



50 SMART WAYS TO USE AI

By **KIM KOMANDO**, national radio host and Radio Hall of Fame inductee

INTRODUCTION

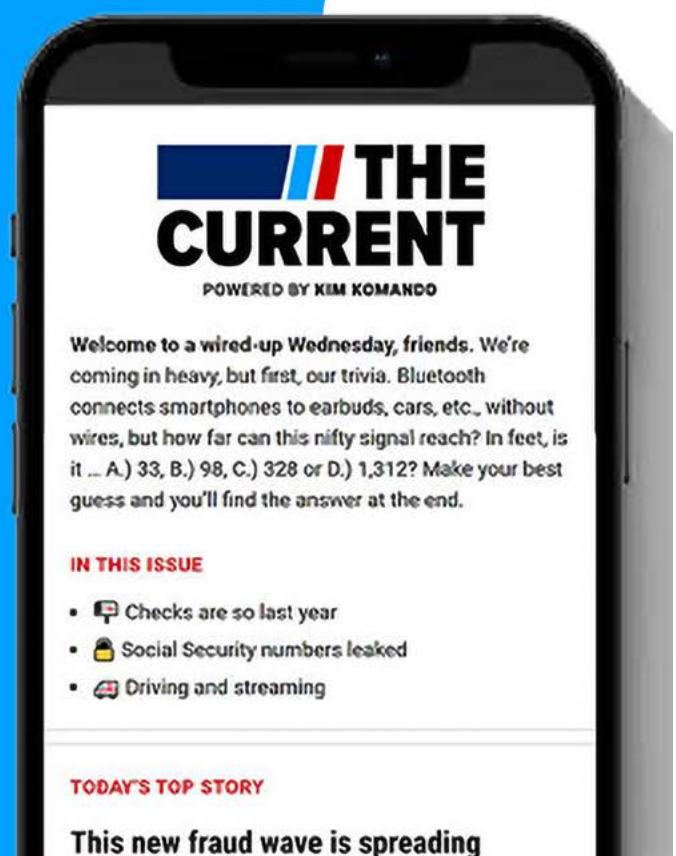
AI chatbots are popping up everywhere, and while you need to be savvy in how you use them, they can be super-helpful in all kinds of ways. It's like having an intelligent personal assistant on call, at all hours of the day and night. Just don't follow AI's advice without thinking about it — the same as you would with a real flesh-and-blood human assistant.

Still not convinced AI bots can be helpful for you? Try these on for size, and see the sort of answers you get back.

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YOUR ASSISTANT AT WORK

01 **Ask for a raise** (you deserve it!), and use AI's help to achieve that perfect blend of humility and confidence:

"Write an email to my boss asking for a raise. I've been in the same job for four years and have had to take on more tasks in that time. I've never missed a deadline."

02 **Office conflicts** are the worst. Use AI to smooth over everything:

"Write an email to a work colleague explaining that they shouldn't take my food from the fridge. Keep it firm but civil; I don't want to cause a fight."

03 If you **work with spreadsheets**, good news: AI can school you on the functions you need to use to analyze your datasets. One example:

"What formula do I need to put into Excel to pick out the largest number in a column of cells? The cells are A1 to A30."

