

A Further Look at Generative Al Tools

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Beyond Chat GPT, Gemini, and Claude, the first three tools covered, there are a huge number of generative AI tools available to be used, and more are being developed all the time. Each tool has its own strengths and weaknesses, and it's important to find the ones that suit your needs best.

Which generative AI tools will we be exploring today?

Although there are a huge variety of tools you can use, the tools that we will be exploring today are:

Perplexity



Explain Like I'm Five



Microsoft Copilot



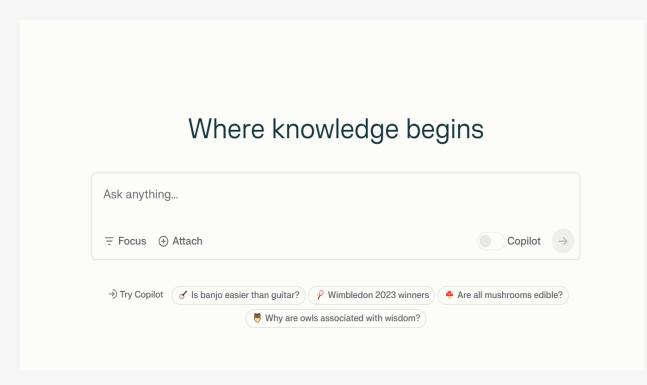
These tools are all great at different things, as you will explore through this tutorial.

Perplexity #

1. Perplexity

1.1 Perplexity for browser

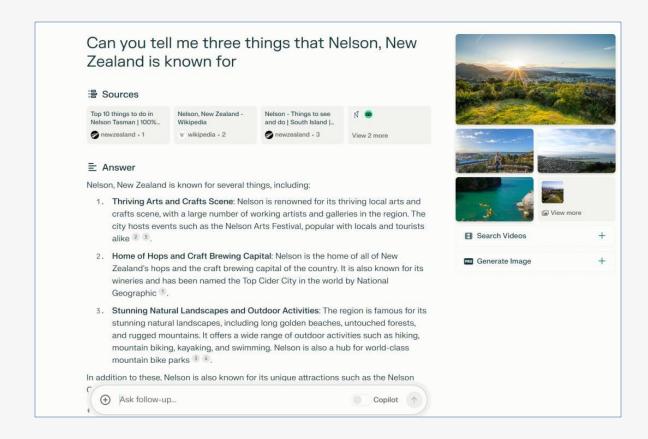
To start, open up <u>Perplexity</u> on a separate tab. This will take you to a page like the one below.

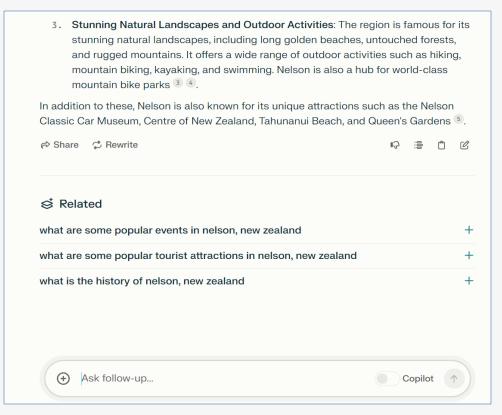


As with other chatbots such as Chat GPT, you can ask Perplexity a variety of questions.

To start with, try asking something simple such as:

"Can you tell me three things that Nelson, New Zealand, is known for?"





Perplexity is a great tool due to the complete answer that it gives. As shown, it provides sources right below the question, before going into the answer.

On top of this, it also shows some images on the right of the answer, and gives the option to search videos. Perplexity can also generate images, but this is a feature that has to be paid for.

At the bottom of the answer, there are a number of other tools that you can use. We will go over these in detail later on, but a simple tool you can make use of is asking a follow up question.

