

Al and the Global Scale of English: Solutions for Learning

Presented by Sara Davila





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Innovating English Education Globally

Support the creation of curriculum that achieves continuous progress and powerful outcomes.

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Overview

All learning has a purpose.

- 1 Current Trends-English Language Learning in 2025
- 2 English Proficiency Changing Demographics
- 3 The Global Scale of English Granular Insight into learning
- 4 Al in Education Uses for Learning
- 5 Course development and personalization using Al



Learning in 2025

Trends, Challenges, and a Changing Demographic



Changing needs

Regulatory Challenges

Policy impacting learner demographics

1

2

Life and Career

Purpose of learning shifting focus

Language Learning Today

Future Skills

Prepared to work in complex digital environments

3

4

Outcomes

English is not a nice to have, it's a must have



Emergingng Priorities

85%

Work Life

of respondents said English was important for their work life and that it would continue to be so in the foreseeable future

51%

Opportunity

said they were learning
English to access a wider
range of roles and, more
specifically, access to roles
that paid more

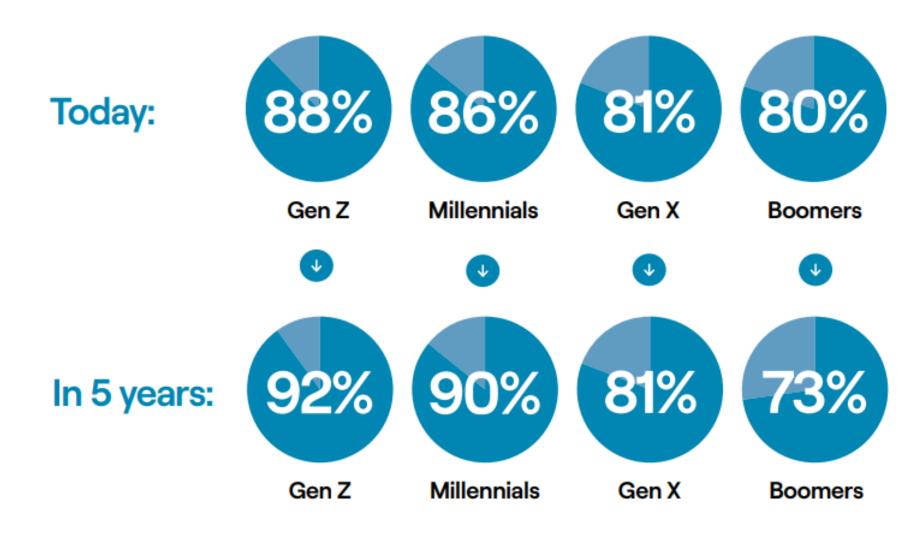
79%

Easier

said that English is an important skill outside of work today, and believe this importance will increase over the next five years



Perceived importance of English for work by generation





By 2030, an estimated 170 million new jobs will be created globally.

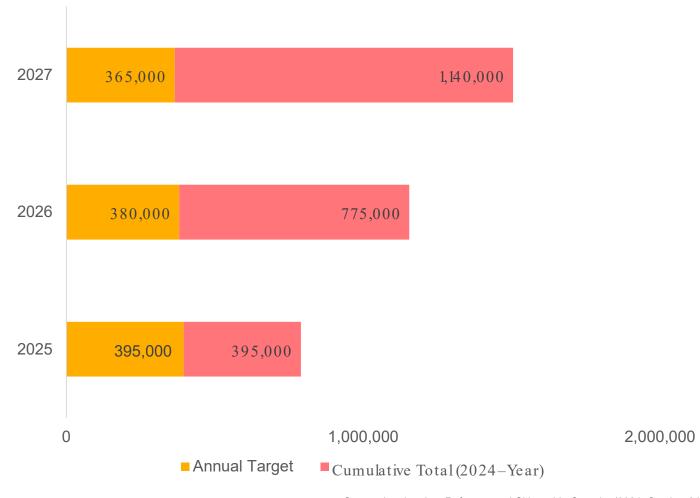
22% of today's jobs will be impacted by structural labor-market transformation.



"[English] language proficiency is one of the biggest barriers for newcomers.