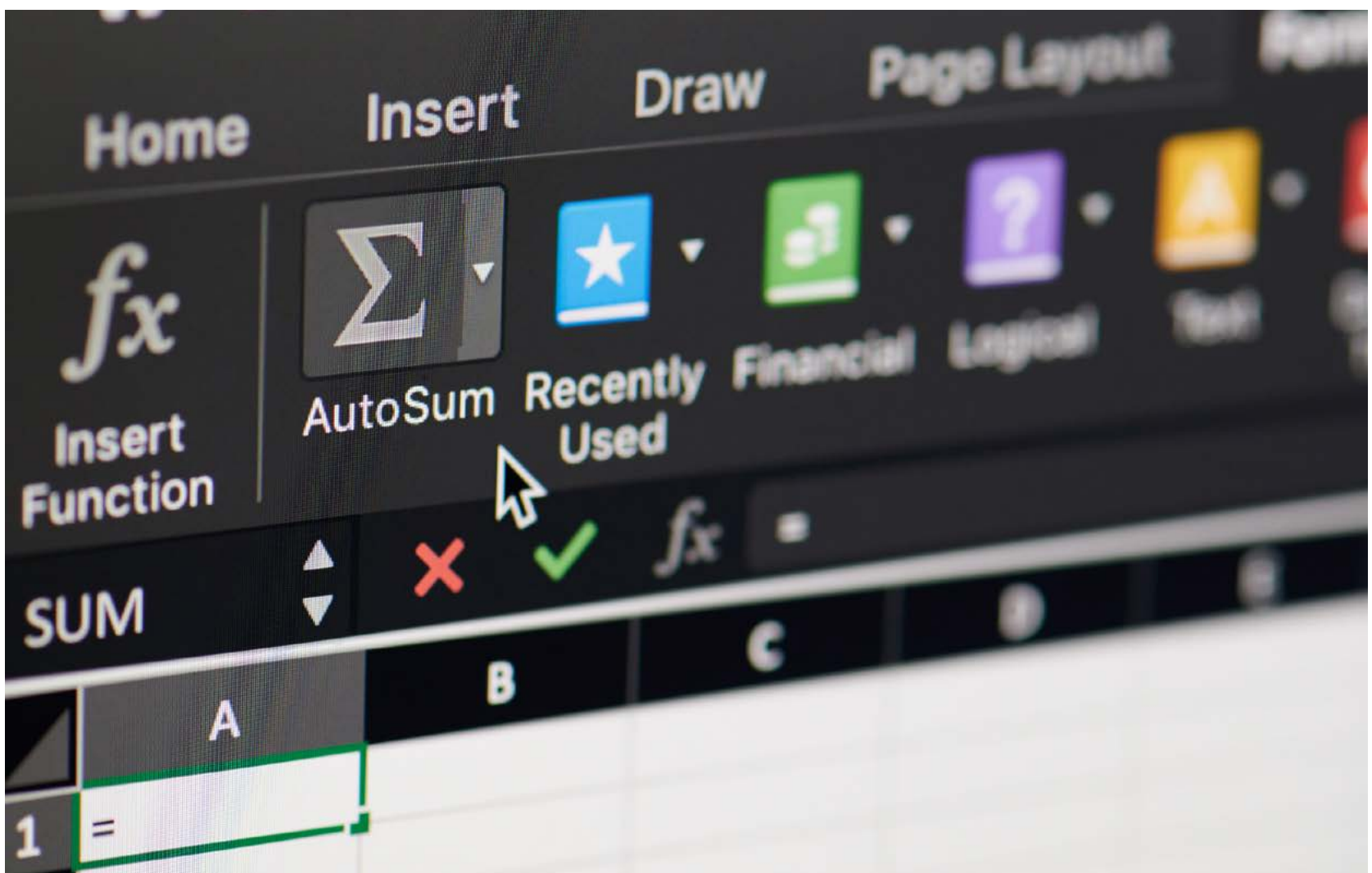
Bonus: ChatGPT-4o will give you a handy "Copy" button. Score.

04 You're in charge of the **new office reshuffle** but not sure where to begin. Turn to AI for some suggestions:

"What's the best way of organizing the desks of two managers and 18 other employees in an open-plan office layout? There are two separate teams with a manager and nine employees each, but everyone works closely together. I want to foster a lively and comfortable working environment."

05 Maybe you're better off in a new job. AI can help you **weigh the pros and cons**:

"I'm thinking about switching from being a lawyer to becoming a teacher, because I think it'd be more rewarding. What factors do I need to consider?"



A MOTHER OR FATHER'S HELPER

06 Finding family-friendly activities can take a lot of research. Let AI do it for you:

“Where can I take my 11-year-old twins when we’re on vacation in Minneapolis this summer? They love science and bugs.”

Make sure to double-check the websites before making your itinerary, though.

07 AI can help you out with **activities at home** just as easily:

“I’ve got a pile of cardboard and colored paper and two hours to fill with my 5-year-old. What fun activities can we get up to? The more educational, the better.”



08 **Sibling conflict** stressing you out? See what AI has to say about it:

“I have a 9-year-old and a 7-year-old, and they’re always fighting over toys and trying to outdo each other. What strategies can I use to improve their behavior and calm them down?”

09 Some kids don’t like their vegetables. AI can **come up with recipes** containing hidden veggies and even suggest parenting approaches:

“How can I get my 11-year-old to eat more vegetables? Are there any fun dishes that are quick to make where the vegetables are less obvious?”