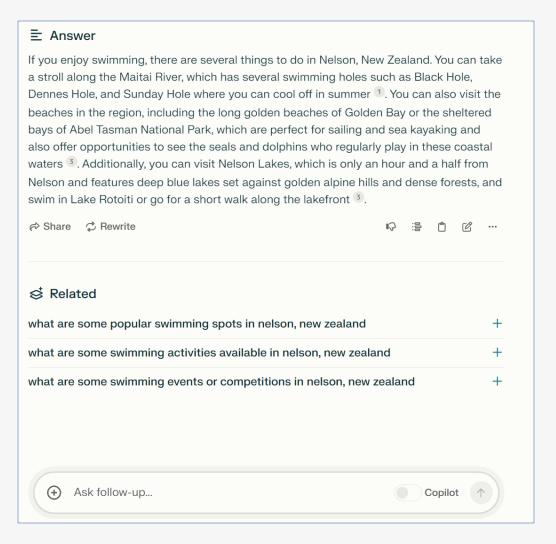
Perplexity provides some suggested follow up questions, but you can also ask your own. For example, you could ask:

"What should I do there if I enjoy swimming?"

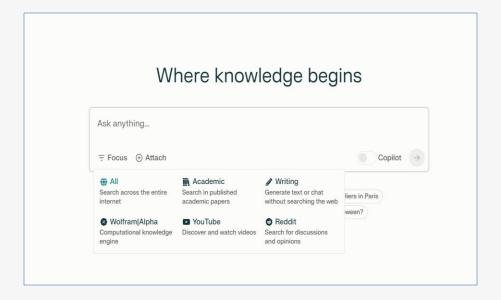
As you can see, you will again receive an answer with more options for follow-up questions.

To go back to the main page, click on the Perplexity logo on the top left of the page.

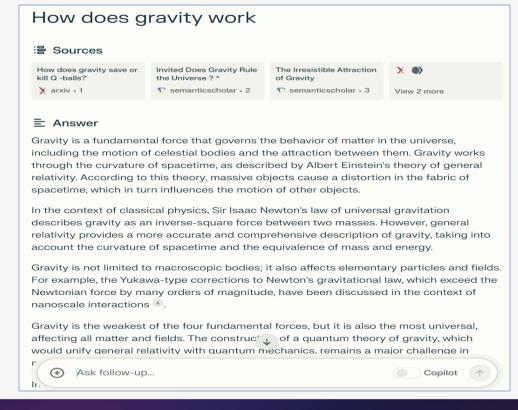




On the main page, you can narrow down the focus of your question by clicking on the "Focus" button beneath the search bar. This will bring up the following list of options:

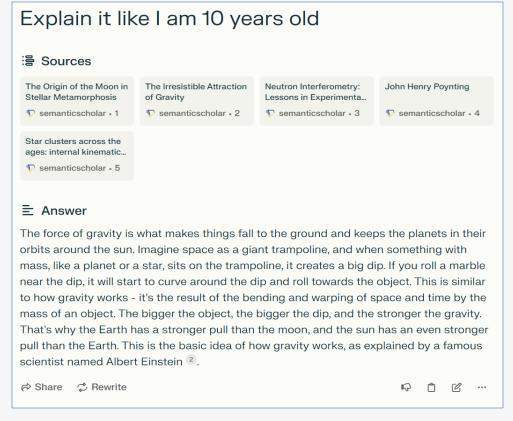


This can be used to limit the search to certain areas. For example, click on the "Academic" focus, and search something such as "How does gravity work?". This will search only academic papers, and can be useful if you are asking a question that you want to be answered from more reliable sources (although it is important to note that academic papers are not

