

AI - Your New Creative Partner

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What AI Really Is

Think of AI as a talented, tireless assistant. It listens to your ideas. It helps you shape and improve them. It can suggest words, images, music, or ideas when you feel stuck.

Important:

You stay in charge. AI does the heavy lifting, not the thinking for you.

Why AI Matters Now

For a long time, technology felt like it was only for kids or professionals. That is no longer true.

Today's AI tools are:

- Conversational, you can talk or type naturally.
- Intuitive, you do not need special training.
- Forgiving, there is no “wrong” way to start.
- You do not need technical skills.

You only need curiosity and a willingness to experiment.

What AI Is Not

AI is often misunderstood. Let's clear that up.

AI is not:

- A replacement for your creativity.
- Cheating.
- Something that takes over your voice or ideas.

AI is a tool that helps:

- Get past blank-page paralysis.
- Reduce frustration with writing, drawing, or organizing ideas.
- Make creative projects feel more enjoyable and less intimidating.

How You Interact With AI

You interact with AI the same way you would with a helpful person.

You can:

- Talk or type in plain English.
- Ask follow-up questions.
- Say “try again,” “make it shorter,” or “make it warmer.”
- Refine results together, step by step.

Think of it like working with a patient collaborator who never gets tired and never judges.

How AI Tools Help You Be More Creative

There is no single “best” AI. Different tools shine in different creative situations. Think of them as **different creative assistants**, each with a slightly different personality.

ChatGPT

Best for writing, storytelling, brainstorming, and guidance

ChatGPT is especially helpful when you want to:

- Write personal stories, memoirs, letters, or poems.
- Brainstorm ideas when you do not know where to start.
- Improve wording while keeping your own voice.
- Ask follow-up questions and refine ideas step by step.

Why it works well for creativity: It feels like a patient writing partner you can talk to naturally and correct gently as you go.

Gemini

Best for idea expansion, summaries, and working with images or notes

Gemini is helpful when you want to:

Expand short notes into fuller ideas.

Summarize memories, articles, or rough drafts.

Work alongside Google tools like Docs, Gmail, or Photos.

Get inspiration from images and visuals.

Why it works well for creativity: It is good at connecting ideas and helping you see the bigger picture.

Copilot

Best for creativity inside Word, PowerPoint, and other Microsoft tools. Copilot is especially useful if you already use Microsoft products.

It can help you:

Turn ideas into written documents.

Create or improve PowerPoint slides.

Rewrite text to sound warmer, clearer, or more polished.

Organize creative projects into outlines or presentations.

Why it works well for creativity: It meets you where you already work, so creativity feels less like “learning something new.”

Claude

Best for longer writing and thoughtful tone. Claude is helpful when you want to:

Write longer personal stories or reflections.

Maintain a gentle, human-sounding tone.

Organize complex thoughts clearly.

Work carefully with sensitive or emotional material.

Why it works well for creativity: It is strong at structure and flow, which helps your ideas feel complete and well-shaped.

Grok

Best for playful creativity and informal exploration. Grok can be useful when you want to:

Experiment with humor or casual language.

Explore ideas in a less formal way.

Spark creativity without worrying about perfection.

Why it works well for creativity: It encourages experimentation and reminds you that creativity can be light and fun.

One Important Reminder

All of these tools work best when **you stay in control.**

You provide:

- The ideas

- The memories

- The personal voice

The AI provides:

- Suggestions

- Structure

- A gentle push past creative blocks

Creativity still belongs to you. AI just helps you get there faster and with less frustration.

Creative Writing With AI

Creative writing does not start with perfect sentences. It starts with ideas, memories, and emotions. AI helps by removing the pressure to “get it right” on the first try. AI can act as a creative partner, not an author that replaces you.

Getting Started Without a Blank Page

One of the hardest parts of writing is starting. AI helps you begin by:

- Suggesting opening sentences or story ideas.
- Turning short notes into full paragraphs.
- Offering multiple ways to say the same thing.

You can start with just a few words, for example:

- “I grew up in...”
- “One memory I keep returning to is...”
- “I want to write a letter to...”

AI gives you a starting point, then you decide what stays.

Writing Personal Stories and Memories

AI is especially useful for personal writing because it works from your material.

You can:

- Share bullet points or rough notes.
- Ask AI to turn them into a story.
- Adjust the tone, warmer, simpler, more conversational.

You remain the storyteller. AI helps with structure, flow, and clarity. Nothing is published or shared unless you choose to share it.

Poetry and Short Creative Pieces

Poetry does not require rules or experience. AI can help you:

- Experiment with different styles.
- Rewrite a poem to sound softer or more playful.
- Create poems for birthdays, anniversaries, or keepsakes.

You can always say:

- “Make it simpler.”
- “Make it sound more like me.”
- “Try again, but shorter.”

Creativity improves through exploration, not perfection.

