

AI Bytes

Making Sense of Artificial Intelligence in Literacy and Basic Skills Education

A Contact North | Contact Nord and Literacy Link South Central publication

**E-Channel
Apprentissage en ligne**



Welcome to *AI Bytes*, your digital digest for the latest in artificial intelligence information for LBS!

In this issue, we'll explore AI tools and assistants that can enhance your teaching and spark creativity in the classroom. We'll uncover how chatbots work, discover tools designed for location-based services, and explore essential prompt writing techniques. Additionally, we'll highlight practical AI applications to support English language learners with an opportunity to try a new AI tool.

A special thanks to those who participated in our Microsoft Designer experiment. We hope you discovered a new tool to create engaging learning materials. Here's a glimpse of the creative submissions! (images at right)

Stay tuned for additional updates, insightful tutorials and much more as we navigate the exciting landscape of artificial intelligence together!



Inside *AI Bytes*

This bulletin is the third in a series of six scheduled for distribution throughout 2024 and 2025. We specifically designed it to provide valuable insights and resources for educators in adult education, with an emphasis on Literacy and Basic Skills programs (LBS).

- Understanding the technologies powering modern chatbots
- Chatbots developed for LBS
- Get tips for effective prompt engineering in LBS with an activity
- AI: A new frontier for English language learning

Meet the AI Bytes team



Carolina Cohoon is an EdTech Consultant at Literacy Link South Central. Her professional background encompasses education and rehabilitation, with a passion for inclusion and accessibility.

Carolina is dedicated to designing learning experiences that celebrate and embrace diversity. Her interest in artificial intelligence (AI) is fueled by her enthusiasm for innovation, knowledge sharing, enhancing accessibility, and improving the learning experience through personalized learning adaptations that AI can offer within the framework of Universal Design for Learning (UDL).



Jeremy Marks works for Literacy Link South Central as a project manager and edtech researcher. He recently completed the Teacher/Trainer of Adults program at Conestoga College. Jeremy has taught learners

in public and secondary schools and colleges and universities, in Canada and the U.S., since 2002. His fascination with AI comes from his longstanding passion for educational theory and cognitive philosophy.

* This bulletin is edited by Contact North | Contact Nord.

Understanding the technologies powering modern chatbots

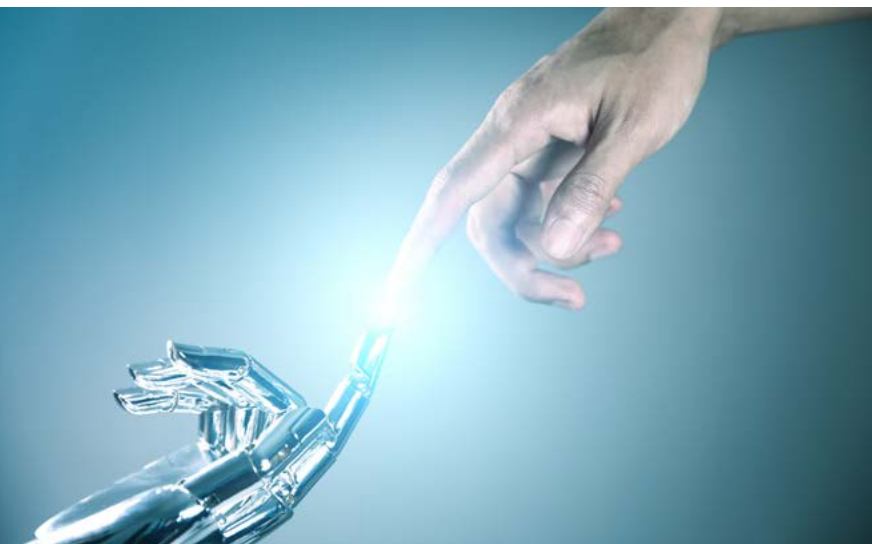
Creating a chatbot involves the integration of several advanced AI technologies. Key components include Natural Language Processing (NLP), Large Language Models (LLMs), and Generative AI. Each of these technologies plays a crucial role in making chatbots more intelligent, responsive and capable of handling complex conversations.

