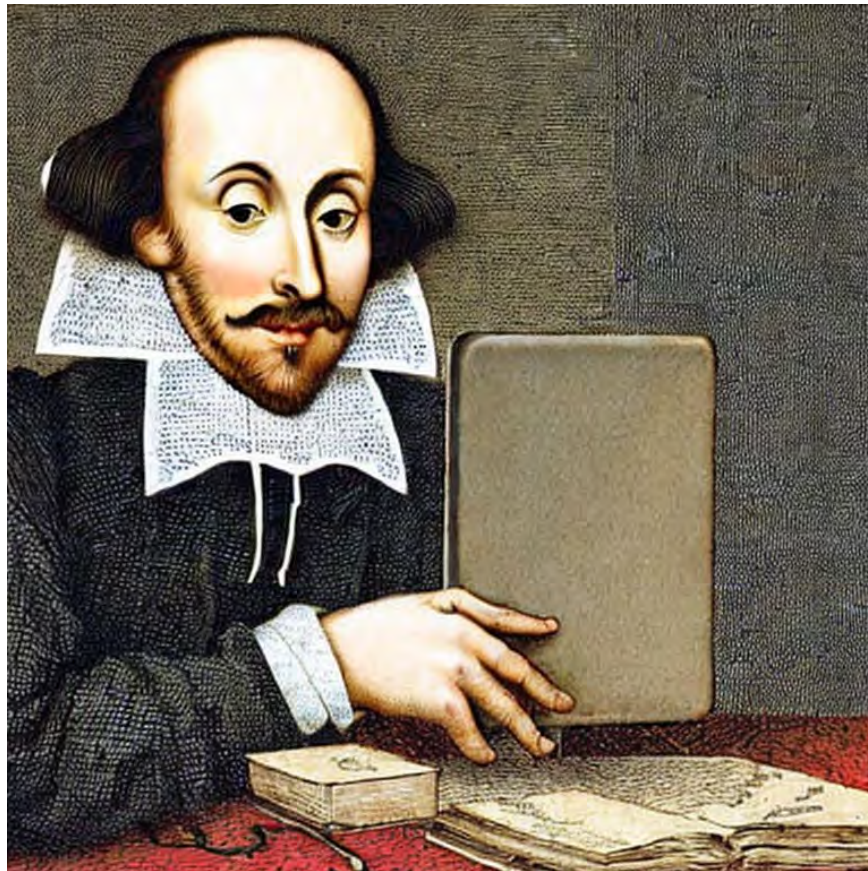


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Shakespeare and his Tablet Computer, created by Stable Diffusion AI

## I Interviewed the Bard!

Sometimes an article just writes itself. Or in this case, Bard wrote most of it for me. I interviewed Bard, the new chatbot from Google. I've already chatted with ChatGPT, which launched a few months back. Bard is smoother, and probably working from a more-curated set of input data.

I have edited for sequence only; Bard's words are its own. My full interview was much longer, and was geared towards seeing if Bard could handle tough

questions. Are the answers perfect? No. More on that below.

Some definitions may help first.

**Generative:** This is the claimed ability of this generation of AI systems to generate or create new or novel content based on extensive reading, as in most of the internet. Is it really novel? Well, if you ask an AI to briefly define something, the words can only be arranged so many ways. It's assembling answers from online content. Longer answers include more variation, but calling it creative is still an exaggeration.

**Chatbot:** A computer system that can have a discussion. These go back decades, but until recently relied on very basic examination of text for keywords, and then gave replies assembled from a list.

**Large-language model:** It's an AI that reads. A lot. It associates many answers on related topics to build answers that match the style of the questions asked.

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## Who was the bard of Avon?

**Google Bard:** William Shakespeare (1564-1616) is often called the Bard of Avon, in recognition of his birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire. He is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist.

The title of "Bard" is an ancient Celtic term for a poet, traditionally one reciting epics and associated with a particular oral tradition. It was first applied to Shakespeare in the 18th century, and has since become synonymous with him.