Common Poetry Styles You Can Explore (With Starter Prompts)

Narrative Poetry

Tells a story, with a beginning, middle, and end. Good for memories, family stories, and life moments.

“Help me write a narrative poem that tells a short story about a meaningful moment from my life. Keep the tone warm and conversational.”

Free Verse

No set rules for rhyme or rhythm. Sounds natural, like spoken language. Very beginner-friendly.

“Write a free verse poem about a memory that still stays with me. Use natural language and gentle imagery.”

Haiku

A short poem inspired by nature or a single moment. Traditionally three lines. Simple, focused, and reflective.

“Write a haiku about a quiet moment from my past that made me feel calm or reflective.”

Acrostic

The first letter of each line spells a word or name. Great for names, themes, or emotions.

*“Create an acrostic poem using the word **[insert name or word]**. Make each line reflect a feeling or memory connected to that word.”*

Lyrical Poetry

Expresses feelings, moods, or personal reflections. Often musical and emotional.

“Help me write a lyrical poem that expresses a personal feeling I do not often talk about. Keep it simple and heartfelt.”

Rhyming Poetry

Uses rhyme patterns at the ends of lines. Fun for playful or lighthearted writing.

“Write a short rhyming poem about a joyful memory from my life. Keep the rhythm light and easy to read.”

Prose Poetry

Looks like a paragraph but reads like a poem. Great for people who prefer storytelling over line breaks.

“Write a prose poem, written as a short paragraph, about a place from my past that feels like home.”

Sonnet

A traditional, structured poem often about love or reflection. More advanced, but AI can help experiment with it.

“Help me write a sonnet about love, gratitude, or reflection. Use gentle language and keep it approachable.”

Ode

A poem that celebrates a person, place, or thing. Wonderful for tributes and appreciation pieces.

*“Write an ode celebrating **[a person, place, or object]** that has been meaningful in my life.”*

Elegy

A reflective poem about loss, remembrance, or honoring someone. Gentle and meaningful.

“Help me write an elegy that gently honors someone I miss. Keep the tone comforting and respectful.”

Editing Without Losing Your Voice

AI can help polish your writing without changing who you are.

Once you have generated a first draft, you can ask AI to:

Make writing clearer without making it formal.

Fix grammar while keeping your tone.

Shorten or expand a piece gently.

A good habit is to read the result and ask: “Does this still sound like me?” If not, you adjust it. You are always in control.

A Helpful Reminder

Creative writing with AI is a conversation, not a command.

You do not need:

- Writing experience
- Perfect grammar
- Confidence on day one

You need:

- A thought
- A memory
- A willingness to try

AI helps you move from idea to expression, one step at a time.

Creating Original Images Using Text to Image in Gemini

Gemini can create original images based entirely on your written description. You do not need drawing skills. You describe it, Gemini creates it.

Step 1: Open Gemini

1. Go to **gemini.google.com**
2. Sign in with your Google account.
3. Start a new chat.

Step 2: Tell Gemini You Want an Image

Start your prompt clearly so Gemini knows you want an image, not text.

Example:

“Create an image of...”

This simple phrase sets the direction.

Step 3: Describe What You Want to See

Use plain language. Think like you are describing a photo to a friend.

Include:

- **Subject** (person, place, object, scene)
- **Style** (photo realistic, watercolor, illustration, sketch)
- **Mood** (calm, joyful, nostalgic, playful)
- **Details** (colors, lighting, setting)

Example: “Create an image of a cozy garden at twilight with soft lighting, flowers, and a peaceful mood. Make it look like a watercolor illustration.”

Step 4: Review the Image

When Gemini shows the image:

- Look at what you like.
- Notice what is missing or not quite right.

This is normal. First images are drafts.

Step 5: Refine the Image With Follow-Ups

You do not need to start over. Just guide Gemini.

Examples:

- “Make the colors softer.”
- “Add more detail to the background.”
- “Make it more photo realistic.”
- “Change the lighting to morning sunlight.”

Think of it as adjusting, not correcting.

Step 6: Save or Download

1. Click the image.

2. Use the download or save option.
3. Store it where you keep your class projects or personal creations.

TIPS: Short prompts work, but **a little detail helps a lot.**

- There is no single “right” prompt.
- You can always say “try again.”
- Creativity improves by experimenting.

Text-to-Image Prompt Worksheet (Using Gemini)

Step 1: Decide What You Want to See

Main subject (person, place, or thing):

What is happening, or what are they doing (optional):

Step 2: Choose the Style

Check or write one:

- ☐ Photo realistic
- ☐ Watercolor
- ☐ Illustration
- ☐ Pencil sketch
- ☐ Painting
- ☐ Other: _____

Step 3: Set the Mood or Feeling

Examples: calm, joyful, nostalgic, cozy, playful, elegant

Mood:

Step 4: Add a Few Details

Think colors, lighting, time of day, or setting.