To illustrate their power, let's try a simple exercise. Select a chatbot of your choice and ask it, "What is a metaphor?" Copy and paste the response into a separate document. Then ask the same question again and compare the two responses.

What do you observe?

If you noticed a variation in responses, you are correct! The variation in responses from a chatbot when asked the same question can be attributed to several factors:

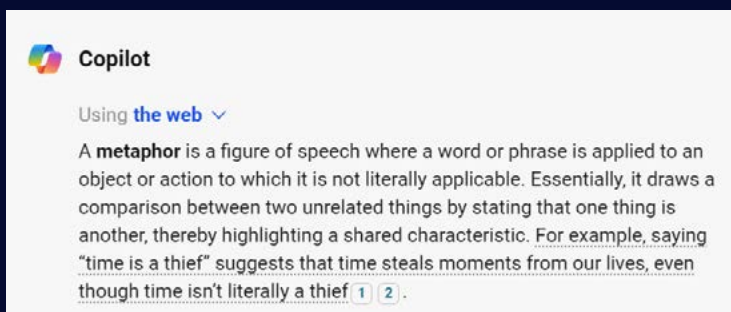
- ✓ **Training data:** Chatbots are trained on large datasets. If the training data is diverse, the chatbot may generate different responses to the same question. Therefore, the diversity and quality of the training data are crucial for generating accurate and varied responses.
- ✓ **Randomness:** Some chatbots are designed to incorporate a degree of randomness in their responses to make the conversation feel more natural or human-like and less repetitive.
- ✓ **Contextual understanding:** Advanced chatbots can consider the context of the conversation when formulating a response. The same question



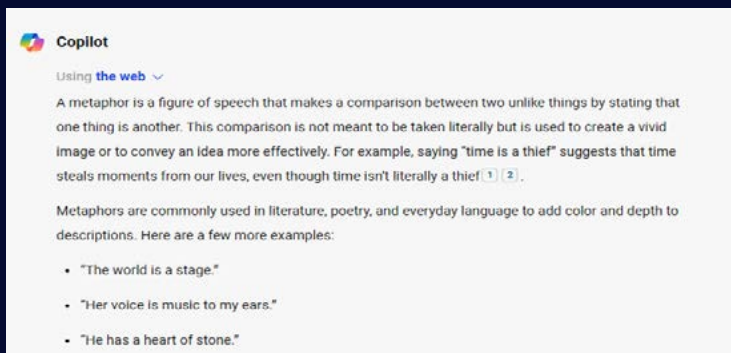
asked in different contexts might yield different responses.

- ✓ **Learning over time:** Some chatbots can learn from their interactions. Therefore, their responses can evolve over time based on the new information they acquire.
- ✓ **User personalization:** Chatbots may tailor their responses based on user preferences or past interactions with the user, which improves user satisfaction and engagement.

Check out our output! Prompt: ***What is a metaphor?***



We cleared the chat and input the same prompt: ***What is a metaphor?*** Here's the output:



Chatbots developed for LBS

AI Tutor Pro by Contact North (for learners)

AI Tutor Pro

Contact North | Contact Nord has launched an innovative tool to enhance learning experiences!

Here's what AI Tutor Pro can do for you:

- **Skill building:** Uses the power of AI to help learners build skills and knowledge on any topic, anytime, anywhere
- **Accessible learning:** Works on smartphones, laptops and desktops, making learning flexible and convenient
- **No login required:** Completely free to use without the need for a login or tracking users

Get it here! <https://www.aitutorpro.ca/>

AI Teaching Assistant Pro by Contact North (for instructors)

AI Teaching Assistant Pro

Contact North | Contact Nord has an exciting AI tool that's set to revolutionize teaching experiences!

