

THIS WEEKEND'S FAMILY ACTIVITY

The Upgrade Round

GAME

SKILL: INTENTIONAL USE

45 MINUTES

RECOMMENDED AGE RANGE

Ages 8–14 — old enough to have real knowledge to add to an AI answer, and curious enough to notice what the AI missed.

WHAT YOU NEED

A phone, tablet, or computer with AI chatbot access

Paper and pencil for each player

A timer

ACTIVITY STEPS

- 01 Pick a Real Question (5 min).** Together, choose one question the whole family genuinely wants answered. Something real works best: how does a specific sports rule work, what is the history of a food you love, how does something in your neighborhood function. The rule is everyone has to actually care about the answer.
- 02 Ask the AI (10 min).** One person types the question into an AI chatbot and reads the full answer aloud. Everyone listens without commenting. When the reading is done, take 2 minutes of silence. Each player writes down their first reaction: what they believe, what they doubt, and what they wish the answer had included.
- 03 Write Your Upgrade (10 min).** Set a 10-minute timer. Each player writes three things on their paper: one thing they would correct or question in the AI answer, one thing the AI left out that matters, and one thing they would say differently or more clearly. Write it in your own words. You cannot just copy what the AI said.
- 04 Share and Score (15 min).** Each player reads their three items aloud. After each one, the table votes: is this a real upgrade, or does it just restate what the AI already said? Real upgrades get a point. Using only the real upgrades the table agreed on, one person reads the improved version back as a combined answer.
- 05 Compare and Talk (5 min).** Read the original AI answer one more time, then the upgraded version. Spend the last 5 minutes on one question: where did the human additions make the biggest difference, and why? The moment someone says “the AI missed the part about...” is the habit forming. That is Intentional Use.

THE DEEPER LESSON

AI gives you a starting point, not a finishing point. The Upgrade Round makes that distinction concrete. A kid who can look at AI output and immediately identify what is missing, uncertain, or worth saying better has internalized Intentional Use. They are not just consuming. They are editing. Once a child has experienced the difference between what AI produced and what the family made together, they carry that distinction into every AI interaction that follows.

CONVERSATION STARTER

If you had to put your name on an answer, would you rather it be the AI's first draft or the version we made together?

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You cannot out-compete AI. But you can out-human it.

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