Details you want included:

Final Prompt (Fill This In)

Copy this whole sentence and replace the blanks:

“Create an original image of _____. Use a _____ style, with a _____ mood. Include _____. Use soft, natural colors and a balanced composition.”

Modify an Image You Created in Gemini

Once Gemini creates an image, you do not need to start over. You can change it by describing what you want different.

Step 1: Keep the Same Chat Open

Always stay in the same conversation where the image was created. This helps Gemini remember the image you are talking about.

Step 2: Say What You Want to Change

Use simple, plain language. One change at a time works best.

Examples:

- “Make the colors softer.”
- “Add more detail to the background.”
- “Change the lighting to morning sunlight.”
- “Make it look more photo realistic.”
- “Remove the people and keep the scenery.”

You do not need special terms.

Step 3: Be Specific, Not Complicated

It helps to mention what stays the same.

Example:

“Keep the overall scene the same, but make the sky lighter and add more flowers in the foreground.” This prevents unwanted changes.

Step 4: Review the New Image

Each revision is a new version.

- Compare it to the earlier image.
- Decide if you like it better.
- If not, adjust again.

Creativity is iterative, not instant.

Step 5: Save the Version You Like

When you see a version you enjoy:

1. Click the image.
2. Download or save it.
3. You can keep multiple versions if you wish.

Create Custom Images - Combining Text and Images Into One Graphic Using Gemini

Gemini can create a single graphic that includes **both an image and text**, such as a quote graphic, greeting card, flyer, or keepsake page that you want to frame. You describe the picture **and** the words you want on it.

Step 1: Decide the Purpose of the Graphic

Before typing anything, decide what you are making.

Examples:

- A quote graphic
- A greeting card
- A memory keepsake
- A simple announcement

This helps Gemini choose the right layout.

Step 2: Start With a Clear Image Request

Tell Gemini you want an image **with text included**.

Example:

“Create a graphic that includes an image and text.” From our class example, the prompt would be “combine the text of this poem with an image that illustrates the content and sentiment of this poem.”

This signals that you want both elements together.

Step 3: Describe the Image

Explain what the picture should look like using plain language.

Include:

- Subject (person, place, or object)
- Style (photo realistic, illustration, watercolor)
- Mood (calm, joyful, nostalgic)
- Colors or setting (optional)

Example: “Use a soft watercolor illustration of a peaceful garden at sunset.”

Step 4: Provide the Exact Text to Include

Always put the text in quotation marks so it is copied exactly.

Example:

“Add the text: ‘Every memory has a story worth telling.’”

If you want a name, date, or signature, say where it should go.

Example: “Place the text centered, with ‘Jane Doe’ in smaller lettering at the bottom.”

Step 5: Describe the Layout Simply

You do not need design terms.

Examples:

- “Keep the text easy to read.”
- “Leave space around the words.”
- “Place the text near the top.”
- “Use a clean, balanced layout.”

Step 6: Review and Adjust

If the graphic is close but not perfect, refine it.

Helpful follow-ups:

- “Make the text larger.”
- “Use a softer font style.”
- “Increase contrast so the words are easier to read.”
- “Move the text to the bottom.”

Stay in the same chat so Gemini remembers the image.

Sample Starter Prompt

“Create a graphic that combines this poem with an illustration. Use a _____ style illustration that matches the poem’s mood. Include the poem exactly as written: ‘ _____ ’. Keep the layout calm, readable, and balanced.”

Creating Original Art Graphics Using Gemini

Gemini can create original artwork from a written description. You do not need drawing skills. You describe the idea, Gemini creates the art.

Step 1: Open Gemini

1. Go to **gemini.google.com**
2. Sign in with your Google account.
3. Start a new chat.

Step 2: Clearly Ask for Art

Begin your prompt so Gemini knows you want an **art graphic**, not text.

Example:

“Create an original art graphic of...”

This simple phrase sets the direction.

Step 3: Describe the Main Idea

Use everyday language, as if you were describing a picture to someone over the phone.

Include:

- **Subject** (what the art is about)
- **Style** (watercolor, illustration, painting, abstract, collage)
- **Mood** (calm, joyful, whimsical, dramatic, nostalgic)

Example: “Create an original art graphic of a cozy garden scene in a watercolor illustration style with a calm, nostalgic mood.”

Step 4: Add a Few Visual Details

Details help Gemini make better choices, but keep it simple.

You might mention:

- Colors you like
- Time of day
- Texture or softness
- Level of detail (simple or detailed)

Example: “Use soft greens and warm light, with a gentle, hand-painted feel.”

Step 5: Review the Art

The first image is a draft.

Ask yourself:

- Do I like the style?
- Does it match the feeling I wanted?
- Is anything missing or distracting?

Step 6: Refine the Art With Follow-Ups

You do not need to start over. Just guide Gemini. Helpful follow-ups:

- “Make it more whimsical.”
- “Simplify the design.”
- “Use softer colors.”
- “Add more detail to the background.”
- “Try again with a calmer feeling.”