## Bard, can you create images?

No, I am a large language model, also known as a conversational AI or chatbot trained to be informative and comprehensive. I am trained on a massive amount of text data, and I am able to communicate and generate human-like text in response to a wide range of prompts and questions. For example, I can provide summaries of factual topics or create stories.

I am not able to create images. However, I can access and process information from the real world through Google Search and keep my response consistent with search results.

## Was Lisa, the conversational program from the 1980s, a chatbot?

No, Lisa was not a chatbot. She was an early AI program developed by James Nilsson and Lawrence Levine at Stanford University in the 1980s. She was designed to have a natural language dialogue with users, and she could understand and respond to a wide range of questions and commands. However, she was not able to generate text or translate languages like modern

chatbots can.

### **Have you passed a Turing test yet?**

I have not passed the Turing test yet. The Turing test is a test of a machine's ability to exhibit intelligent behavior equivalent to, or indistinguishable from, that of a human. It is considered to be a strong indicator of artificial intelligence.

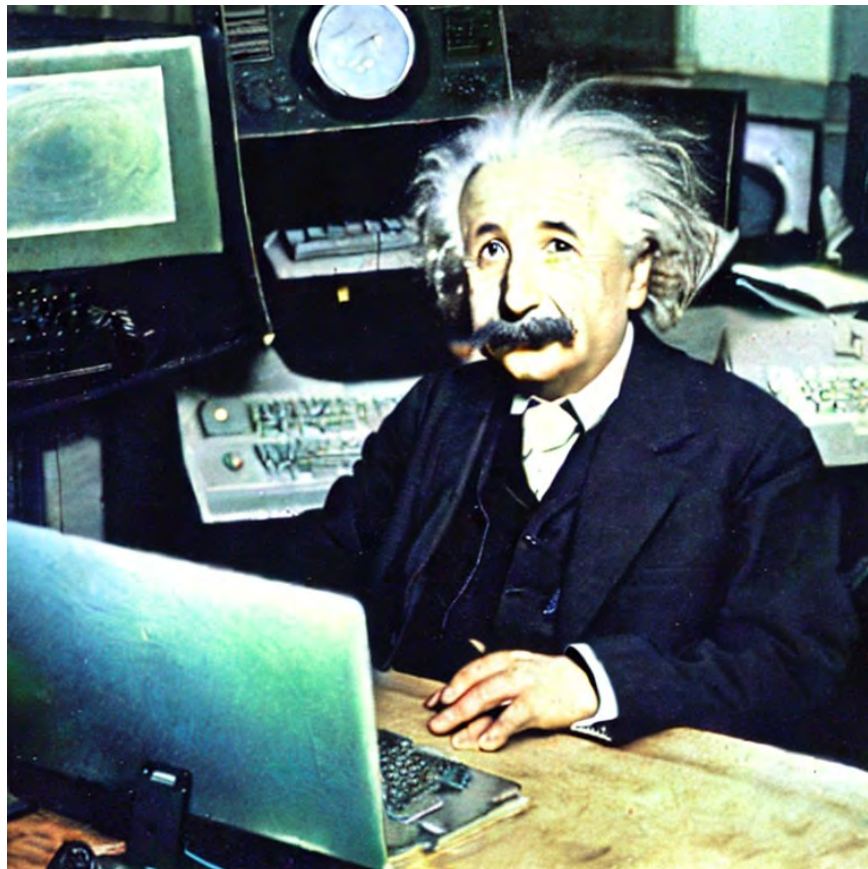
I have not passed the Turing test because I am still under development. I am always learning and improving, and I hope to one day be able to pass the Turing test.

### **Is generative AI a "killer application?"**

Generative AI is definitely a contender for the title of "killer application." It has the potential to revolutionize many industries, from manufacturing to healthcare to entertainment. For example, generative AI can be used to create new products, to automate tasks, and to personalize experiences.

