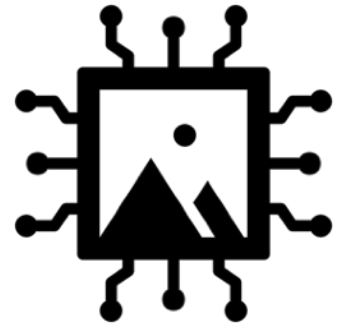


MEMBERSHIP

AI PICTURE-TELLING



About this activity

Students use artificial intelligence to recreate images.

- ▶ **Language level:** All levels from A2 upwards
- ▶ **Main task:** Describing an image to an AI image generator
- ▶ **Topics:** Artificial intelligence
- ▶ **Language focus:** Picture descriptions

For this activity, you will need the following:

- **Access to an AI image generator** such as DALL-E3 (see below)
- **The accompanying slideshow**



Note: For all materials and discussion, go to the corresponding page in the Resources section:

<https://membership.lessonstream.com/resources/ai-image-picture-telling/>

AI image generators

Artificial intelligence image generators or “text-to-image models” have recently become more powerful and easier to use. At the time of writing, DALL-E3 is probably the best one for teaching. It is integrated into Bing, Microsoft’s search engine, and is free to use if you have a Microsoft or Outlook account: <https://www.bing.com/images/create/> In the accompanying video, I show you exactly how to use DALL-E3.

Credit: The idea for this lesson plan came from Steve Sinclair who originally described the activity in the Fishbowl.

Activity outline

1. Tell students that you are going to show them two pictures. They have to look carefully at the pictures and describe as many differences between them as possible.
2. Display the first slide of the slideshow and elicit ideas from students.



Some possible differences between the pictures:

- The first picture is rectangular (landscape orientation) and the second picture is square.
- There are two cars in the first picture. There is only one car in the second.
- In the first picture, the chicken is on the right. In the second picture, it is on the left.
- The little girl in the first picture has lighter hair.
- There are no plants or vegetation in the second picture.
- The second picture looks more professional.

3. It is possible that students will realise that the second picture was created by AI. If not, ask students if they can identify the fundamental (i.e. most important) difference between the two pictures. You can encourage students to work out the answer by asking you closed questions.
4. Make sure everyone understands that the first picture is an actual photograph and the second picture is an AI-generated version of it. Ask the following questions:
 - Has anyone used an AI image generator?
 - Which ones have you used?
 - How easy or difficult is it to use them?
5. Open DALL-E3 and show students how it works. Ask students what they would like to see. Then type in their prompts and then click on "Create".

Note: At the time of writing, DALL-E3 is probably the best AI image generator for teaching. It is integrated into Bing, Microsoft's search engine, and is free to use if you have a Microsoft or Outlook account: <https://www.bing.com/images/create/>

6. Make use of the remaining slides in the slideshow to show students the instructions for DALL-E3 that generated the chicken image. In the accompanying video, I show you how to do this.

7. Choose an image – a photograph or a piece of art for example. Display the image for everyone to see. Ask students to go to DALL-E3 and try to create an AI version of the image. You can set a time limit (e.g. 10 minutes). Then find out who managed to create the most similar AI version of the original and ask them to read out their description.

Note: Ideally, students would have access to laptops or tablets. If this is not the case, you can ask them to write instructions and then dictate them to you as you type them into the image generator. Alternatively, the activity can be done as homework.



“A funny photograph. The back of a car with twin exhaust pipes. A dog is lying just behind the twin exhaust pipes and is looking up. The twin exhaust pipes are in front of the dog’s face. It looks like the dog is looking through a pair of binoculars.”

8. Ask students to describe any interesting behaviour that they observed from the AI image generator. For example, did it behave in any unpredictable ways? What are its limitations?

Some possible answers

- There is an overrepresentation of healthy-looking people of white European descent.
- Despite our attempts to provide accurate descriptions, the image generator will sometimes ignore important details. For example, for the image on the previous page, I specifically asked for two parked cars but only got one.
- Sometimes the image generator’s lack of human intuition becomes apparent. For example, why would the girl be hugging the chicken if she was scared of it?
- Sometimes, in response to an innocent instruction, DALL-E3 will refuse to show the image that it generates and will cite the following explanation: *Unsafe image content detected: Your image generations are not displayed because we detected unsafe content in the images based on our content policy. Please try creating again with another prompt.* Could this mean that AI has a dirty mind? Perhaps it is more human than we thought!



9. Ask students to discuss the following questions in pairs or small groups:

- Are you surprised at what you have seen today? Tell us why or why not.
- Do you think that AI-generated images are going to be good or bad for the world? Give a reason for your answer.
- What industries and professions do you think will be affected by AI-generated images? How do you think they will be affected?
- Can AI-generated images be considered art? Why or why not?
- Can you recall any news stories about AI-generated images? What do you remember about them?
- Do you think that AI-generated images will ever replace the ones that humans create?

Note: Alternatively, put students into pairs or groups and ask them to make a list of advantages and disadvantages that AI-generated images may bring to the world.

Potentially positive effects of AI-generated images:

- The ability of individuals with limited artistic skills to express themselves visually.
- AI tools can actually help with the human creative process. Artists and designers can use AI to generate ideas.
- In some education and training contexts, AI-generated images might allow for the visualisation of complex ideas and processes.
- AI-generated art offers new forms of expression and broadens the scope of human creativity.

Potentially negative effects of AI-generated images:

- Loss of jobs in traditional creative fields, such as graphic design and illustration.
- Misuse of AI-generated images for deceptive purposes, including the creation of fake news and propaganda.
- A general distrust of the visual media as people are unable to differentiate between traditional and AI-generated images.



Two well-known examples of AI-generated images that made the news: Pope Francis in a puffer jacket and Donald Trump's fake arrest