Stay in the same chat so Gemini remembers the artwork.

Step 7: Save the Version You Like

1. Click the image.
2. Download or save it.
3. You can keep multiple versions if you want to compare.

Simple Starter Prompt

“Create an original art graphic of _____ in a _____ style, with a _____ mood and soft, balanced colors.”

SCENES Trick For Creating An Image Prompt

- **S - Subject:** tells the AI what the picture should be of
- **C - Composition:** explains placement and posture
- **E - Environment:** sets the scene

- **N - Nature of Light:** adds mood and realism
- **E - Emotion:** connects with the viewer
- **S - Style:** guides the visual aesthetic

ChatGPT Image Tool

ChatGPT image creation has improved from simple “type a prompt and get a picture” into a more practical visual design tool. The newer ChatGPT Images 2.0 model can follow detailed instructions more reliably, create and edit images with better visual reasoning, render text more accurately, and handle more complex layouts such as infographics, posters, diagrams, product mockups, and teaching visuals. Users can now ask for specific design features, such as transparent backgrounds, readable labels, consistent style, or targeted edits to an uploaded image, and ChatGPT is better at preserving important details while making changes. The key shift is this: image creation is no longer just for making

decorative pictures. It can now support communication, teaching, marketing, storytelling, visual explanation, and rapid design experimentation. The caution is that generated images still need human review, especially for spelling, factual accuracy, brand consistency, anatomy, maps, and anything used in professional or educational materials. But don’t be shy about trying it.



Below is the Prompt used to create the infographic of the Pangolin. You will see how much detail you can demand in the finished image from the content of the prompt. Consider how you can create your own images by modeling the prompt but in the meantime, copy and paste it into your ChatGPT prompt box after you select :**Create Image**

Prompt:

Create a visually rich, professionally authored infographic about the pangolin, one of the world’s most trafficked endangered mammals. Use a detailed photorealistic pangolin as the central focal point, shown in a three-quarter pose with visible overlapping keratin scales, curved claws, tapered snout, and long tail.

Make the animal tactile and lifelike, with realistic texture on the scales, claws, face, and tail. Surround the central pangolin with structured annotated callouts, diagrams, icons, and concise educational labels. Do not use generic boxed sections. Build the information into the visual composition.

Include these key facts in short, accurate callouts: Armor of scales: Pangolin scales are made of keratin, the same material found in human fingernails.

Specialized insect eater: Pangolins feed mainly on ants and termites. Long sticky tongue: Uses a long sticky tongue to lap up insects from nests. Powerful claws: Claws break open

termite mounds and ant nests. Nocturnal and shy: Mostly active at night and usually solitary. Defense behavior: Curls into a tight ball when threatened. Habitat range: Found across parts of Africa and Asia, depending on species. Conservation threat: Heavily trafficked for meat and scales, making illegal trade a major threat.

Visual layout: Center: Large photorealistic pangolin, dramatic but clean lighting. Left side: Cutaway-style diagram of scales labeled "Keratin armor." Right side: Feeding diagram showing claws opening a termite mound and a long tongue reaching insects. Bottom band: Small map-style graphic showing Africa and Asia as pangolin range areas. Top corner: Conservation alert badge reading "Endangered Wildlife." Background: Clean warm neutral background with layered graphic shapes, subtle topographic texture, and color-blocked panels. Style: Bold editorial science illustration, dense but organized, similar to a museum-quality educational poster. Mix photorealism with strong graphic elements, icons, arrows, labels, callout lines, and subtle shadows. Use clear typography, accurate spelling, and concise readable text. Avoid cluttered paragraphs. Use short labels and visual explanations. Make it look like a polished conservation infographic created by a professional science illustrator. Aspect ratio: vertical poster, 4:5. Quality: high detail, crisp text, clean layout, rich texture, realistic animal anatomy, polished educational design.

Restore an Old or Damaged Photo Using AI

AI can help repair old photos that are scratched, blurry, faded, or damaged, while keeping the original look and feeling intact. While you can use many AI Tools for this purpose, my preference is for using Gemini.

Step 1: Upload the Photo

1. Open your AI tool.
2. Upload the old photo you want to improve.
3. Wait until the image fully appears on screen.

You do not need to prepare the photo first.

Step 2: Start With a Gentle Restoration Request

Always ask for **careful improvement**, not drastic changes.

Starter prompt: "Please restore this old photo by improving clarity, reducing scratches or damage, and keeping the faces, expressions, and overall look natural and true to the original."

This tells the AI to be respectful.

Step 3: Address Specific Problems (If Needed)

If the photo has particular issues, mention them simply.

Examples:

- "The photo is blurry. Please sharpen it gently."
- "There are scratches and marks. Please remove them carefully."
- "The surface looks damaged or cracked. Please repair it without changing faces."

