Asking questions and generating examples

When you're studying and have questions it can be difficult to wait until the next time you see your teacher to ask them. AI tools may be able to help provide you with explanations of the content you're using, they may help you understand complicated sentences, find key themes, and give background information to make the content easier to understand.

Example

Asking for clarification

You're just beginning to learn about terminal velocity and you come across this sentence:

> Terminal velocity is reached when the force of gravity pulling an object down is balanced by the air resistance pushing up,

The article mentions "air resistance," and you're not sure what that means, so you could ask the chatbot, "What is air resistance?". The chatbot might explain that air resistance is the force that pushes against objects moving through the air, slowing them down.

If that chatbot you're using has access to the article, you can even ask it to explain what it means in context which could be even more helpful.

> In this context, air resistance refers to the force that air exerts on an object as it moves through it. When something falls, like a skydiver or a ball, the object pushes against the air, and the air pushes back. This pushback from the air is what we call air resistance.

Asking for examples

You're revising and reading through a handout from a lecture you attended about Newton's Laws of Motion. In the handout there is an example using the Earth and a satellite to demonstrate Newton's third law, but it feels quite abstract and doesn't really help you understand the concept. So, you ask the AI tool if it can generate some more examples of Newton's third law.

The AI tool gives you 10 new examples, including one using a car and its wheels as the example which you find easier to understand.

Suggested tools:

Text generation tools e.g., Microsoft Copilot, ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Perplexity

Prompt suggestions:

Can you explain what this concept means? Use real world examples.

Can you explain this concept in simpler terms?

Can you give me an analogy to help explain this concept?

Can you give me more examples of this idea?

What are the most important themes in this text?

Can you help me understand this paragraph? Explain the meaning to me referencing the text as you go.

Tips:

Remember you can ask the AI tool as many questions as you need to. If you are asking for clarification or for more examples and you don't understand the tool's explanations then ask if to explain it in a different way, or to use a different example or to explain it using clearer language. You can keep asking the tool to adjust and change as much as you need.