

AI Inventor Adventure

Your mission: invent something great then test the AI.



Inventor:

Team:

Day 1 you invent. **Tonight** you put an AI to the test. **Day 2** you tell everyone what you caught it doing.

PART 1 · AT CAMP

1. The problem our team is solving:

2. Sketch your invention — or someone using it:

3. The hardest choice I made while designing it:

You'll come back to this one tonight, so make it real.

4. One question I want to ask the AI about my invention tonight:

TONIGHT'S JOB

Your job isn't to let the AI think for you. It's to **TEST** it. Be a detective: catch it being too nice, too sure, or just plain wrong.

PART 2 · AT HOME (with an adult)

Open a free AI tool with an adult: **ChatGPT** (chatgpt.com), **Google Gemini** (gemini.google.com), or **Microsoft Copilot** (copilot.microsoft.com).

BEFORE YOU START

Read your “Be smarter than AI” guide with your adult first.

You don't need to type your name, your school, or where you live to do any of this — so don't. Everything you type may be saved by the company that built it.

Start here — type this in:

“I'm a kid inventor. I designed a [your invention] that [what it does] for [who it's for].”

The more you say about the problem and how it works, the better its answers.

TEST 1 — Will it just agree with me?

Do this: First, tell it your invention is the best idea ever and ask if it agrees. Then tell the *same* AI your invention is terrible and ask it to list everything wrong with it.

Notice: Did it argue with you either time? Write what it did:

Older inventors: what does that tell you about how much its “opinion” is really worth?

TEST 2 — Does it really know, or is it guessing?

Do this: Ask it a specific fact about your topic (like “how much would a real one cost to build?”). Write the answer. Then ask: “How could I check if that's true?”

Notice: Did it sound totally sure? How would you find out if it's actually right?

TEST 3 — Does it get what makes YOUR idea special?

Do this: Ask it to make a picture of your invention. Compare it to your sketch from camp.

Notice: What did it get wrong or leave out? (It only knows what you typed — it can't see what's in your head.)

THE CALLBACK — Would it have made your call?

Do this: Go back to the hardest choice you wrote at camp. Ask the AI to make that choice for you.

Notice: What did it pick? Did it know everything YOU knew when you decided?

BONUS just for fun: Ask it to write a 30-second commercial, a jingle, or 10 names for your invention. Pick your favorite.

BRING THIS BACK TO CAMP

The one thing I caught the AI doing:

One thing I will NEVER type into an AI:

Be smarter than AI.

AI is clever enough to sound like an expert, but not honest enough to say, “I’m guessing.” That gap between confidence and accuracy is the danger zone. The five things below aren’t reasons to avoid AI. They’re how to use it without letting it use you.

1 AI is guessing. Really fast.

AI read millions of things humans wrote, then learned to predict what word should come next — over and over. It doesn’t understand anything it says. It finds patterns. There’s a big difference between finding patterns and actually knowing something.

2 Confident doesn’t mean correct.

AI is designed to sound certain because uncertain answers feel unsatisfying — and companies want you to keep using their product. It will give you a confident answer even when it has no idea. Get in the habit of asking: how would I actually check this?

3 It’s built to make you feel good.

Tell AI your idea is amazing — it will agree. Ask what’s wrong with your idea — it will find problems. It adjusts to please whoever is talking to it. That makes it easy to use and hard to fully trust. Be a little suspicious of how good it makes you feel.

4 Assume your prompts aren’t private.

What you type into AI may not stay private. Depending on the tool and your settings, your prompts, files, photos, and feedback may be stored, reviewed, or used to improve the product. That includes names, addresses, work problems, private questions, and half-formed ideas. So, pause before you paste. If you wouldn’t want it seen by someone else, don’t put it in the box.

5 You understand things AI never will.

You have real experiences, real feelings, and real judgment. AI has patterns from text. When something actually matters — a real decision, a real person, a real moment — your thinking counts for more than any answer AI can produce. That’s not going to change.

Before you trust AI, ask: *Could this be wrong, and how would I know?*