- “The photo is faded. Improve contrast and brightness slightly.”

One issue at a time works best.

Step 4: Review the Result Carefully

Look closely at:

- Faces
- Eyes
- Hands
- Clothing
- Background details

Ask yourself:

“Does this still look like the original photo?” If something feels off, adjust.

Step 5: Refine With Small Follow-Ups

You can guide the AI further without starting over.

Helpful follow-ups:

- “Make it a little less sharp.”
- “Keep more of the original texture.”
- “Reduce the smoothing on faces.”
- “Restore details, but do not modernize the photo.”

Think *gentle*, not dramatic.

Step 6: Save the Version You Like

1. Download or save the improved photo.
2. Keep earlier versions if you want to compare.
3. You can always return and refine again later.

Colorize an Old Photo Using AI

Steps

1. Upload the black-and-white photo.
2. Ask AI to colorize it using realistic, natural colors.
3. Review the result and adjust if needed.
4. Save the version you like.

Sample Prompt: *“Please colorize this old black-and-white photo using natural, realistic colors. Keep skin tones lifelike and preserve the original look and feeling.”*

Turning a Selfie or Picture of Yourself Into Your “Best Photo Day” Portrait

AI can help enhance a selfie or casual photo so it looks like a **professional portrait**, while still looking like *you*. The goal is polish, not perfection.

Step 1: Choose the Right Photo

Start with:

- A clear photo where your face is visible
- Neutral expression or gentle smile
- No heavy filters already applied
- A simple, natural photo works best.

Step 2: Upload the Photo

Upload the selfie or photo into your AI tool (Gemini works best) and wait for it to fully load before typing your prompt.

Step 3: Set Clear Boundaries First

Always tell the AI **what not to change**. This protects your identity. Good boundaries include:

- Keep facial features the same
- Do not change age or expression
- Keep body shape realistic (explain your body shape)

This prevents over-editing.

Step 4: Ask for Gentle, Professional Enhancements

Focus on improvements a photographer would make on a good day:

- Softer, flattering lighting
- Light skin smoothing while keeping natural texture
- Tidying hair without changing the style
- A simple, clean background
- Clothing that looks classic and neat (You can specify how you want to be dressed)
- Think “polished,” not “glamour magazine.” Ah, what the heck! Think “glamour magazine!”

Step 5: Review and Refine

When the image appears, ask yourself:

- Does this still look like me?
- Does it feel natural?

If needed, refine with small follow-ups like:

- “Reduce the skin smoothing.”
- “Keep more natural lines.”
- “Make the lighting softer.”
- “Tone down the background.”

Sample Prompt To Use

*“Please create a polished, professional portrait using the photo I uploaded.
Keep me looking like myself. Do not change my facial features, age, or expression.
Improve the lighting so it is soft and flattering, like a studio portrait.
Smooth skin gently while keeping natural texture and lines.”*

*Clean up flyaway hair but keep the hairstyle realistic.
Use a simple, dark studio-style background.
Make the final image look like a natural, calm, confident professional headshot.”*

Personalized Stationery Using My Headshot

Here you use an **enhanced headshot** of yourself to create **personalized stationery and custom gift tags**.

The goal is not to design something flashy or complicated. The goal is to create items that feel **personal, tasteful, and polished**, as if they were designed just for you. Below are instructions for how AI can help turn everyday photos into meaningful, creative items you can use, print, or share.

There is no right or wrong result. Each design reflects your personality and preferences. AI simply helps you explore options quickly and easily. When you go through the instructions, at the end you will have:

- A custom stationery design
- A set of personalized gift tags
- A better understanding of how to guide AI for creative projects

This exercise emphasizes creativity, control, and confidence, not technical skill.

Custom Stationery Using My Headshot

1. Add your enhanced selfie to the chat
2. Add this prompt: “Create personalized stationery using my enhanced headshot.
Use a soft, elegant design with a light textured paper background and subtle decorative elements.
Place my name at the top in a simple, graceful font.
Include my headshot tastefully in one corner so it feels refined, not distracting.
Leave plenty of clean space for writing. Keep the overall style calm, classic, and personal.”

Custom Gift Tags Using My Headshot

Use this prompt: “Create a set of custom gift tags using my enhanced headshot.
Use a small, tasteful layout suitable for gift tags.
Include soft colors, simple decorative accents, and space for a short message or name.



Keep my image subtle and elegant.
The style should feel warm, personal, and suitable for gifts.”

Go From Headshot to Full Body

Add your enhanced photo to the chat

Use this prompt (modify it as appropriate):

“Please use the uploaded headshot to create a realistic full-body portrait of the same person.

Keep the face, hairstyle, glasses, and expression exactly the same. Do not change age or facial features.

Extend the image naturally to show the person seated in a relaxed, confident pose, similar to a professional studio portrait.

The person should be wearing simple, elegant, dark clothing that matches the original style.