10 If you’ve run out of **bedtime stories**, no problem — you’ve got AI.

“Write a short bedtime story involving my child and their name. The story should include a dragon, a castle and a clear moral about always trying your best.”



HOMework HELP FOR PARENTS

11 **Teachers are superheroes**, and with AI's help, you can make sure they know it.

"Give me some ideas for an end-of-year present for my kid's middle school teacher. It should be something cheap but thoughtful and original."

12 Maybe AI can even **get your youngsters to enjoy math**:

"Give me some ideas for algebra exercises that are fun and engaging. They should be suitable for 12-year-olds."

13 It seems like there's always a **themed dress-up day** coming up. AI can step in to help here, too:

"My 7-year-old has to dress up as a famous literary character for a book day at school. Give me some cheap, quick costume ideas, together with a list of materials required."

14 You can **use AI as a proofreader**:

"Give me feedback on the tone, spelling and grammar of this short story. Please make the feedback as supportive and encouraging as possible. It's for a 10-year-old."

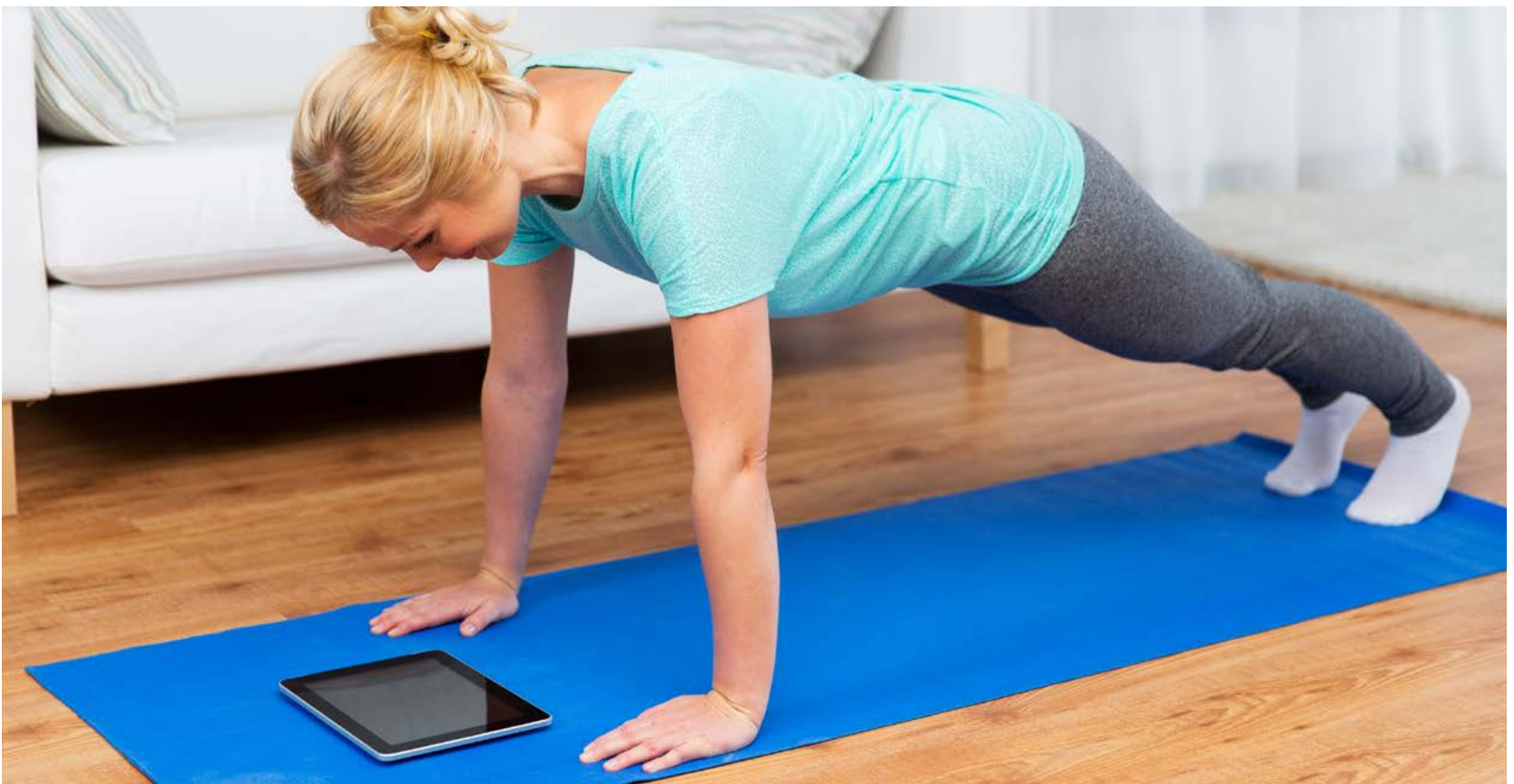
MAKE AI YOUR FITNESS COACH

15 Turn your favorite AI bot into your **personal trainer**:

"I'm a 40-year-old just getting back into running after a long break. Give me a weekly schedule with timings and distances to improve my endurance."

16 You can get some pretty **personalized tips** from AI, too:

"I'm finding my knees are sore on longer cycling rides, which I do about twice a week. What could be the problem, and what could I adjust?"



17 Maybe you just don't know **where to get started** — but AI does:

“I really want to improve my upper-body strength and feel less tired in the afternoons. What sort of exercises should I be doing and when?”

18 It's not just exercise — AI can also give **nutrition advice**:

“I need to get more protein into my diet. What are some protein-heavy snacks I can prepare quickly or ahead of time?”

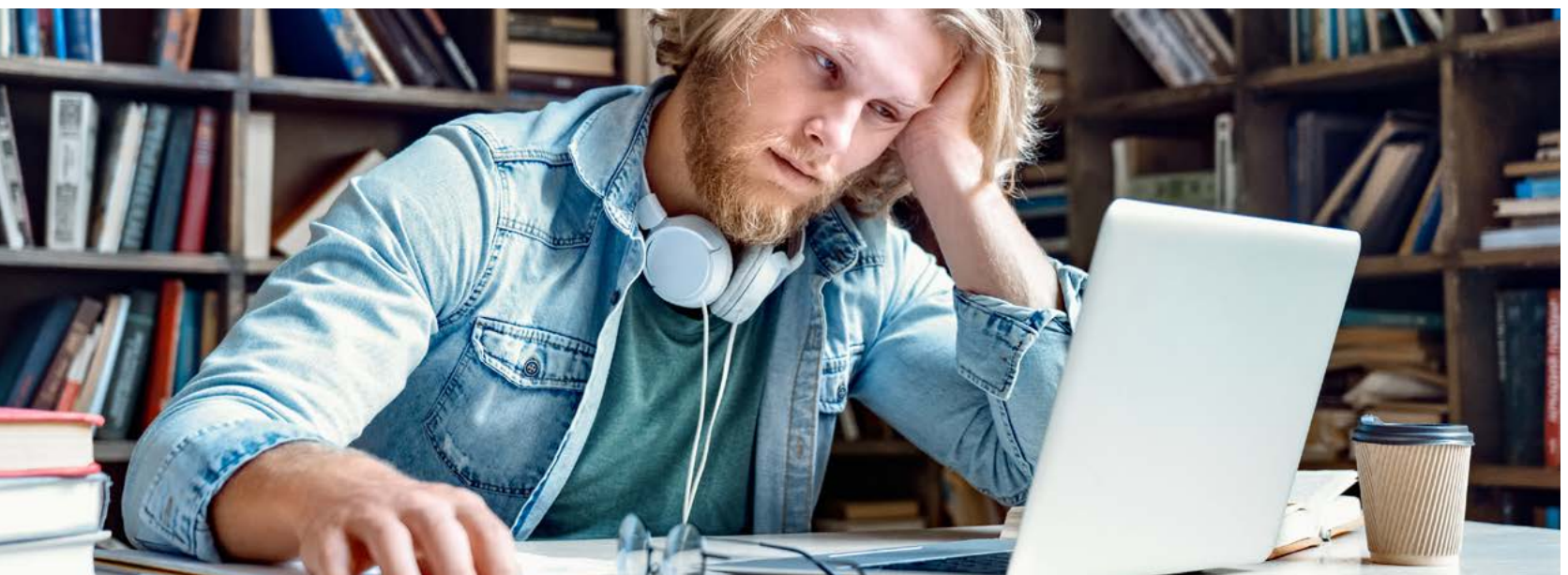
19 AI can **start with the basics**, no matter how active you want to get:

“Give me a 10-minute stretching routine for a senior to use right after they get out of bed in the morning. I want to stay agile and flexible.”



