

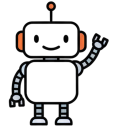


Chatbot, assistant, copilot, or agent?

A one-page vocabulary map, in plain English

ONE COMMON WAY TO EXPLAIN IT

These words are used loosely, and companies define them differently. Names also change. So do not trust a label: sort the tool into three layers, then ask four questions.



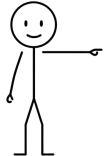
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Layers: model, product, role

The model is the engine that works with language. The product wraps it with a screen, tools and memory. The role is how the product behaves, such as chatbot or agent.

Try: When you see a word, ask: is it naming the engine, the product, or the behavior?



2



Question 1: Who starts the action?

Many tools wait for you to ask. Some can be set up to start on their own.

Try: Does it need your prompt every time?



3



Question 2: What can it touch?

A chat window only, or also files, a calendar, other apps? More access means it can do more, and a mistake can reach further (common sense).

Try: Check which permissions you gave it.



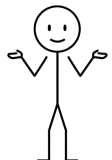
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Question 3: How many steps does it take alone?

One reply, a few fixed steps, or a path it chooses itself.

Try: Can it keep going without you?



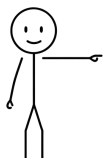
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Question 4: Who checks the result?

You at the end, you at set points, or nobody. Some setups can pause and ask a person.

Try: Where do you want it to stop and ask?



6



One common reading of the words

Chatbot: you start, it talks. Assistant: helps with tasks, you steer. Copilot: an assistant inside an app you already use. Agent: you give a goal, it chooses steps and tools, within limits that are set for it. The edges blur.

General explanation, not a standard. Companies mix these words.



Rule of thumb (general good practice): look under the label. The more it starts on its own, touches, and does alone, the more you should set limits and check.