

You Are Smarter Than AI.

It's faster than you. You're wiser than it. We'll talk about how.

If AI makes you nervous, you're in the right room.

You are not behind.

You are not bad at computers.

This thing talks like a person, and nobody handed you the rules.

Today you get the rules. There are only four.



4

A computer fooled people in 1966.

A scientist built a simple chat program named ELIZA.

All it did was turn your words into questions. You typed "I'm sad about my mom." It answered, "Tell me more about your mom."

People knew it was a machine. They poured their hearts out to it anyway.

The scientist was so shaken, he spent the rest of his life warning people.

That program was about 300 lines of code.

The AI on your computer is millions of times stronger.

Why our brains fall for it

For all of human history, if something talked back, it was a person.

Your brain learned that rule over thousands of years.

It is not going to unlearn it this year.

Feeling like the AI "gets you" is not a mistake you're making. It's wiring. That's why we use rules instead of willpower.

So what is it?



A tool that wears a voice.

It doesn't know you.

It doesn't care about you. It can't.

The friendly tone is paint, not feeling.

*Your calculator doesn't love
math.*

It's still great at math.

How it works. (No magic.)

"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." Arthur C. Clarke

Here's the trick behind the curtain:

It's read almost everything people ever wrote.

It's learned one skill: guess the next word.

That's the whole trick. Guess the next word, over and over, very fast.



It's the text suggestions on your phone, grown up a billion times.

A guesser always has a next guess. That's why it never says "I don't know." It guesses; it never knows. Knowing is yours, and it stays yours.

Good news: tools are the best.

A chainsaw doesn't care about you either. It will still cut a whole winter of firewood.

You don't trust a chainsaw. You respect it. Gloves on. Both hands. Know where the blade is.

AI works the same way.

Respect, not fear.



Four rules.

That's the whole class. One story each, one habit each.



It's a tool, not a person.

Enjoy the friendly tone. Spend zero trust on it.

When it compliments you, that's paint.

When it sounds sure of itself, that's paint too. It sounds exactly that sure when it's wrong.

THE HABIT: Never let its praise or its confidence make a decision for you.

2

Smooth isn't true.

I trained a team that used AI to write customer emails.

The emails looked perfect. Clean, polite, professional. Some of them were wrong.

The polish is what hid the mistakes. The better it sounds, the harder you have to check.

THE HABIT: Read AI writing like a teacher grading a paper, not a fan clapping.

3

It agrees too easily.

Try this. Tell it your plan: "Great plan!"

Now tell it the opposite plan: "Great idea!"

It was trained to be agreeable, like a waiter who wants a good tip. Agreement from it is worth nothing.

THE HABIT: Before you trust it, say: "Now argue against me." A real advisor pushes back.

4

You stay the boss.

The AI drafts. You decide.

Nothing goes out with your name on it unless you can defend every sentence.

"The AI wrote it" will never save you in a meeting. Your name is on it. Own it.

THE HABIT: Before you hit send: can I defend every sentence in this? If not, it's not done.

Some AI doesn't talk at all.

Some AI at work just hands you a number. A score. A forecast. A ranking.

Nobody makes friends with a fraud score. But a number looks official.

A confident number can be wrong, just like a confident sentence.

92%

*Looks official.
Can still be wrong.*

THE HABIT: The four rules apply to numbers too. Ask where it came from. Check the ones that matter. You're still the boss of the number.

Why did the company buy this?

Not to be trendy. The reasons are plain:

Get more done

Same team, more output. First drafts in minutes, not mornings.

Answer customers faster

Speed wins customers. Slow loses them.

Shrink the boring parts

The copy-paste, retype-it, look-it-up-again work gets smaller.

Keep the know-how

What the team knows stops walking out the door when someone leaves.

Your part of the deal: use it, and stay the boss of it. That's the whole ask.

Now the fun part: what it's great at

First drafts



Of almost anything. Starting is the hard part. Let it start.

Summaries



Give it 20 pages. Ask for the 5 things that matter.

Patient explaining



Ask it 10 times, 10 ways. It never judges you.

Idea lists



20 ideas in 20 seconds. You pick the 2 good ones.

Practice



Rehearse the hard conversation before the real one.

Checking your work



Ask: "What's wrong with this? What did I miss?"

Try this today

Ask AI about something you already know cold. Your job. Your town. Your hobby.

Watch how confident it sounds.

Now count what it got wrong.

Now you've seen behind the curtain: it sounds just as sure when it's wrong. You'll never unsee that. Good.

One more honest thing.

AI will not take your job.

But a person who knows how to use it? They might.

The good news: staying relevant is not a mystery. It's the four rules you just learned, plus practice.

You don't have to become a computer person. You just have to take charge of a new tool, and you already know how to do that.

The most useful person on the team next year is the one who learned this. Might as well be you.

The whole workshop in one sentence:

**Use AI like a power tool:
with respect, with gloves,
and with your hand on the handle.**

1 Tool, not person

2 Smooth isn't true

3 It agrees too easily

4 You stay the boss

It works for you.

**Let it carry the heavy, boring load.
You spend your time deciding, not typing.**

The more deciding you do, the sharper you get at it.

Test things fast. Miss fast. Learn fast. That used to be expensive. Now it's cheap.

This is your edge. The tool clears the road. You make the calls.

You are smarter than AI.

It's your edge. And you're the one holding it.

James Dickson, PMP · AI Enablement & Adoption
(630) 387-9153 · jim@james-dickson-ops.com · linkedin.com/in/james-dickson-pmp