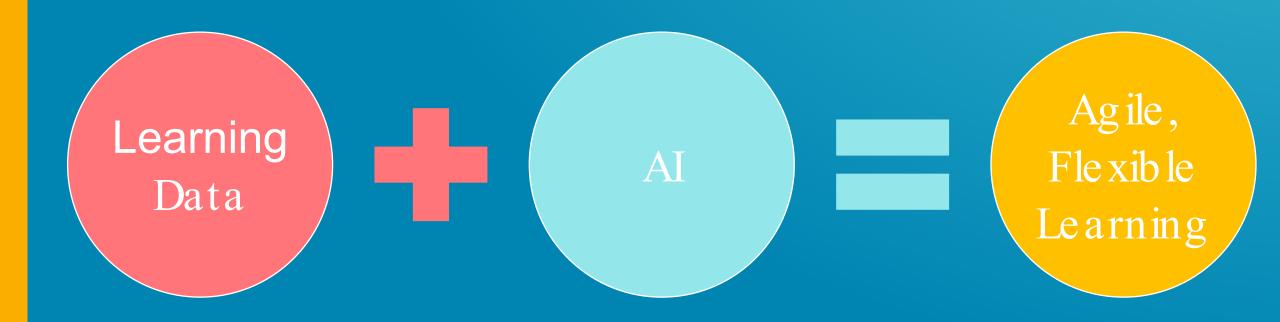
Though it is not a barrier for every newcomer, among those for which it is, it is likely to be the biggest ." Business Council of Alberta

Annual and Cumulative Immigration Targets (2025–2027)



Source: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (2024, October 24)









Language Frameworks

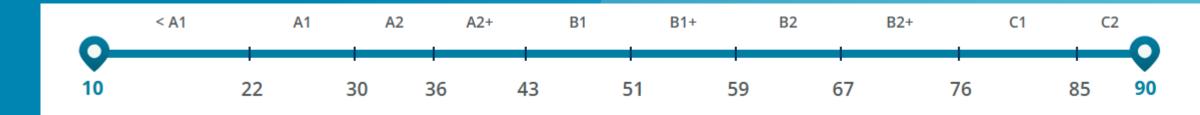
- Useful for identify gaps in progression
- Provide clear goals
- Offer transparent benchmarks
- Inform data driven program development and implementation



Canadian Language Benchmarks

The Global Scale of English





The Global Scale of English

Research-Based learning objectives for granular insight into learning

- Levelled by 10,000 educators
- Psychometrically aligned to the CEFR
- Validated Alignment with the CLBs

Contains

- 3,500+ learning objectives
- 400+ grammar objectives
- 39,000+ vocabulary items



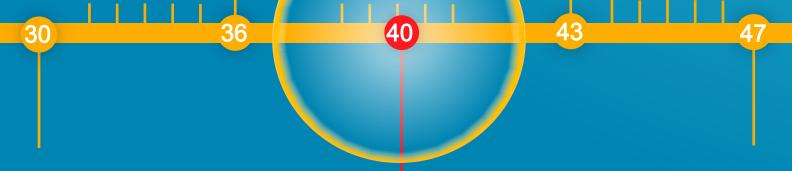
Granular Insight into Learning



Targeting specific skills that are below level to support remediation

Stretch

Adding specific skills above level to provide challenge and stretch



Targeting the Zone

Using GSE Assessment Frameworks and GSE aligned assessment to target current learning level