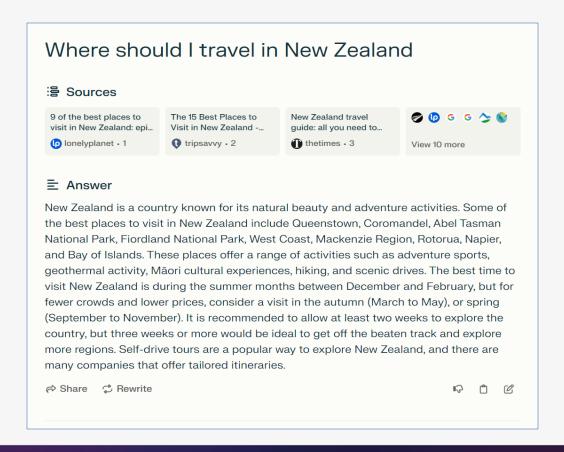


As shown, the answer from perplexity when searching only academic papers can be reasonably high-level and difficult to understand. An example of a follow up question you could ask is to

"Explain it like I am ten years old".



Going back to the main page, change the focus back to "All". Now, try a search for something like "Where should I travel in New Zealand?". This should give you an answer like the following:



It is an okay answer, but it can be made better. Try using the rewrite button underneath the text.

This should pop up with the following list:

This is a list of different AI models that can be used to rewrite the answer.

You can see that **Chat GPT** and **Claude's** models are on the list, along with some others.

Most of them are <u>only accessible</u> through the <u>paid version of</u> <u>Perplexity</u>, but **Copilot** (<u>not Microsoft Copilot</u>, but <u>Perplexity</u>'s <u>Copilot</u>) can be used 5 times a day for free.

Use **Copilot** to rewrite the answer by clicking on it.

Rewrite your answer



More accurate and thorough search

PRO Experimental

Concise and less restrictive model by Perplexity

PRO GPT-4

OpenAl's most advanced model

PRO Claude-2.1

Anthropic's most advanced model

PRO Gemini Pro

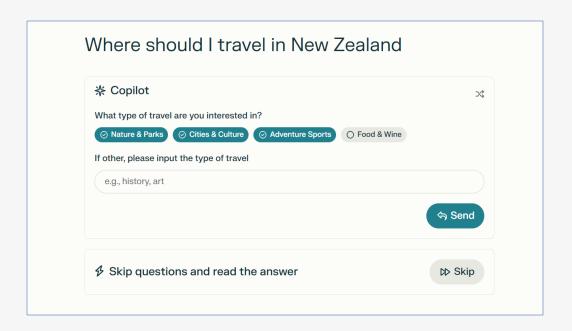
Beta model by Google





Copilot is an **Artificial Intelligence** model, different from the normal Perplexity search, that will personalise your answer by asking you questions to clarify. It also provides a deeper search and will generate better answers.

After asking a couple of questions to clarify the search, Perplexity will then create an answer more personalised to you, hopefully providing better results.



= Answer

New Zealand offers a diverse range of experiences, from stunning natural landscapes to thrilling adventure sports and vibrant cities. Given your interest in nature and parks, adventure sports, and cities and culture, here are some recommendations for your 2-week trip to New Zealand:

Nature & Parks

- South Island: Explore the filming locations of "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit" in the South Island, including Queenstown, Glenorchy, and Wanaka. Visit Milford Sound, known for its natural beauty and fjords ³ ⁵.
- North Island: Discover the geothermal wonders in Rotorua, the vibrant city of Wellington, and the Tongariro National Park, known for its stunning landscapes

Adventure Sports

- Queenstown: Experience a wide range of adventure activities, including bungee jumping, skydiving, and jet boating ³ ⁵.
- Rotorua: Engage in activities such as ziplining, mountain biking, and exploring geothermal parks ⁶.

1.2 Perplexity as a Browser Extension

Perplexity, although available in a similar format to the previous AI models shown, can also be used as a Chrome (or other search engine such as Firefox) add on. After clicking on the link, you can add it to chrome with the button in the top right corner. It can be removed at any time through this same button.

