Check an AI explanation against a source

Ask for a plain-English explanation of a concept and use a short source passage to check what the answer adds or gets wrong.

10 minutes · Free-tier example · Beginner · Proposed

Before you start

Allow about 10 minutes. Choose a short passage you have permission to use and an AI assistant you already have access to. A free assistant is sufficient for this example. Keep private feedback, student work, and account details out of the chat.

Try it

Use this sample explanation.

> *To find the arithmetic mean, add the values and divide by how many values there are. The numbers 2, 4, and 9 add up to 15. Dividing by 3 gives a mean of 5.*

Paste the passage after this instruction.

> *Explain this in two short sentences for a beginner. Then give me a different set of three whole numbers with a mean of 5. Show the addition and division so I can check the example.*

Check the result

The answer should describe adding the values and dividing by their count. Its new example should contain three whole numbers that sum to 15. Check the arithmetic yourself. If the explanation introduces another concept, look it up separately before adding it to your notes.

To see whether the explanation helped, close the chat and work out the mean of 3, 6, and 9 on paper. The expected answer is 6.

Limits and reuse

A clear explanation can still be wrong. This exercise checks one concept and one follow-up problem.

Keep the source passage, checked example, and follow-up question in your notes.