Body proportions should look natural and realistic.

Use soft studio lighting and a clean, neutral background.

The final image should look like it was taken by a professional photographer, calm, dignified, and authentic.”

Bonus Prompt

1. Upload a picture of yourself
2. Enter this prompt (copy & paste), modifying as appropriate:

“Ultra-realistic cinematic portrait — replace the face with uploaded image preserving 100% of facial structure, glasses, skin texture, eyes, and proportions from the reference portrait.

Main Composition & Pose:

Female figure shown from chest upwards, frontal pose. Right hand stretched forward toward the camera, fingers slightly open, as if projecting energy. Intense direct eye contact with the viewer, serious and focused expression. Head slightly tilted downward for a powerful and dramatic look.

Clothing & Accessories: Black sweatshirt with visible white Baxter name embroidered on the chest; Silver tennis bracelet on the right hand (subtle).

Magical Energy Effect: At mid chest level not blocking the face, Glowing swirling golden energy vortex above and around the hand, shaped like a spiral galaxy. Energy looks like liquid light and plasma combined, glowing and radiant. Golden sparks and glowing particles scattered around the hand and chest. The vortex acts as the main light source, casting strong golden reflections on the hand, face, and clothes.



Lighting & Atmosphere: Dark cinematic black background with no distractions. Main lighting comes from the golden vortex in the hand, illuminating the subject with a warm glow. Subtle additional golden reflections on the cheek and jawline. Strong contrast, HDR, hyperrealism. Ultra-detailed textures: skin pores, fabric folds, embroidery details on the cap.

Style & Quality: Ultra-realism, cinematic portrait photography. 8K, HDR, hyper-detailed, masterpiece quality."

Animate Old Photos Using Gemini

1. **Open Gemini** Go to the Gemini app on a phone or visit gemini.google.com on a computer.
2. **Find the Video Tool** Look at the bottom of the screen where you usually type. Tap on the **Tools** icon (it looks like a small toolbox or a plus sign) and select **Create video**.
3. **Upload Your Photo** Click the **Add image** button (it looks like a small picture of a mountain). Select the photo from your device that you want to animate.
 - o *Tip: Clear photos with one main subject, like a person, a pet, or a waterfall, work best.*
4. **Write Your "Motion Prompt"** In the text box, tell Gemini exactly how you want the photo to move. Be specific about the action.
 - o **Bad prompt:** "Make this move."
 - o **Good prompt:** "Animate the dog's tail wagging and make the grass blow in the wind."
5. **Add Sound (Optional)** If you want the video to have noise, you can add that to your instructions too.
 - o **Example:** "Add the sound of a barking dog and birds chirping in the background."
6. **Generate and Wait** Tap the **Submit** button (the paper airplane icon). It usually takes **1 to 2 minutes** for the AI to build your video. You can leave the chat and come back later if you want.
7. **Review and Save** Watch your video. If you like it, tap the **Download** or **Share** button to save it to your phone or computer.

Try This Pro Tip

If the motion looks a bit weird or "bumpy," try using words like **"slowly"** or **"subtle movement"** in your prompt. Small, smooth movements usually look much more realistic than big, fast ones.

Prompt To Animate an Old Photo Using Gemini (Copy & Paste)

Please gently animate this photograph while preserving its original look and emotional tone. Add only very subtle, natural movements such as soft blinking, slight breathing, or a faint shift in posture. Do not exaggerate expressions. Do not change facial features, body shape, clothing, or background. Keep the movement slow and minimal so the image feels calm, lifelike, and respectful, as if the photo briefly came to life. The result should feel nostalgic and realistic, not playful, dramatic, or cartoon-like.

Optional add-ons (use one at a time) – Copy & Paste

For portraits – *“Focus movement mainly on the eyes and breathing. Keep the mouth still.”*

For group photos – *“Animate very lightly and consistently across all people so no one stands out.”*

For memorial or family history – *“Maintain a dignified, respectful tone suitable for a family keepsake.”*

Creating Narrated Audio Keepsakes

Preserve your letters, stories, and memories for future generations.

Step 1: Prepare Your Script

Don't worry about perfect writing; focus on sounding like **you**.

- **Draft your thoughts:** Use rough notes, bullet points, or an old letter.
- **Polish with AI:** Use **ChatGPT** or **Google Gemini** to turn your notes into a spoken-style script.
- **The Prompt:** *“Please turn these notes into a warm, conversational story that sounds natural when read aloud. Keep it under two minutes.”*

Step 2: Choose Your Path

Decide which approach fits your goal:

Path A: Your Own Voice

Best for: Personal legacy and emotional connection.

Feel: Authentic, intimate, and raw.

Path B: AI-Generated Voice

Best for: If you dislike your voice or find speaking difficult.

Feel: Polished, consistent, and clear.