Perplexity's Chrome Extension



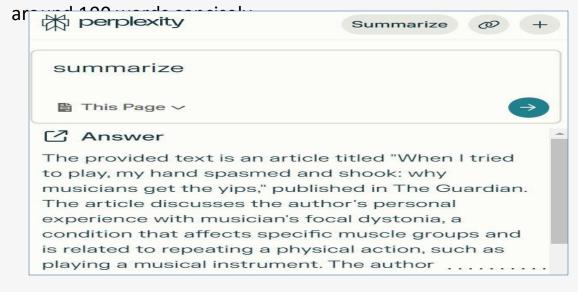
Once added to chrome, it should appear to the right of the search bar at the top, with its own logo. If not, click the puzzle piece symbol in the same area, and click the pin by Perplexity to pin it next to the search bar. At any point when you are using chrome, you can access perplexity through the logo next to the

search bar.
Click on the puzzle piece if Perplexity does not appear on the bar



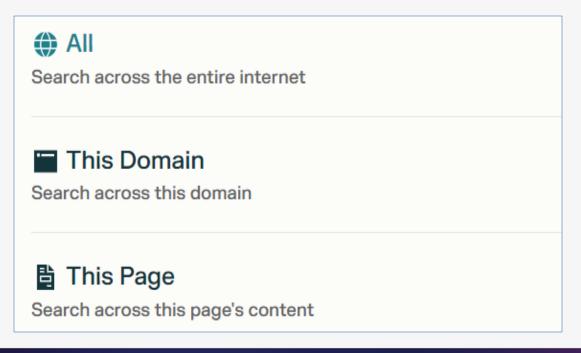
Now, open up an article such as this one from The Guardian about "the yips".

Once on the article, open up Perplexity by clicking on the icon. You should see a search bar in which you can enter prompts, with a button labelled focus beneath it. Before we get to that, one of the most useful tools on Perplexity is the "Summarize" button in the top right. By clicking this, you will get a summary of the article. Although it doesn't always work perfectly, often you will receive a good summary. In the case of this article, you will see that it works reasonably well, shortening the long article to

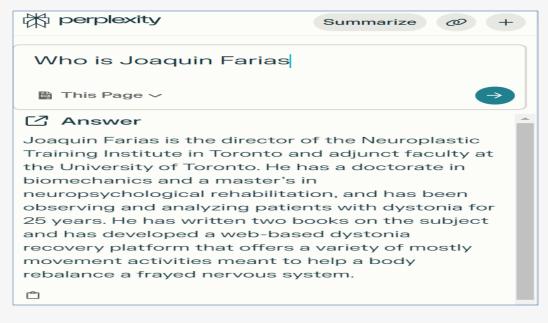


At the bottom of the search bar, you will see an option to change the **"Focus"** of the search.

Through this tool, you can either allow Perplexity to search only the page, the domain (website), or the whole internet. It automatically is set on searching the whole internet, so for the following questions about the article itself, you will have to change it to search the page only, by clicking on it and choosing "This Page".



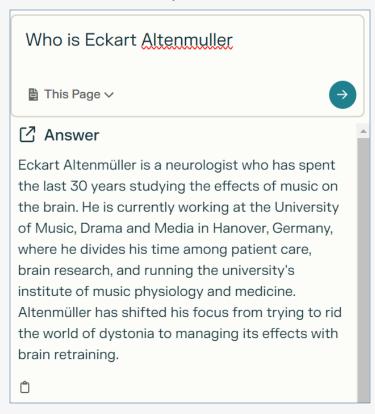
The second half of the article talks about Joaquin Farias. You can enter into the prompt box questions such as "Who is Joaquin Farias?" and "Where did Joaquin Farias study?". Both should give you answers taken only from that article.



This is a great tool if you are just trying to find a specific piece of information from an article. Another example would be to ask "What is the battery life?" when reading a review for a phone or laptop.

This search works well even with people or concepts mentioned only in passing by the article.