- **Personalized support:** Tailored assistance for teaching and instructional design
- **Efficient test creation:** Quickly draft quizzes and essays with scoring rubrics
- **Course development ideas:** Generate course descriptions, outcomes and weekly topics
- **Free and confidential:** Enjoy the service at no cost, with complete privacy

Get it here!

<https://www.aiteachingassistantpro.ca/>

LBS Assistant by Literacy Link South Central (for instructors)

The EdTech team at Literacy Link South Central (LLSC) has developed a brand-new tool: The LBS Assistant is an AI chatbot designed specifically for Ontario adult literacy instructors who follow the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework (OALCF).

Here's what the LBS Assistant can do for you:

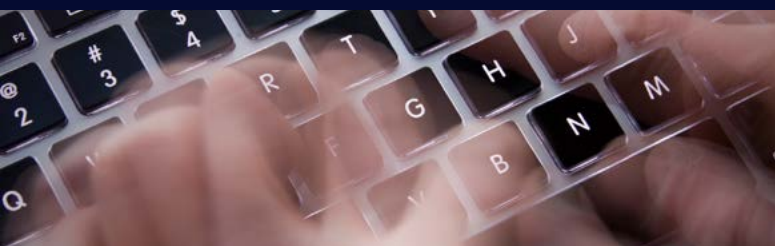
- Create targeted OALCF tasks
- Make learning inclusive with universal design principles
- Offer alternative teaching styles for engaging lessons
- Provide answers 24/7 without any complicated setups
- No cost
- Clear language

Get started today! Watch the tutorial video: Learn how to use the LBS Assistant with this helpful guide: <https://youtu.be/7ysJOWFDWpQ?si=ir3SkUrtm1LkVxin>

Access the LBS Assistant: Start creating UDL-aligned, OALCF-compliant activities here: <https://poe.com/LBS-Assistant>

Get tips for writing effective prompts in LBS

Ready to level up your LBS task design skills? Join us for an interactive learning experience that includes a step-by-step guide and a practical activity. **Explore our downloadable flipbook here: [3 Tips for Effective Prompt Engineering in LBS.](#)**



AI a new frontier for English language learning

It's like something out of Star Trek. AI has rapidly become a reality in our classrooms, with educators and learners asking, "Can AI help with that?" New tools are emerging weekly, revolutionizing how we learn and teach.

Many free AI technologies can support language learning, from transcribing speech to checking pronunciation and even responding to voice commands. By incorporating these tools, students can practise independently and find more inclusive, personalized learning experiences.

Here are some valuable resources for instructors and learners:

Listening and speaking with chatbots

Choose a [chatbot](#): 24/7 language coaching, anytime, anywhere. Speak clearly into your microphone and get instant feedback on pronunciation and grammar. Immerse yourself in language learning with virtual reality, language learning apps and chatbots.

Features:

- Unlimited practice: Engage in many conversations, ask questions or share stories.
- Feedback: Receive instant feedback on pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary.
- Voice integration: Practice pronunciation and grammar with real-time feedback.
- Interactive conversations: Simulate real-life dialogue situations to build confidence.
- Role-playing: Practise scenarios like asking for directions or ordering pizza.

Try this prompt: "[You are an English teacher. I'd like to practise my English grammar and pronunciation. Can you provide me with some exercises and give me feedback on my performance? I'll use the microphone to speak clearly and follow your instructions.](#)"

Pro tip: Develop your own prompt and ask the chatbot to improve it.

Additional software to support English language learners

Quizlet: Your AI-powered tutor assistant

Boost your English skills with Quizlet. Create flashcards, track your progress, get summaries and chat with Q-Chat (AI tutor).

