



# The Shortcut Conversation

How to talk about AI cheating without making every homework session a courtroom.

Parents

5 minutes

Printable resource

### 1 Start with the rule, not the accusation

"Our rule is: AI can help you learn, but it cannot be the thing that gets turned in. That line matters."

### 2 Separate help from outsourcing

"Using a tool to understand something is fine. Letting the tool finish the assignment so you don't have to think — that's the problem."

### 3 Ask to see the work

"Show me where AI helped and where you filled in the rest. I need to know which part is actually yours."

### 4 Use the explain-it-back rule

"If you can close the AI window and explain the work in your own words, the learning is real. If you can't, the shortcut cost you something."

### 5 Close with what to do next time

"Next time you're stuck, show me before you use the tool. We'll figure out together whether this is a help or a shortcut."

"The question is never "did you use AI?" The question is "do you actually understand what you turned in?""

## The tone

Curious first. Firm second. The goal is proof of understanding, not a confession. Keep the conversation safe enough that your kid tells you the truth next time.

## The homework AI line

AI explains → learning is yours if you can repeat it without the tool

AI rewrites → you outsourced the thinking, not just the typing

AI fills in the answer → the assignment is done but the learning is gone

## Make it yours

Our rule: \_\_\_\_\_

We will try: \_\_\_\_\_

Ask a human when: \_\_\_\_\_