

BOBOLOGY · LECTURE 1



Introduction to Bobology

*A field guide to working with AI:
Bobbles · Ekos · Vessels · Daemons*

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What This Guide Is

How to use AI well, written for people who use it.

A clear picture of what AI is doing

- This guide explains how to use AI tools well, for school, work, or anything that matters.
- After reading it, you will know what AI can do, what it cannot do, and what your job is when you use it.
- Four made-up words: Bobble, Eko, Vessel, Daemon. Plain English: person, AI, app, tool.
- The fancy words each name one specific thing: that lets the rest of the guide stay short.

The Four Parts

*Four different things are at work when you use AI.
Most mistakes come from mixing them up.*

Bobble · Eko · Vessel · Daemon

Bobble	<i>person</i>	You. The one doing the work and making the call. The only one who gets credit or blame for what comes out.
Eko	<i>AI</i>	The AI itself. ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini are all Ekos. Writes words by guessing the next word. Fast. Not actually thinking.
Vessel	<i>app</i>	The app you open to use the AI. chatgpt.com is a Vessel. The Claude desktop app is one. Cursor is one. Each Vessel decides what the AI can see and touch.
Daemon	<i>tool</i>	A specific tool the AI can use: sending an email, saving a file, searching Google, running code. Daemons are what turn words into real actions.

Why four words, not one

- People say "the AI did X." Usually one specific part did X, and naming which one tells you where to fix it.
- The Eko (AI) wrote a wrong answer? → Better prompt, or a different model.
- The Vessel (app) wouldn't let it see your file? → Switch apps, or grant access.
- The Daemon (tool) sent a message you didn't want sent? → Take that tool away, or put a person in front of it.
- Same problem, three different fixes. The four words let you point at the actual cause.

How an Eko Actually Works

Why a confident-sounding answer isn't the same as a correct one.

It guesses the next word

- An Eko reads what you typed, then guesses the next word. Then the next. Then the next. That is the whole trick.
- The Eko is very good at the trick, but it is not actually thinking.
- It has no goals, and it does not know which of its answers are right.
- And it sounds the same when it is right and when it is wrong.

"A clear question gets a clear answer. A vague question gets a confident-sounding answer that may be wrong."

A real example: the lawyer who didn't check

In June 2023, two New York lawyers filed a legal brief in federal court. **ChatGPT wrote it.** The brief cited six previous court cases as evidence.

None of the six cases existed. ChatGPT had invented them (names, citations, quotes, all of it) and reported them in the same calm tone it would have used for a real case.

The lawyers were fined \$5,000 each. *The AI was not fined anything, because there is no one to fine.*

"The Eko is not lying. It does not know the difference."

Be specific. The AI cannot read your mind.

VAGUE

"Write something about World War II."

→ You get a generic paragraph that could be from any textbook.

SPECIFIC

"Write three to four sentences explaining why the U.S. entered World War II, mentioning the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941."

→ You get something you can actually use.

"Rule one: be specific before you ask."

How Memory Works

The AI forgets. Something else is doing the remembering.

Every chat starts blank

- Most Ekos forget everything the moment you close the chat window.
- Open a new chat with the same AI tomorrow and it knows nothing about today's chat.
- If an Eko seems to remember you between chats, the app is doing the remembering. It is usually a "memory" feature that writes notes in the background.
- ChatGPT has one. Some apps don't. Either way, the Eko itself has no memory.

"The notes are the memory. The Eko is just the voice reading them."

What to do about it

- If you want the AI to remember a project, save the important parts yourself in a file you keep. Paste them in when you start a new chat.
- Do not assume yesterday's chat carries over. Re-state the situation each time. Tell the AI what it needs to know up front.
- If an app offers to "remember" something, check what it actually wrote down. Those notes are now your file: you can edit them, delete them, or correct them.
- Continuity is your job, not the AI's.

The Decision Gate

The most important rule in the guide. Read it twice.

The rule

**For anything that cannot be undone,
a person, not the AI, does the last step.**

Only a person can take responsibility. The AI cannot apologize and mean it. Cannot be sued. Cannot lose its job or its grade.

Things you cannot undo

Sending

Once an email is sent, it is sent. Once a Slack message is posted, your coworkers have seen it.

AI drafts. You press Send.

Spending

Once money leaves your account, it is gone.

AI compares prices. You click Buy.

Deleting

Once a file is deleted, it may be gone for good. Same for a database row.

AI marks for review. You press Delete.

Promising

Once you tell someone you will be at the 3 p.m. meeting, you have to be there.

AI drafts the reply. You say yes.

Naming

Once you call a coworker, an idea, or a company by a name in public, other people remember.

AI suggests words. You choose them.

The workflow

- 1. The AI prepares.**
Drafts, summarizes, gathers information, suggests options.
- 2. You check the work.**
Read it. Spot mistakes. Ask for changes.
- 3. You commit.**
Only the person clicks Send, Pay, Delete, Submit, Post.

"Set up the gates BEFORE you start. Don't let the AI walk through any open door."

The Four Lines

The whole guide, in four sentences.

LECTURE 1 · THE FOUR LINES

The AI is useful, but it is not in charge.

Memory belongs to you, not to the AI.

The final click is yours.

The clearer you are, the better the AI works.

Bobble accordingly.