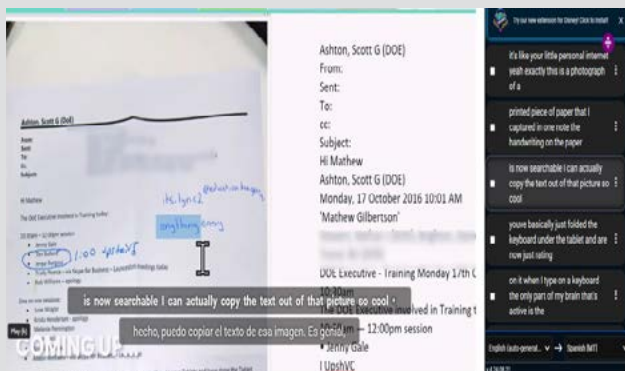
Key benefits:

- Personalized learning: Quizlet's algorithm adapts to your progress, focusing on areas where you need more practice.
- Interactive practice: Make learning fun with engaging games and activities that reinforce your understanding.
- AI-powered tutoring: Q-Chat explains concepts and develops critical thinking skills.
- Comprehensive study sets: Choose from millions of premade sets created by teachers and learners worldwide.

QuizletPlus Cost: \$3.74 CAD per month, free seven-day trial

Language learning with Netflix & YouTube

Want your learners to practise English while binge-watching their favourite shows? This free Chrome extension lets you watch your favourite shows with dual subtitles, instant dictionaries and more. Easily learn new words, review vocabulary and listen to correct pronunciation.



Wordwall: Interactive learning made easy

- Create fun activities: Turn vocabulary into games, quizzes and worksheets.
- Customize templates: Match your teaching style and goals.
- Use with chatbots: Get AI-generated content for quick lesson planning.

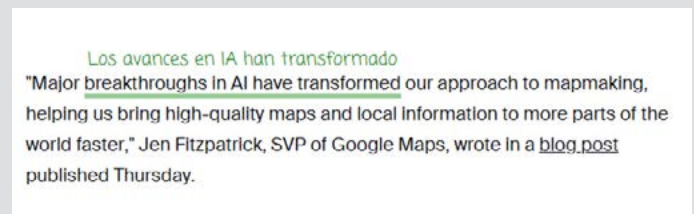
Visit <https://wordwall.net/> to explore the platform and create your first activity.

Pro tip: Combine Wordwall with a chatbot for more efficient and creative lesson planning. Use a chatbot to generate vocabulary lists, definitions, questions and answers, then easily incorporate them into Wordwall activities.

Cost: Free for basic plan (up to three activities). Unlimited activities plan: \$8.80 CAD per month

Readlang

This tool helps you read websites in English by translating words and phrases as you go. It also creates flashcards from the words you look up, which you can review later.



Visit: [Readlang | Features](#) to check all the features. Cost: Free with a [premium option](#)

Some closing thoughts

LBS instructors work hard to meet learners where they are. They modify curricula to help learners achieve milestones, acquire new skills and solve problems. Instruction requires a lot of creative energy, so we recommend using AI chatbots to jumpstart your creativity while busy at work.

AI chatbots are not here to think for us. However, we can use them as personal sounding boards to explore ideas, strategies and new instructional strategies. The LBS instructor is always our focus, and AI can only enhance (but never replace) the wisdom and experience of the seasoned adult literacy professional.

We hope you enjoyed this newsletter and see new ways to use AI chatbots in your instructional practice.



AI Bytes edition 4: What's next

In our next edition of *AI Bytes*, we'll explore how to use AI to help learners with:

- Employment preparation
- Resume/cover letter research & building
- Researching companies/employers
- Researching individuals for employment networking
- Social media navigation
- Skills descriptions for building an employment profile

References

[Top 7 AI Tools for Language Teachers and Language Learners - ATC Language Schools](#)

[Welcome to Quizlet's AI Study Era: Studying will never be the same | Quizlet](#)

[Quizlet Launches Advanced AI-Powered Tools for Next-Gen Studying \(prnewswire.com\)](#)

[What is Quizlet and How Can I Teach With It? What's New? | Tech & Learning \(techlearning.com\)](#)