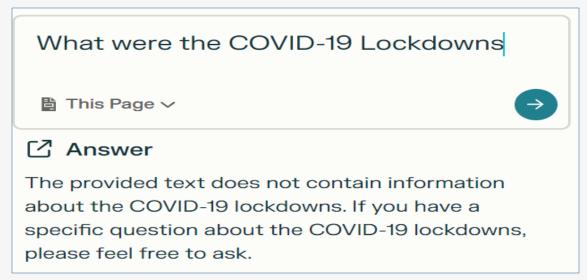
<u>Eckart Altenmuller</u> is only mentioned near the bottom of the article, with some information about him in the next two sentences, but a question about him works equally well, which



As with the website version of Perplexity, you can ask it to explain concepts in a simpler way. If you ask the question "What is task-specific focal dystonia?", searching across the page only, it will give you an answer directly from the text. If you change the search to "Explain task specific focal dystonia like I am five years old?", Perplexity should change the answer into an easier to understand paragraph. You will probably notice that this feature is not as refined as some of the other AI models such as Chat GPT, or even Perplexity's own website, but still works well enough to be useful.



Of course, if there is no information about a concept in the article, then asking a question about it and searching through only the article will not work. This article briefly mentions the Covid-19 lockdowns near the top, but does not explain them at all. Now, ask Perplexity "What were the Covid-19 Lockdowns?" in a search across only this article. Although they are mentioned in the article, you should find that Perplexity cannot give you an answer for this question, as the search is only limited to the article, and the article does not explain Covid 19 lockdowns.





However, if you change the search to "across the entire internet", Perplexity will then give you a proper answer.

The web search can be used to answer any question, regardless of how relevant it is to the page you are on – however, as with all Al models, care needs to be taken when reading the results, as they are not necessarily always true.

The domain search can be useful in this regard, as if you know a website is likely to be trustworthy, allowing Perplexity to only search that domain can make sure the results are more likely to be accurate.

Explain Like I'm Five



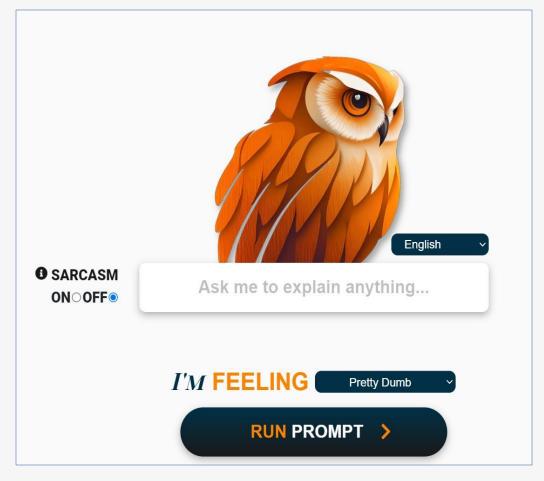
2. Explain Like I'm Five



Explain Like I'm Five does not need much explanation, as it is very similar to some of the previous AI models shown and easy to use. The main benefit of this model is how easy it is to use, and the little effort required in getting a good explanation. However, it is only useful in explaining concepts, rather than the range of uses that the previous AI models had.

On the main page, there should be a prompt box in the centre, with a toggle for sarcasm on the left-hand side. The most useful tool is below the prompt box, a tool that you can use to change how high-level the response is.

The home page of Explain Like I'm Five:



To start off, use a prompt such as "How do black holes work?"

The AI should come back with a full explanation of the workings of black holes, including how they are formed.

Black holes are like a giant vacuum cleaner in space that sucks up everything that gets too close to them. Imagine a ball that is so heavy that it makes a hole in a trampoline, and if you throw another ball near it, it gets sucked into the hole. That's what happens with black holes, but instead of a trampoline, it's space, and instead of balls, it's stars, planets, and even light! A black hole is formed when a massive star dies and its core collapses under its own gravity. This creates a very dense and small object called a singularity, which has a gravitational pull so strong that nothing can escape it, not even light. The point of no return is called the event horizon, and anything that crosses it is forever trapped in the black hole.