Progress & Purpose Driven





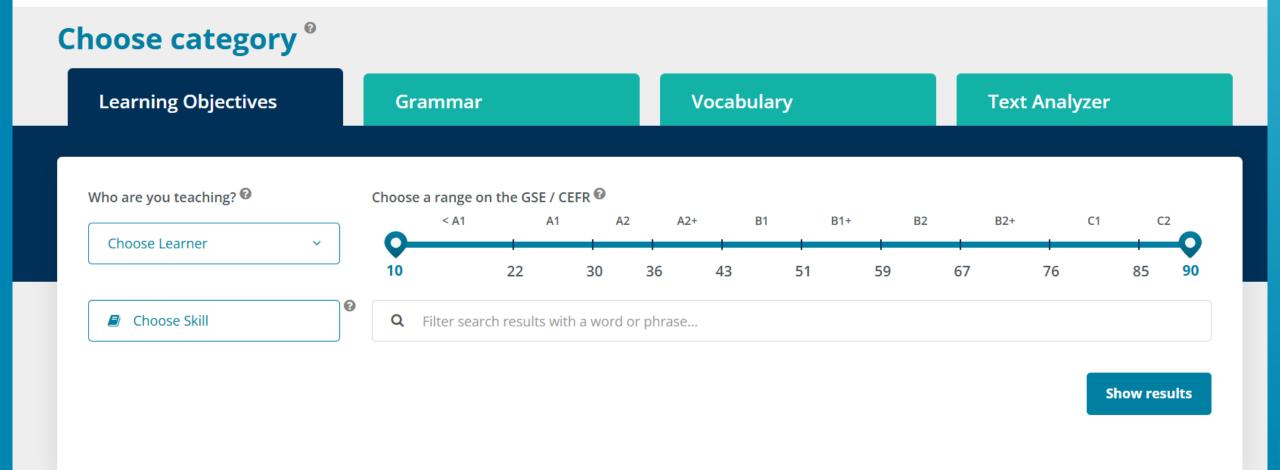
English for Academic Purposes



General English ESL









The Global Scale of English

And the CLBs

GSE Alignment to the CLBs

Methodology

The alignment process involved mapping each CLB competency statement within four competency areas (Interacting with others, Instructions, Getting things done, and Sharing information) to one or more GSE Learning Objectives

Alignment Results

Alignment includes:

GSE for Professionals

GSE for Adults

The results of the GSE alignment show consistency with the CEFR-CLB alignment carried out by North and Piccardo in 2018, ensuring the CLBs are reliable with the GSE and the CEFR.

GSE For Academic Purposes







CEFR to GSE to CLBs

The GSE provides granular insight into the CLBs helping program developers

- Identify gaps in current programs
- Explore opportunities for new program development
- Design programs around specific needs of the local market, quickly, efficiently, and with high fidelity.



Stage	CLB Level	GSE Scale	CEFR Level	
I: Basic	1	10-19	<a1< td=""></a1<>	
	2	20-27	A1	
	3	28-34	A1/A2	
	4	35-41	A2/A2+	
II: Intermediate	5	42-46	B1	
	6	47-52	B1/B1+	
	7	53-58	B1+	
	8	59-66	B2	
III: Advanced	9	67-72	B2+	
	10	73-78	C1	
	11	79-84	C1	
	12	85-90	C2	



Granular Insight into learning

With granular insight into the CLBs, tailoring courses and programs for specific learners is even easier.

Personalized Learning Development

Combining granular insights with AI expands the depth and breadth of programming offerings, without significantly impact to staff and faculty workloads.



Custom 6-Week Course: English for Community Integration (CLB 5)

Target Audience: Adult learners in Canada at CLB 5

Goal: Improve functional English skills for community integration, moving from GSE 36-42 to 42-47

Focus Areas: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing in real-life contexts

Program Overview

Week	Theme	CLB Learning Objectives (Stage II – Benchmark 5)	4	Navigating Public	- Ask for directions & follow simple instructions	- Listening (GSE 40-42): Understand transport/public	- Role-play: At the post office, library, or city hall	40 → 42
1	Making Connections in the Community	- Follow moderately complex social conversations - Exchange greetings, introduce self, express		Services	- Understand official signs/forms	service announcements - Reading (GSE 41-43): Read public signs & schedules	- Reading: Government forms - Listening: Public service interactions	
2	Shopping & Daily Transactions	- Ask for and provide information about goods/services - Make simple transactions	5	Workplace English & Volunteering	- Understand and respond to basic workplace instructions - Participate in work-related conversations	- Speaking (GSE 41-44): Describe job roles & give opinions - Writing (GSE 42-45): Write simple emails/messages	- Job interview practice - Writing: Short professional emails - Listening: Workplace dialogues	41 → 44
3	Health & Well-being	- Understand simple instructions from a doctor - Explain basic symptoms & needs	6	Social Engagement & Future Plans	- Talk about hobbies & interests - Express future goals and invitations	- Speaking (GSE 42-47): Talk about personal interests & future plans - Listening (GSE 43-47): Understand casual social discussions	- Community event planning - Group discussion: Future goals - Final assessment: Speaking & listening tasks	42 → 47



Artificial Intelligence Real-World Results



...if you have used Al?

...argued with AI, thrown up your hands, and thought, 'Forget it!'?



Al in Education

1990-2000

- Adaptive learning systems introduced
- Intelligent Tutoring Systems Al informed learning assistants
- Versant* launched (fully automated spoken language test)

2020s

ChatGPT launches

Race to release Image/Video

Text

2014: The Global Scale of

- Midjourney
- Gemini
- Runway
- Claude
- Sora

1950-1960

- First experiments with Natural Language processing
- Rule-based systems

English released

2010s

- Speech Recognition pronunciation, fluency, coherence
- NLP begins to scale
- GPT and other LLMs begin development

2025-???