GENERATE WELLNESS IDEAS

- 20** Present AI with a **specific wellness issue**, and it can help:
- “I find myself procrastinating, especially when it comes to basic household chores. How can I get myself out of this rut?”
- 21** AI can come up with an **unlimited number of meditations** for you:
- “Give me a meditation focusing on wellness and tranquility that will take me five minutes to read through at a slow pace.”
- 22** Looking for some **sources of inspiration** for a better life? AI can suggest tips for empowerment:
- “I feel like I can’t really make much of a difference in the world or in my family. Can you give me some encouragement to put me in a better frame of mind?”



23 It's important to fit self-care into your routine, and AI can offer advice on **small-space exercises and wellness moves**:

"I have a 20-minute lunch break every day. I can go outside, but I'm in a city center without much green space or anywhere private. What wellness exercises could I do?"

24 If you've got **a goal in mind**, tell AI about it to get some help:

"I want to start getting to bed earlier in the evenings. What's the best way to go about this? How can I make sure my bedroom is set up well for a good night's sleep?"



GET ORGANIZED

25 AI can **organize anything** you need it to, like planning a birthday party:

“I have a 50th birthday party to organize, and it’s happening in two months. I need to find a venue for 150 people and cater the event. What tasks do I need to do, and how should I organize my time?”

26 If you’re feeling overwhelmed by your to-do list, let AI help you **prioritize your tasks**:

“I have to paint the fence, clear out the garage, mow the lawn, wash the car and replace an outdoor light. In what order should I tackle these tasks to be most efficient?”

27 You can tell AI about the **stuff you want to organize and the space available** to get advice:

“I have a wardrobe and a chest of three drawers to put all my clothes in. What’s the best way of keeping everything arranged?”



28 AI can assist you in **managing your time** based on your task list and priorities:

“Give me a weekly planner with timings. I want to fit in eight hours of work, as well as some exercise, chillout time and time with my family.”

29 Parents are usually **overwhelmed with toy clutter**. AI can help by suggesting storage solutions:

“Our house is usually covered in our young kids’ toys. What are some affordable, practical storage options, and how can I encourage my kids to use them?”



HAVE AI PLAN YOUR VACATION

30 Make the most of your vacation by getting **travel tips** from AI:

“My husband and I are middle-aged adults going to Rome, Italy, and we want to find some out-of-the-way places and activities to enjoy. What would you recommend?”

31 Make sure you don't forget anything with the help of AI:

“A family of four with two young kids is heading to the beach. What do we need to remember to pack for a day?”

32 Even if you need inspiration about where to go, you can **generate ideas specific to who you're going with and their considerations**, like naptimes for young kids and accessibility for seniors:

“What U.S. national park is good to visit this time of year for a family of six with two toddlers and two seniors? We're traveling in two cars and live in Atlanta.”



33 AI can **make your next travel challenge a *little* easier:**

“We’re taking two kids under 10 on their first long-haul flight. How can we make sure the kids don’t get bored, scared or disruptive?”

34 Not sure **how much you’ll have to spend**? Let AI do the research:

“I’m heading to New York City for three days on a solo trip, but I’m not sure how much I’ll spend. I’d like to see some of the sights and try some of the food. Give me three potential itineraries with the estimated costs at three different budget brackets.”



EASY TIMESAVERS

35 Time is precious, but AI can save you some by **taking care of standard emails**:

“Write an email to a local gardening company asking how much it would cost to maintain a 750-square-foot garden with a lawn and flowerbeds.”

36 **Troubleshooting car problems** can be a big time sink, so see if AI knows what’s up:

“I’m noticing my car taking longer to start up in the morning, and sometimes, there’s a lack of power when accelerating. What’s going on, and how do I fix it?”

Even if it’s not an easy fix, at least you’ll know what to ask the mechanic to check!



37 You don't have **time to read everything**. Paste in a block of text or a link (some news sites won't work):

“Can you summarize this news article for me? Tell me what the key points are and what the impacts will be.”

38 AI can **come up with ideas** for you to save you time brainstorming:

“Give me 17 ideas for a side hustle a parent could fit around a 9-to-5 job and still make a reasonable amount of money.”