One verifiable fact is that the closest black hole to Earth is about 1,000 light-years away in the constellation Telescopium. It's called V616 Monocerotis or A0620-00, and it's estimated to be about 10 times the mass of the Sun.

Black holes are fascinating objects in space, but they also pose a danger to anything that gets too close to them. That's why astronomers study them from a safe distance using telescopes and other instruments.

By adjusting the complexity of the response to "dumb", and asking Explain Like I'm Five the prompt again, you will get a slightly more in-depth answer.

Black holes are incredibly fascinating and unique objects in space. They are formed from the remnants of massive stars that have undergone a gravitational collapse, resulting in an extremely dense and compact region. To grasp how black holes work, it's important to understand two key concepts: gravity and the event horizon. Gravity is a force that pulls objects together. You experience gravity on Earth when you drop something and it falls toward the ground. The more massive an object is, the stronger its gravitational pull. For example, the Earth's gravity is strong enough to keep us grounded, but the Moon's gravity is weaker, allowing astronauts to jump higher on its surface.

Now, imagine a star much more massive than our Sun. When such a star runs out of fuel and exhausts its nuclear reactions, it can no longer support itself against its own gravity. The star collapses under its own weight, becoming a black hole. The gravitational pull of a black hole is so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape its grasp within a certain boundary called the event horizon.

Another prompt you can use is "What is the main theme of Macbeth by Shakespeare?".

This again provides a very simplified explanation, of the main theme in Macbeth, which it recognises as ambition. However, as with all literature, there is not necessarily a definitive answer. Although many people may agree that ambition is the main theme, others may not - and Explain Like I'm Five does not mention those other viewpoints. It is important to exercise caution when using AI tools such as this and make sure there is no information omitted.

The main theme of Macbeth is ambition. This means wanting something really badly and doing whatever it takes to get it. In the play, Macbeth is really ambitious and wants to become king, so he does some bad things like killing people to make it happen. Just like when you really want a toy and you might do something you know you shouldn't to get it, Macbeth does bad things to become king.

A fact about Macbeth is that it was written by William Shakespeare in the 17th century and is one of his most famous plays.

In the end, Macbeth's ambition leads to his downfall, showing that being too ambitious can have bad consequences. So, it's important to be careful and think about the consequences of our actions when we want something really badly.



Explain Like I'm Five can be a useful tool for getting simplified explanations, especially for topics that are well-known. However, it can still provide wrong information, as with all AI, and it is important to recognise this.

Finally, Explain Like I'm Five <u>currently only allows three</u> <u>prompts a day with the free version</u>.

Microsoft Copilot

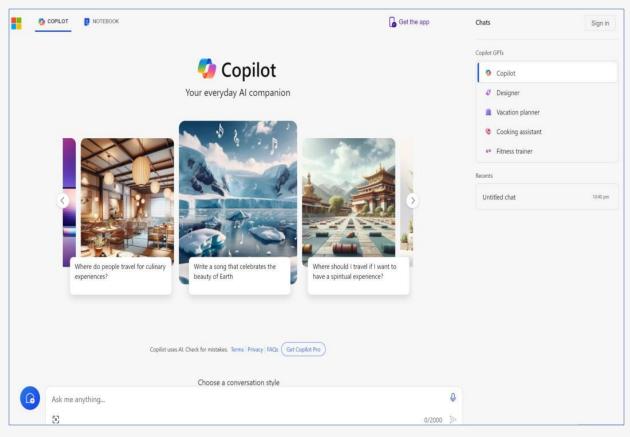


3. Microsoft Copilot 💝



Microsoft Copilot is another tool similar to Perplexity.