Real-world applications
Upskilling
More powerful reasoning
models....

Al in Education

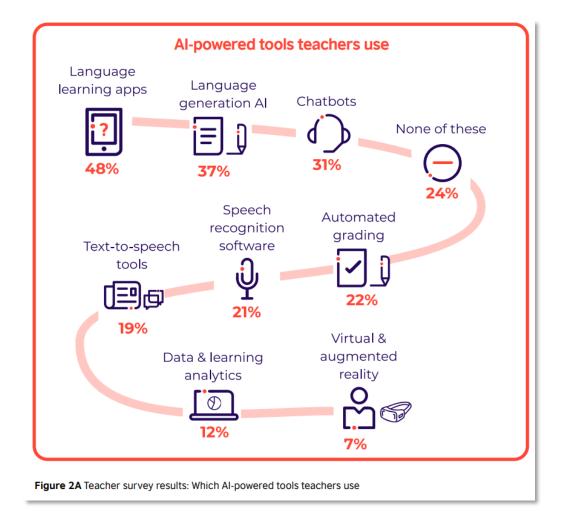
Most used AI tools by students and number of AI tools used Question: Which Al tools do you use for your course/programme? Grammarly Perplexity **ChatGPT Microsoft** Copilot Google Others Gemini Source: Digital Education Council Global Al Student Survey, 2024

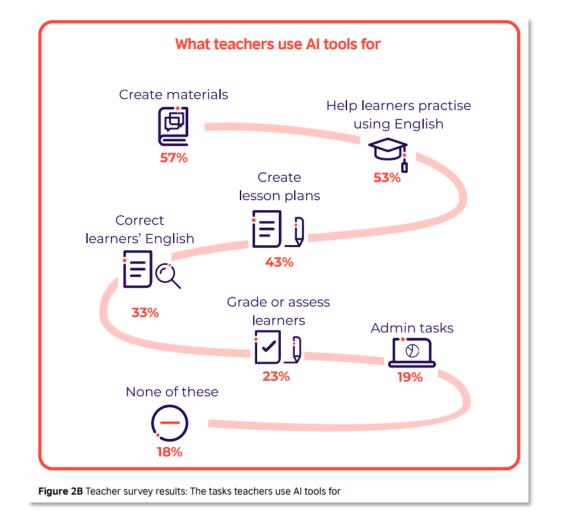
86% using AI for study

54% on a weekly basis

80% are unhappy with how Al is currently integrated into education







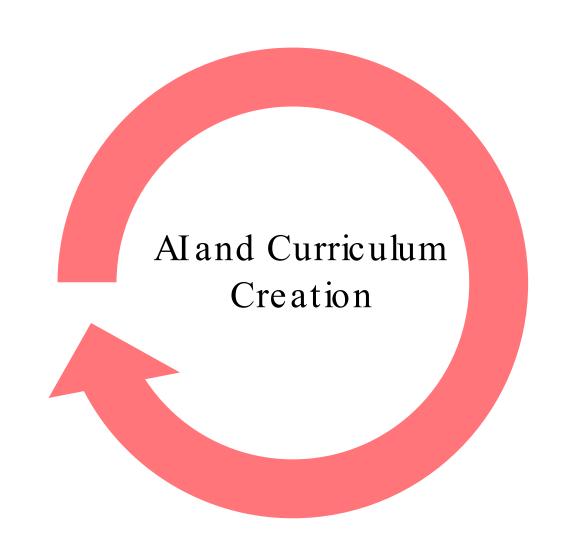


Using Al and the GSE for Personalized Results





Al in Curriculum Design: What does that mean?



- Analyze Curriculum
- Leverage Data and Metrics
- Identify Curriculum Opportunities based on Market Analysis
- Integrate AI for Course Creation and Development
- Integrate AI in Learning Experiences for Next Gen



Al Prompting

Traits

Characteristics of the Model – Who they are, what they know.

1

2

Task

What needs to be done. In a level of detail appropriate of the Characteristics.

The 4 Ts

Tone

Tone of the output.

