lot like what can happen when you read something written by an AI. AI stands for **artificial intelligence**, a kind of computer program that can write, draw, and answer questions. But sometimes, it doesn't just share real facts—it creates stories or details that only sound real.



Scientists call this kind of mistake a **hallucination**. When AI hallucinates, it isn't trying to lie. It's doing what it was trained to do: put words together in a way that makes sense. But if the AI doesn't have true information to use, it may fill in the blanks with guesses. Those guesses can look like facts, but they're really fiction.

For example, if you asked an AI, "Who discovered the city of Atlantis?" it might make up a name, even though Atlantis is a myth! The AI doesn't know that Atlantis isn't a real place—it just knows that people often write about discoveries and ancient cities.

That's why people need to be careful readers. A story can sound smart, exciting, or official, but that doesn't mean it's true. Just like a storyteller can mix truth with imagination, AI can do the same. The real magic isn't in believing everything—it's in learning how to tell the difference.

### **Short Answer Questions**

1. What does it mean when an AI "hallucinates"? (Explain in your own words.)
2. Why does the AI sometimes make up information instead of giving real facts?
3. In the passage, what example does the author give to show how AI might invent a "believable fiction"?
4. What does the passage mean when it says, "The real magic isn't in believing everything—it's in learning how to tell the difference"?
5. Based on what you read, what could someone do to check if an AI's answer is true?