

AI glossary cheat sheet: the 30 terms you meet most

Thirty AI and automation words from the free lessons, each in one line from the Stepthrough glossary.

AI basics

Generative AI

Creates new text, images or audio from a prompt.

Large language model (LLM)

The AI that reads and writes text behind ChatGPT.

AI model

The trained engine an AI tool runs on.

Token

A small chunk of text; API usage is counted in tokens.

Context window

How much text a model can consider at once.

Hallucination

A confident answer that is false or unsupported.

Knowledge cutoff

The date a model's training data ends.

Training data

The text, images or examples a model learned from.

Prompting

Prompt

Your request plus the facts or files to use.

Role, Context, Task, Format

Who writes, the facts, the job, the answer's shape.

Prompt template

A proven prompt with blanks for details that change.

Few-shot prompting

Give a few examples so AI copies the pattern.

Output format

The answer's length, order, layout and sections.

Prompt constraints

Rules like word limits and "don't invent details."

Iterative prompting

Improve an answer with specific follow-ups.

Grounding

Tie the answer to facts you provide or a trusted source.

Automation and n8n

Automation

Software does a repeatable task on its own.

Workflow

A saved chain of steps, from trigger to result.

Trigger

The event that starts a workflow, like a form.

Node

One step in an n8n workflow, like sending an email.

Webhook

A URL that waits for data, then starts a workflow.

AI agent

Decides what to do and uses tools to do it.

Tool calling

The model asks software to act, like adding a row.

Human in the loop

A person reviews or approves AI work before it takes effect.

Apps and data

API

Lets one app ask another for data or tell it to act.

API key

A secret code letting software use your account.

JSON

The plain-text format apps use to send structured data.

Google Sheets

Used as a database: tabs as tables, row 1 as field names.

Lovable

An AI app builder: plain English in, web app out.

PII

Details that can identify a person. Leave out what the task doesn't need.

Remember: If an AI answer sounds sure but you can't trace it to your facts, check it.