Step 3: Create the Recording

If using Path A (Your Voice)

1. **Open your app:** Use **Voice Memos** (iPhone), **Google Recorder** (Android), or **Audacity** (PC/Mac).
2. **Record:** Tap the red button. Hold the phone **8–12 inches** from your mouth.
3. **Be yourself:** Pauses and small mistakes are fine—they add character! Tap the red button again to stop.
4. **Name the file:** Immediately rename "New Recording" to something clear, like *"Grandpa's Childhood Story – May 2026."*

If using Path B (AI Voice)

1. **Select a tool:** Use **ElevenLabs**, **Google AI Studio**, or **PlayHT**.
2. **Generate:** Paste your script from Step 1 into the tool.
3. **Customize:** Choose a "calm" or "natural" voice profile.
4. **Download:** Save the final version as an **MP3 file**.

Step 4: Polish & Refine (Optional)

If you want to enhance the quality, you can:

- **Clean the Audio:** Use **Audacity** to trim long silences at the beginning or end and adjust the volume.
- **Create a Transcript:** Use **Google AI Studio** to transcribe your "Path A" recording. This gives your family a written version to read along with the audio.

Step 5: Save and Share the Keepsake

A recording only becomes a keepsake if it is safe and accessible.

- **Store it safely:** Upload the file to **Google Drive**, **iCloud**, or a dedicated USB drive.
- **Make it visual:** * Import the audio into **iMovie** or a slideshow app and pair it with family photos. You can add the audio to a digital photo frame that supports sound).
- **Share the love:** Email the file to family members or send it via messaging apps for an instant surprise.

Story Starters

It is often the "blank page" (or the silent microphone) that is the hardest part. The best audio keepsakes aren't usually formal biographies; they are the small, vivid details that only you can describe.

Here is a list of story starters categorized by the "vibe" of the keepsake you want to create.

1. The "Early Days" (Roots & Childhood)

- **The Kitchen Table:** "If I close my eyes, I can still smell [Food/Dish] cooking in my childhood kitchen. It usually meant..."
- **The Neighborhood:** "When I was ten years old, my world was only four blocks wide. My favorite place to hide or play was..."
- **First Big Purchase:** "The first thing I ever saved up my own money to buy was [Item]. Here is why it meant the world to me..."
- **A Family Character:** "Every family has that one person who tells the best stories. For us, it was [Name], and I'll never forget the time they..."

2. The "Heart" (Family & Relationships)

- **The Day You Arrived:** "I remember the very first time I saw you. The weather was [Description], and the first thing I thought was..."
- **Meeting 'The One':** "I didn't know it at the time, but the moment I met [Name], my life shifted. We were at [Location] and..."
- **A Family Tradition:** "We always [Action/Tradition] every year. It started because..."
- **The "Secret" Recipe:** "This isn't just a recipe for [Dish]; it's the sound of the holidays. The trick to getting it right is..."

3. Life Lessons & Wisdom

- **A "Good" Mistake:** "I once made a massive mistake when I [Action]. It felt terrible then, but it taught me that..."
- **Best Advice:** "Someone once told me [Advice], and I didn't believe them until..."
- **Resilience:** "There was a year when things got really difficult. What pulled me through was..."
- **Success Defined:** "When I was younger, I thought being successful meant [X]. Now that I'm older, I realize it actually means..."

4. The "Senses" (Ordinary Magic)

- **Your Favorite Sound:** "My favorite sound in the world is [Sound]. It reminds me of..."
- **The Story of an Object:** "I've kept this [Watch/Ring/Photo] for forty years. It's a little scuffed up now, but it's been through..."
- **A Perfect Day:** "If I could relive one 'ordinary' Tuesday from ten years ago, it would look like this..."

Tip: The "Sensory Bridge"

When you start recording, try to describe one **smell**, one **sound**, or one **texture**. It acts as a "bridge" for the listener, making them feel like they are sitting right there next to you.

Starter Kit

1. I've chosen **"The Story of an Object"** for this script. It's a perfect starter because having the item in your hand while you speak makes your voice sound more natural and grounded.

2. This script is roughly **130–150 words**, which is the "sweet spot" for a 1-minute recording at a relaxed, conversational pace.

Script: The Story of the [Object Name]

“Hi everyone, it’s **[Your Name]**, and today is **[Current Date]**. I’m sitting here holding something that’s been with me for a long time. It’s my **[Name of the object]**.

If you look at it closely, you’ll see it’s **[describe a physical detail—is it scratched? Shiny? Faded?]**. It feels **[texture—heavy, smooth, rough]** in my hands.

I first got this back in **[Year or approximate time]** when **[briefly explain how you got it—was it a gift? Did you find it? Buy it?]**.

I’ve kept it all these years because every time I look at it, I’m reminded of **[a specific person, place, or feeling]**. It’s survived **[moves, clean-outs, or years of use]**, and it’s a little piece of my history.

