

Experiments in Artificial Intelligence — Continuing, Winter 2026

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Terms & Concepts

Agent

An AI system that doesn't just answer a question, but can take action — reaching out to outside websites or services to actually complete a task for you.

MCP (Model Context Protocol)

A technical standard that lets an AI “talk” directly to outside services, like a travel site or a database, so it can look up or act on real information.

Stochastic parrot

A critical term for AI systems, emphasizing that they are statistical prediction machines generating plausible-sounding text, not systems that truly understand meaning.

Autodidact

A person who is largely self-taught, without formal schooling in the subject.

Theory of Mind

The ability to understand that other people (or an AI) think and feel differently than you do, and to predict their intentions and behavior based on that understanding.

Custom instructions / Personalization

Settings in an AI chat tool that let you permanently change how it responds — for example, always answering in bullet points, or in a chosen tone.

Deep Research

An AI feature that runs many searches automatically over several minutes to produce a more thorough, sourced answer on a topic.

Multimodal

AI that can work across formats — text, images, audio, video, and documents — rather than text alone.

Prepared with AI assistance from a transcript of the recorded session.