You can access it through this link, which will take you to the following page:

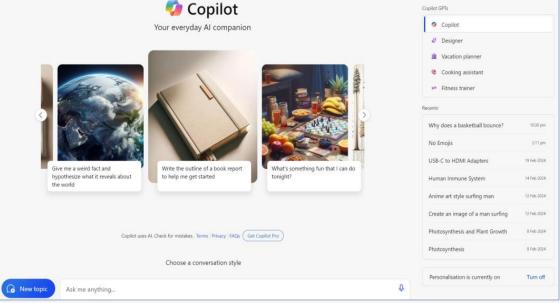


Microsoft Copilot is a chatbot, similar to tools such as Perplexity and Chat GPT. For this reason, there is no need to go over the normal features, and how to talk to a chatbot - the section on Perplexity, and especially the previous stream that looked at Chat GPT, Gemini, and Claude, went over this. This section will instead show the special features of Microsoft Copilot.

Start with entering a simple prompt such as "Why does a basketball bounce?". You should find that while it generates an answer, it also provides links to sources that back up the information that it is providing.

You can access these sources by clicking on the underlined section of the answer. This is similar to the feature on Gemini, but does not require you to click anything for these sources to be generated, unlike Gemini. Create a new chat by clicking "New topic". One of the other things that makes Microsoft Copilot different is the ability to use different "GPTs" for free. Different GPTs are specialised in different tasks. For example, click on the vacation planner GPT in the top right.





This is a GPT specifically designed to help with planning and booking travel. You could ask it a question such as "I am in Brisbane for a week, what are some things that I should do while I am there?". As with all AI, the more detail you can give, the better the result will be.

2 You I am in Brisbane for a week, what are some things that I should do while I am there? Vacation planner Hello, this is Vacation Planning Helper. I am happy to help you plan your trip to Brisbane. 😊 Brisbane is a vibrant and beautiful city with many attractions and activities to enjoy. Here are some suggestions for things to do in Brisbane based on your query and the web search results 1: · Explore South Bank Parklands, a riverfront precinct with parklands, plazas, promenades, restaurants, and a man-made lagoon. You can also visit the museums and galleries in the Cultural Centre, such as the Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) [2]. · Cuddle a koala at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, the world's first and largest koala sanctuary. You can also see other Australian wildlife, such as kangaroos, wombats, dingoes, and crocodiles 2 · Hop on a Brisbane River Cruise, a relaxing way to see the city from a different perspective. You can choose from different options, such as a sightseeing cruise, a lunch cruise, or a sunset cruise · Stroll through Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mount Coot-tha, a beautiful botanical garden with native and exotic plants, a Japanese garden, a tropical dome, and a planetarium 2. · Admire the views from the Brisbane Lookout Mount Coot-tha, a popular spot for panoramic

At the bottom of the answer, there may also be a map with the attractions marked on it.

Copilot won't book the trip for you, but it can help you find hotels, discover places to travel, and find attractions and things to do, among other things. It can be very useful as a quick way to find things to do in a new city, and will even find things suited to your budget or interest if you ask it to.

Again, create a new chat by clicking on the icon on the bottom left. To go back to the normal version of Copilot, click on it on the top right list of different GPTs. Currently, there are three other GPTs available for use - a designer for generating images, a cooking assistant, and a fitness trainer. These are all easy to use, in the same way that the travel plug-in was.

Copilot is a great tool due to being a one-stop place for many different uses — it can generate images, write emails or reports, and will provide sources with any information it gives. You will likely find, though, that it isn't as "creative" as Chat GPT, and is not as good for research as Perplexity. Despite this it is still useful as it is easy to use, is integrated into Bing search, and does a lot of things well. As with all AI, it is being improved often, so it may become even more useful in the future.



Summary

As with all AI tools, you will have found that each has its own strengths and weaknesses and you may have even decided that some of our conclusions are wrong – it is a good idea to make your own decisions on which AI suits you best.

All is also constantly evolving, so each All model may look very different in 6 months' time, and it can be useful to check in every month to see what is changing in the space.

Hopefully this tutorial helped you understand a little bit more about the available tools, but feel free to talk to any of our team if you had more questions.