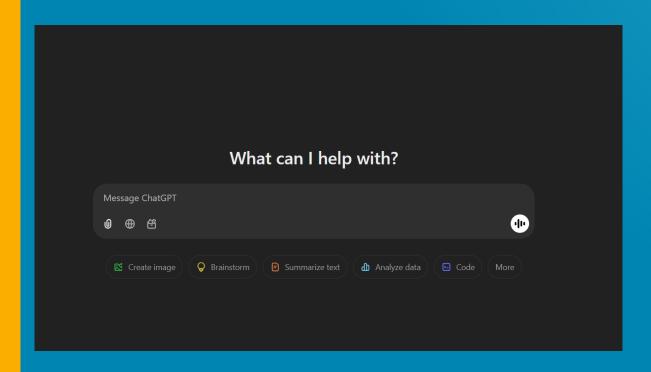
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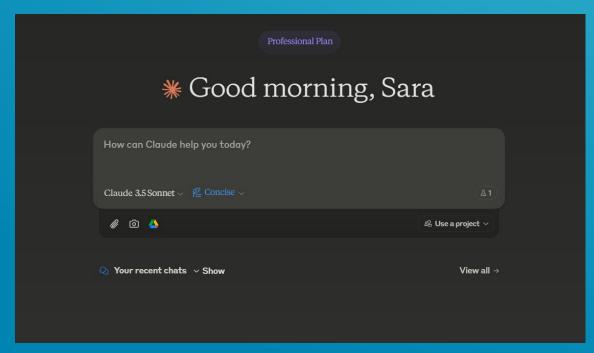
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Targets

Intended target audience of the output.