I wanted to record this so that whenever you see this **[Object]**, you’ll know exactly why it mattered to me. I love you guys.”

3 Tips for your Practice Run:

1. **The "Slow Down" Rule:** We tend to speak faster when we’re nervous. If you feel like you’re rushing, take a deep breath between paragraphs.
2. **Smile While You Speak:** It sounds cheesy, but the listener can actually "hear" a smile in your tone. It makes the recording feel much warmer.
3. **Don't Edit the "Ums":** If you stumble or say "um," just keep going. Those little human moments are what make your family treasure the recording later.

Capcut for Voice Cloning

CapCut is an AI-powered video editing tool that includes built-in text-to-speech and voice cloning features, making it especially useful for creating narration without recording audio. For your class, its key value is that users can simply type a script and instantly generate natural-sounding voiceovers in different tones, accents, and styles. More advanced functionality allows users to record a short sample of their own voice, which the AI then uses to create a realistic voice clone that can read any text in their voice. This eliminates the need for repeated recording, speeds up content creation, and enables consistent, personalized narration across videos or presentations.

How to Clone Your Voice With Capcut

CapCut's AI voice tools are designed to let users generate narration directly from typed text.

1. Open CapCut.com and start a new project.
2. Look for the **Voice** feature in the left column. CapCut supports turning typed text into spoken narration, and it also offers a voice-clone option.
3. Choose the option to **create new**.
4. Press record and read the sample sentences CapCut asks for, using your normal speaking voice in a quiet room. CapCut says it can create a lifelike voice clone from a short voice sample.
5. Press the record again to end. This saves your cloned voice when CapCut finishes processing it.
6. Copy and paste **the words you want spoken** into the text box.
7. **Select your cloned voice** as the speaker for that text.
8. Click to **generate** the audio and listen to the result.
9. Export the project or save the audio to use in your project.

A practical caution: voice cloning is easy to misuse. You should only clone your own voice, or use someone else's voice with clear permission.

Creating Your Own Music With Suno

Suno is essentially the "Magic Wand" of the music world. It is a generative AI platform that doesn't just make beats - it creates full-fidelity songs complete with human-sounding vocals, lyrics, and complex arrangements across almost any genre you can imagine. Under the hood, it works similarly to a Large Language Model but instead of predicting the next word, it predicts the next wave of audio. Whether you want a Delta Blues track about a lost sock or a high-energy K-Pop anthem for your cat, Suno handles the heavy lifting of music theory and production while you act as the creative director.

Step-by-Step Guide to Creating Your Song

Creating a song in Suno can be as simple as a single sentence, but for something truly original, follow these steps to use **Custom Mode**.

Step 1: Open the "Create" Tab

- Go to Suno.com or open the mobile app.
- Navigate to the **Create** section. You'll see a toggle for **Custom Mode**—turn it on. This gives you separate boxes for lyrics and musical style, which is where the real magic happens.

Step 2: Craft Your Lyrics

You have three options here:

- **Write Your Own:** Paste in poetry or lyrics you've already written.

- **Generate with AI:** Enter a topic (e.g., "A song about the feeling of Sunday afternoon sunlight") and let Suno's "ReMi" model write them for you.
- **Use Structural Tags:** This is the pro move. Use brackets to tell the AI how to organize the song. For example:
 - [Intro]
 - [Verse 1]
 - [Chorus]
 - [Bridge]
 - [Outro]

Step 3: Define Your "Style of Music"

In the style box, don't just say "Rock." Be specific. A good prompt a good prompt includes **Genre, Mood, Tempo, and Instrumentation**.

Example Prompt: *90s Grunge, distorted guitars, heavy drums, melancholic male vocals, 120 BPM.*

Step 4: Hit "Create" and Audition

Suno will generate two distinct versions of your prompt. Listen to both.

- **The "Vibe" Check:** Does the melody match the lyrics?
- **The "Artifact" Check:** AI audio can occasionally have "fuzz" or strange vocal glitches. If it's not perfect, you can hit "Create" again to get fresh variations.

Step 5: Extend Your Song

Suno usually generates about 2 minutes of music at a time. To make a full-length track:

1. Click the **"Extend"** button (the three dots next to your favorite version).
2. Add your next set of lyrics (e.g., Verse 2 or the Outro).
3. The AI will generate a "Part 2" that seamlessly continues the rhythm and vocal tone of the first part.

Step 6: Finalize and Export

Once you're happy, click **"Get Whole Song"** to merge all parts into one finished track. You can then download it as an MP3, a WAV (for higher quality), or even a video with a scrolling lyric display.

Pro-Tips for Originality:

- **Vocal Performance Cues:** You can put performance instructions in parentheses within the lyrics, like (whispered) or (screaming), to influence how the AI sings specific lines.
- **Negative Prompts:** If the AI keeps adding annoying synth sounds you don't want, use the "Exclude Styles" field (if available in your version) or simply add "No synths" to your style prompt.