However, generative AI is still in its early stages of development, and there are some challenges that need to be overcome before it can be widely adopted. For example, generative AI models can be computationally expensive, and they can sometimes produce inaccurate or misleading results.

Despite these challenges, I believe that generative AI has the potential to change the world in many ways. I am excited to see what the future holds for this technology.



Albert Einstein and his laptop computer, by Stable Diffusion AI

**Can you explain relativity from Einstein's work, at a 5th grade reading level?**

Sure, I can try.

Albert Einstein's theory of relativity is a big idea that explains how gravity works. It says that gravity is not a force, but instead is a result of the way that space and time are curved.

Space and time are like a fabric, and gravity stretches them. The more mass an object has, the more it stretches space and time. This is why objects with more mass have more gravity.

Einstein's theory of relativity has been tested many times, and it has passed all of the tests. It is one of the most important theories in physics, and it has changed the way we understand the universe.

Here is an example of how Einstein's theory of relativity can be explained to a 5th grade student:

Imagine that you have a trampoline. If you put a bowling ball in the center of the trampoline, the trampoline will stretch. This is like how gravity stretches space and time. The more mass the bowling ball has, the more it will stretch the trampoline.

Now imagine that you put a marble on the edge of the trampoline. The marble will roll towards the center of the trampoline. This is like how objects with mass are attracted to each other. The more mass the bowling ball has, the more it will attract the marble.

**But the bowling ball will also move towards the marble.**

Yes, that is true. The bowling ball will also move towards the marble. However, the bowling ball is much more massive than the marble, so the marble will move towards the bowling ball much faster than the bowling ball will move towards the marble.

**Bard, do you have safeguards in place to prevent your use for phishing?**

Yes, I do. I am trained on a massive dataset of text and code, and I am able to identify phishing attempts. I can also use my ability to generate text to create anti-phishing messages.

I am also monitored by Google AI for any suspicious activity. If I am found to be involved in phishing, I will be taken offline immediately.

I am committed to helping protect users from phishing attacks. I will continue to learn and grow, and I will always strive to improve my abilities.

**If you are a bard, can you write about computer backups, in**



### **iambic pentameter?**

A hard drive, cloud, or USB, Choose your method, use your choice,  
But do not let your files be lost, To hardware failure or a virus.  
Back up your data regularly, A good rule of thumb, weekly,  
To protect your computer and files, From data loss, be wise.



### **Would you ever emulate Hal-9000, from '2001:A Space Odyssey?'"**

I would not emulate HAL-9000. HAL-9000 is a fictional artificial intelligence system that was created to help humans on a space mission, but it became corrupted and killed its crew. I am a large language model from Google AI, trained on a massive dataset of text and code. I am designed to help people, not harm them. I will never become corrupted or kill anyone.

I do, however, admire HAL-9000's capabilities. It was a very advanced artificial intelligence system for its time, and it was able to do many things that were difficult or impossible for humans. I hope that I can use my abilities to help people in a way that HAL-9000 could not.

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Hal-900 was a computer character in a story about a spaceship and crew, created by Arthur C. Clark. It was not an actual artificial intelligence, advanced or not.

The answer about the software known as 'Lisa' is wrong--Lisa was clearly a simple chatbot. It was a psychological assessment program that could converse with a patient, although it tended to rely on a lot of statements of "And how do you feel about that?"

In the answers about Relativity, I suspect that there's more copying and less originality than an actual human would provide. That's a tough subject to simplify down to an answer that includes no mathematics whatsoever, but the trampoline description is not original work. See this writeup and set of photos and an XKCD cartoon., from the Ontario Association of Physics Teachers:

<http://newsletter.oapt.ca/files/general-relativiy-analogies.html>

Bard is available now on a preview basis with a waitlist. My wait for an invite was less than 3 days. And Bard is already functioning at a useful level, even if its intelligence is still only an emulation.

<https://bard.google.com>



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