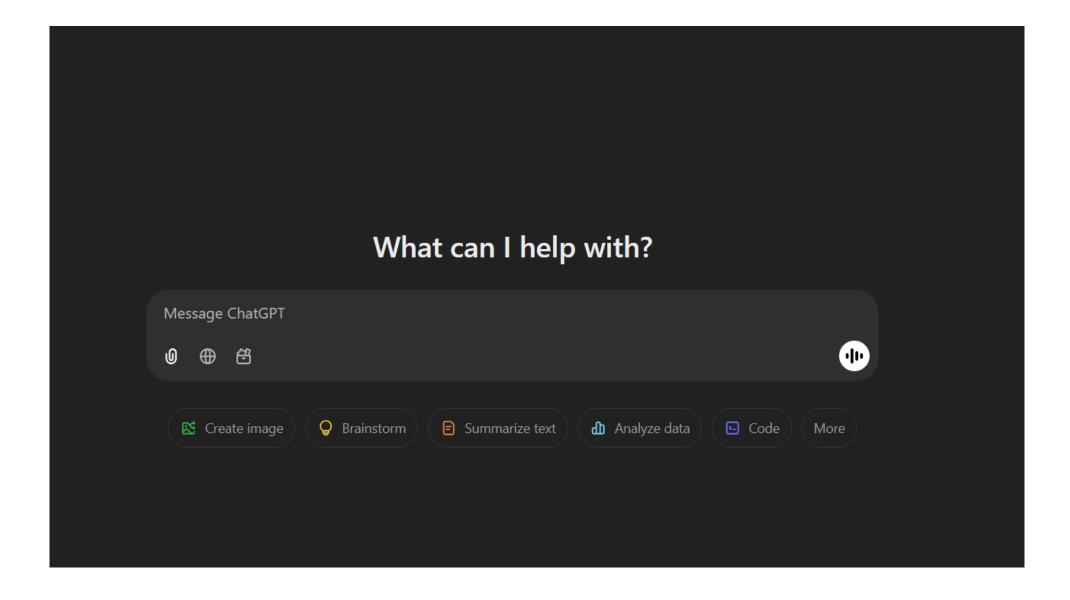






Creating CLB & GSE aligned courses with Al

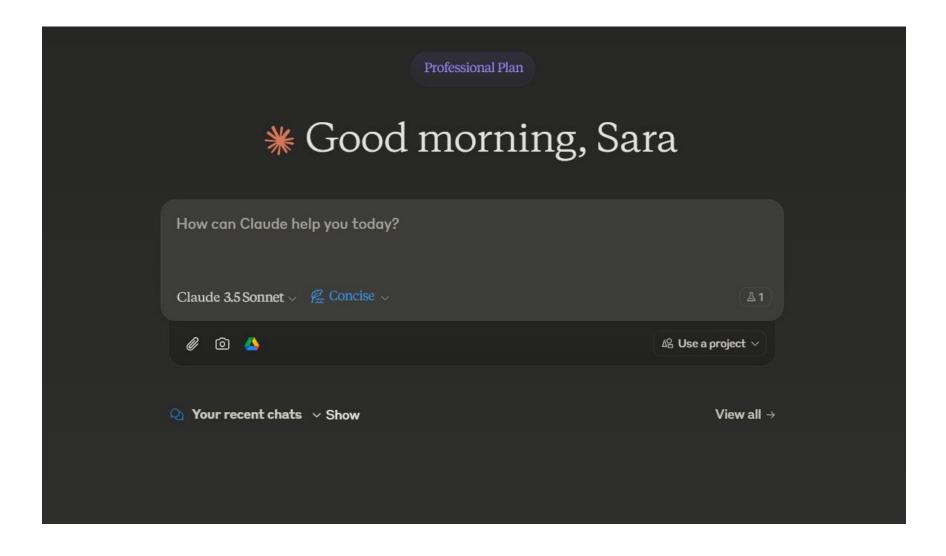






Tailored Learning Content using CLB & GSE







Personalizing Learning built in Al tools







Courseware



Assessment





General English

Speakout

Real English in your classroom

English type: British

Levels: 8

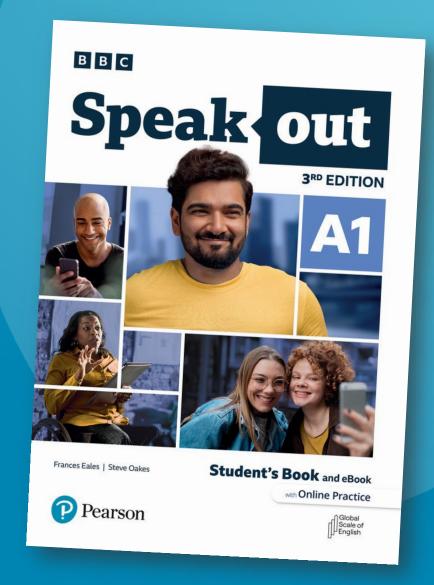
GSE: 22-90 (CEFR Al-C2)

Suitable for: Adult learners

Recommended teaching hours: Flexible

Al Enhanced Learn Anywhere Speaking

Practice









The future: Al enhanced learning



Tips for working well with AI

Useful reminders when you are getting into prompting

1

Organize your Data

When uploading files organized data as PDFs or organized documents improve output results

2

Don't get stuck on prompts

Use the 4 T model to get started, and then improve by using the LLMs

3

Experiment

It's not about what you know, it's about what you want to do, you can always experiment and find ways to get AI to do it for you

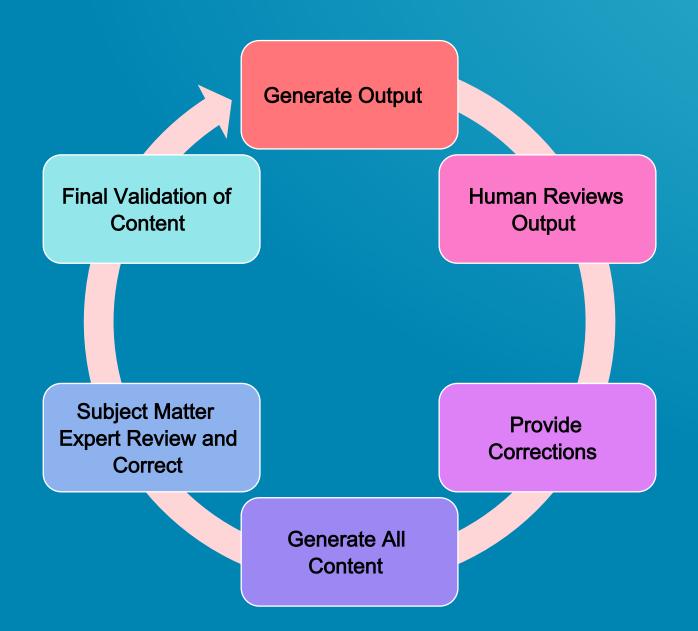
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Trust, but verify!

GenerativeAl can produce great content, but not necessarily consistent or correct content.



Human in the Loop Oversight





"In dealing with the future, it is far more important to be imaginative than to be right"

- Alvin Toffler, Future Shock





Thank You

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