39 If something usually takes a long time, see if AI knows how to **do it more quickly**:

“Cleaning the bathroom always takes me hours, and I'm sure it could be done faster. How can I speed up the process without cutting corners?”



GET PERSONALIZED RECOMMENDATIONS

40

Stuck for recommendations? AI knows what you might enjoy next:

“My favorite book is ‘Dune.’ Can you recommend other books I might like that don’t rip off ‘Dune’ completely?”

41

You can **be as precise as you’d like** in your requests to AI:

“I like the three Star Wars prequels but not the original three films or the most recent Star Wars trilogy. What sci-fi flicks should I watch next?”

42

If you like a show, why not **ask AI about what came before it?**

“I really loved the television show ‘Succession.’ Can you tell me any older shows, maybe from the 1980s or 1990s, that may have influenced it?”

43

AI can help keep your music tastes from getting **stuck in the past**:

“My musical preferences are classic bands, like The Kinks and The Who. Which more modern bands should I be listening to?”

44

You don’t just have to limit **AI recommendations** to culture either:

“I need a car that’s affordable, spacious and easy to maintain. I don’t mind buying secondhand if the car or brand is reliable. What should I be getting?”

SAVE MONEY

45 AI can help you **stick to a budget** (or lower it), even if you're not specific:

“What does the average U.S. household overspend on? I'm looking for areas where we can save some money with our family of four.”

46 If you know where to get started saving cash, you can still depend on AI for **more in-depth suggestions**:

“I want to save money by making lunches at home to take to the office. What's quick to make, nutritious and not expensive?”

47 Maybe you think you're about to **get ripped off**. AI has your back!

“How much should I typically pay in real estate fees if I'm moving?”

48 Whatever you want to **cut down on from a cost standpoint**, AI's ready and waiting with ideas:

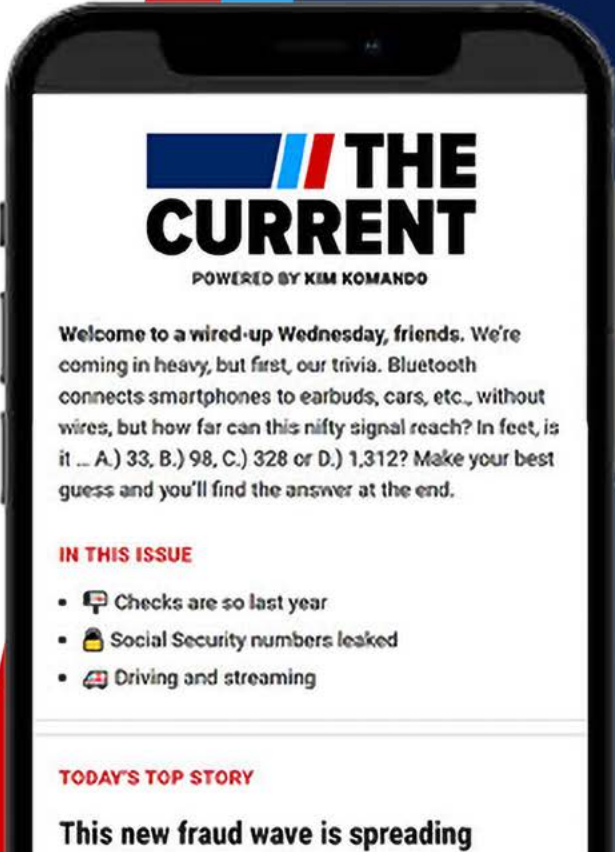
“Our heating bill is pretty large for a detached two-bedroom property. What are ways we can save money on our energy bills?”

49 If you tend to **shop in particular places**, AI can help here, too:

“I usually buy household items online through Amazon — how can I make sure I'm always finding the lowest possible prices?”

50 Want to **trim your grocery budget and reduce waste**? AI can suggest food-storage options and list the most commonly thrown-out items:

“I want to save money and avoid food waste. What are common food items that are thrown out?”



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A LITTLE ABOUT KIM KOMANDO

Kim is a major influencer in the consumer digital space. She reaches millions of tech-savvy individuals every week through her national radio programs on 510+ stations, her widely listened-to daily podcasts, SiriusXM show, and her columns in The Daily Mail, Fox News and USA Today. Her daily newsletter, The Current, boasts over 650,000 subscribers. Check out past issues here: [The Current Newsletter Archives.](#)