

Stop Chatting. Start Building.

Why your AI gives you so-so answers, and the simple habit that fixes it.

If you use ChatGPT, you have probably had this experience. You ask a short, sensible question. The answer comes back polite, confident, and somehow not quite right. Ask again and you get a slightly different answer. It can feel like the machine is guessing.

In a way, it is. And once you see why, you will never use AI the same way again.

What the machine really does

An AI like ChatGPT does exactly one thing. It reads the words in front of it and predicts which words most likely come next. That is the whole trick. It has read an enormous amount of human writing, so its predictions are remarkably good.

Here is the part most people miss. When you type a short question, the AI is not really answering *you*. It is continuing a page that begins with your question. If your question looks like a million other ordinary questions, you get the kind of answer those million people got: the average.

That is not the AI being lazy. It is working perfectly, and you handed it almost nothing to work with.

A short question



Every answer is possible.

You get the average of everyone else.

A question with your material



Most answers are ruled out.

Only answers that fit your facts remain.

Now imagine giving the AI something different. Instead of a one-line question, you first hand it several pages of good, accurate information on your topic. You tell it who the writing is for. You tell it what to avoid. *Then* you ask.

THE ONE SENTENCE TO REMEMBER

You did not make the machine smarter. You made the wrong answers unavailable.

FROM CHAPTER ONE

When you do that, most of the possible answers become impossible, because they would contradict what you supplied. What is left is a narrow set of answers that fit your material, and the AI lands inside it. That supplied material has a name: **context**.

Why chatting works against you

Most people use AI like a conversation with a very clever stranger. Short question, quick answer, another short question. It feels natural, but it asks the AI to do all the work. With nothing to go on, it has to reach for whatever is most common, or go searching the internet and hope it picks the right pages.

Some tools already lean the other way. When you work inside a **project** in Claude, for example, your documents sit alongside every question, so the AI starts from your material instead of from nothing. Earthgrid is built entirely around that idea.

Relevant, and only relevant

More is not automatically better. Every piece of unrelated information you give an AI is one more thing it might grab by mistake. A good context is like a well-packed suitcase for a specific trip: everything in it belongs there.

The old programmer's trick

In the early days of computing, programmers wrote in something called **assembly language**, working very close to the machine. Computers were slow, so we built **look-up tables**: lists of answers worked out ahead of time. Looking an answer up was far faster than calculating it from scratch. We sometimes wrote whole programs just to build the table.

AI works the same way. Build your look-up table first, a collection of accurate, relevant information, and the AI no longer has to guess. It simply looks it up. That is what **AI Assembly Language** means.

Chatting asks the AI to **guess**.
Context lets the AI **look it up**.

PUTTING IT TO WORK

How to use Earthgrid the way it was designed

Earthgrid looks like a search engine, and it is one. It can search with more than a dozen different engines, with Google as the starting choice. The difference is what happens next: instead of just reading results, you choose which ones go into your AI's context. You are building the look-up table.

- 1 Search.** Type your topic. Earthgrid shows the top results from Google.
- 2 Choose.** Look over the top ten. Pick the one or two that are truly about what you want. Leave the rest behind.
- 3 Switch engines.** Choose a different search engine and run the same search again. Different engines find different good sources. Pick the best ones.
- 4 Stack.** Repeat a few times. Each result you choose adds accurate, relevant material to your context.
- 5 Now ask.** Only after your context is built, ask your question, or ask for the article, letter, or blog post. The AI is working from your chosen material, not guessing.

THE CHAT WAY

"Write a blog post about starting a vegetable garden."

You get the same post everyone gets.

THE EARTHGRID WAY

Gather four trusted sources on gardening in your climate, add a note that readers are retirees with raised beds, *then* ask for the post.

You get your post.

- **Gather first, ask last.** Your question goes at the end, after the material.
- **Keep it on topic.** If a source is only half relevant, leave it out.
- **Less typing, better answers.** The AI does less guessing, so you do less fixing.

THE EARTHGRID MOTTO

Stop chatting with AI.
Chat with other humans who know how to use AI.