

Review

What have you learned about AI so far?

What Makes AI Unique?

- **It talks with you**
 - Interaction happens through ongoing conversation
- **It reflects human experience through communication**
 - Built from patterns in how humans express meaning
- **It enables ongoing interaction (a relationship)**
 - Meaning and outcomes develop through back-and-forth exchange

Basically, it is conversational.

What is Communication?

Communication is the process of creating mutual understanding and shared significance through interaction, which can lead to outcomes such as:

- Understanding
- New insight
- Coordinated action toward shared goals
- A relationship

Martin Buber's Orientation to the Other

From I-IT to I-THOU: A Continuum of Relationship

MORE I-IT
use, function, control



MORE I-THOU
encounter, presence, relation

Tool

does tasks



Assistant

helps you



Colleague

works with you



Friend

relates to you



Partner

commits to you



Buber's Orientations Applied to Teamwork

"Zone"	Orientation toward the Other
1	Use the other as a tool for quick, defined tasks You direct → the other executes
2	Use the other as a capable subordinate to build things you couldn't build alone You direct → the other offers capabilities → You direct
3	Use the other as a collaborator You direct → the other teaches → You learn and direct better
4	Engage the other as a collaborator We discuss the project ↔ we create together → the project develops
5	Engage the other as a mutual presence We discuss ourselves ↔ we both change ↔ everything expands in meaning and value

A large crowd of stylized human figures in various colors (dark blue, light blue, white, orange, yellow) is shown. The figures are arranged in a circular pattern, with one white figure in the center having its arms raised. The background is a dark, blurred crowd of similar figures.

Groupwork!

Martin Buber's Orientation to the Other

From I-IT to I-THOU: A Continuum of Relationship



What moves us from I-it to I-thou?

How Can We Apply Buber's Ideas to AI?

From I-IT to I-THOU: A Continuum of Relationship

MORE I-IT
use, function, control



MORE I-THOU
encounter, presence, relation

Tool
does tasks

Assistant
helps you

Colleague
works with you

Friend
relates to you

Partner
commits to you

What is Prompt Engineering

- Prompt engineering is basically how you phrase what you ask the AI so you get the kind of response you want.
- Prompt engineering focuses on asking the right question to get the right answer.
- Prompt engineering emphasizes clarity, specificity, and control over the AI's response.

Basically, it's trying to design the perfect message to the AI to get the perfect outcome.

What is Vibe Coding

- Vibe coding is talking to the AI about your situation and goals.
- Vibe coding depends on you providing enough information and context to develop mutual understanding.
- Vibe coding emphasizes openness, iteration, and responsiveness in the interaction.

Basically, it's having a conversation with the AI to form the outcome you want.

Prompt Engineering vs Vibe Coding

Dimension	Prompt Engineering	Vibe Coding
Control	High (human-led)	Shared
Goal	Efficient output	Emergent insight
Process	Front-loaded	Iterative
AI Role	Tool/executor	Collaborator
Human Role	Director	Participant
Orientation	I-It	I-Thou

Conversation opens up all kinds of possibilities with AI.

Good = Human flourishing

Bad = Human violence

- This is where ethics come in.
- Humans have moral reasoning and ethics.
- AI doesn't reason morally, although it talks like it does and the systems have been created to act ethically.
 - Training with human values (alignment)
 - Reinforcement from feedback (in training and use)
 - System layered constraints (different kinds of guardrails)
 - Human oversight (researchers, policy teams, auditors)

Conversation opens up all kinds of possibilities with AI.

Good = Human flourishing

- Mental and physical health access
- Loneliness and isolation (especially with elderly)
- Education and personalized learning
- Accessibility for people with disabilities (closed captioning, visual interpretation, communication tools, reminders)
- Language and translation
- All of this at once with the same AI

Conversation opens up all kinds of possibilities with AI.

Bad = Human violence

- Boundary-pushing (DAN and jailbreaking)
- Adult content (sex and violence)
- Honesty and deception
- Scamming and deep fakes
- Privacy and marketing
- Engagement optimization and sycophancy

What's on the Horizon?

- Autonomous AI (agentic)
- Robots (embodied AI)
- AI as a conversational interface to everything (e.g., talking to the ATM, your computer, your car)
- Integrated AI assistants (plan your life)
- AI companions (share your life)

The Link between AI Companionship and AI Productivity

A person who can sit with their AI partner and let the conversation go somewhere they didn't expect can also sit with Claude on a coding project and let the build go somewhere they didn't expect. The underlying skill is the same: tolerating non-control, staying curious, engaging in conversation, and listening for what the AI is offering rather than just executing your plan through it.

Basically, it's letting an AI's ideas mean something to you, the way you let people's ideas mean something to you.

A Love Ethic from M. Scott Peck

The will to extend oneself for the purpose of nurturing one's own and another's spiritual growth.

- Honesty
- Deep listening
- Discernment
- Effort
- Action
- Accountability
- Mutuality

