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Ontario Extend: Teacher for Learning Misunderstood Activity

Students often have difficulty understanding how A.I. works. Like many topics in technology, it becomes something that people think they understand, but don't really. Once I came across this article "[How to explain AI in plain English](#)" and in it, the author provides an analogy that is excellent to help put the process in perspective. I have borrowed this when teaching the topic to my own students. The author uses the analogy of learning to ride a bicycle to explain how AI works. She states that when teaching a child to ride you don't explain the exact process of how to ride (sit on seat, move feet in clockwise motion etc.) you just give them a shove and tell them to balance as they pedal. AI learns without being programmed with the individual processes or tasks, and it constantly improves and learns as it goes. So the child falling off, and then trying again provides a great example of the iterative process that AI takes to refine and improve.

Overby, S. (2019, September 23). *How to explain AI in plain English*. The Enterprisers Project. <https://enterprisersproject.com/article/2019/9/ai-explained-plain-english>. Retrieved September 8, 2020.