

PRINTABLE GUIDE

Check an AI answer before using it

AI can produce fluent answers with incorrect facts, invented references or missing context. Confidence and neat formatting do not prove accuracy. Use this quick reference whenever an answer will affect a purchase, a practical task or information you plan to share.

Any device | 2 min read | 5 steps

Before you start

- ☐ Keep the original AI answer available.
- ☐ Know what decision or task the answer is supposed to support.

1. Identify the claims that matter

Underline names, dates, prices, settings and instructions you might act on. Separate suggestions you can judge yourself from facts that need an independent source.

- ☐ Done this step

2. Ask for usable sources

Request the original documentation or organisation behind a claim. A source list is a starting point; AI can invent titles and links or cite a real page that says something different.

- ☐ Done this step

3. Open and compare

Read the actual source and check it supports the specific statement. For device instructions, match the model and software version. For current rules or prices, check when the page was updated.

- ☐ Done this step

4. Test modest instructions carefully

For a harmless task, compare the suggested menu with your screen before changing a setting. Stop if it involves deleting data, unexpected payment or an option you do not understand.

☐ Done this step

5. Use the right expert route

For health, legal or financial decisions, consult appropriate authoritative guidance or a qualified professional. Correct or discard unsupported claims before copying the answer elsewhere.

☐ Done this step

Try it for yourself

Check one factual sentence against its original official source.

☐ I tried the task.

My notes

Does asking the same AI twice verify the answer?

No. Repeated answers can repeat the same mistake. Verification means checking independent evidence, not counting how often a chatbot agrees.

Official help and the online guide

NCSC language-model limitations -

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/blog-post/chatgpt-and-large-language-models-whats-the-risk>

Official OpenAI documentation: human review -

<https://developers.openai.com/api/docs/guides/safety-best-practices>

Read online: <https://plaintech-guides.pages.dev/guides/check-an-ai-answer-before-using-it/>