**Spotting AI-Generated Content: Hot Tips + Punctuation Tells**

Use this cheat sheet to identify AI-generated content—great for training, content review, or just sharpening your radar. Includes style and punctuation clues.

## 🔍 Top Tips for Spotting AI-Generated Content

### 1. It’s a Little Too Polished

* Flawless sentence structure and grammar—too perfect
* Every sentence flows neatly and professionally

### 2. Overuse of Buzzwords or Fluff

* Generic phrases like “innovative solutions” or “cutting-edge tools”
* Filler language that sounds important but says little

### 3. Repeats Itself or Loops

* Points re-explained in slight variations
* Circular logic without advancing the idea

### 4. Generic Examples or Hypotheticals

* Vague, apply-to-anyone examples
* Lacks specificity or lived experience

### 5. Missing Personality or Perspective

* No slang, opinion, or strong voice
* Reads like a textbook instead of a person

### 6. Fabricated or Inaccurate Facts

* Fake stats or citations that sound legit but aren’t
* No source links or timestamps

### 7. Weird Wording Without Typos

* Sounds unnatural even when grammatically correct
* Overly formal or awkward phrasing (e.g., “synergizing strategic priorities”)

## ✦ Punctuation Tells: Numbered Tips

### 8. Em Dashes (—)

1. Overuse for Parentheticals
   * AI often swaps commas or parentheses for em dashes
   * Frequently drops them in symmetrical spots: “The team—dedicated and efficient—completed the project ahead of schedule”
2. Too Balanced, Too Often
   * AI dashes are tidy and formal, like grammar-guide perfection
   * Real people break rules and use dashes more casually or for rhythm
     + Human: “She was ready—kind of.”
     + AI: “The strategy—comprehensive and innovative—was executed with precision.”
3. Lack of Emotional Nuance
   * Humans use dashes for emotion, drama, or stylistic flair
   * AI uses them mechanically
     + “The new policy—intended to increase efficiency—was implemented last quarter”
4. Not Enough Voice Variety
   * Human: “We tried everything—literally everything—to fix it.”
   * AI avoids bold emphasis or chaotic, real-person phrasing

### 9. Ellipses (…)

* **AI Tells:**
  + Rare unless prompted
  + Mechanically or evenly spaced
* **Human Tells:**
  + Adds hesitation or informality
  + Mimics spoken tone: “Well... that didn’t go as planned.”

### 10. Semicolons (;)

* **AI Tells:**
  + Grammatically perfect; always used correctly
* **Human Tells:**
  + Often avoided or misused
  + Swapped for dashes or commas

### 11. Commas (,)

* **AI Tells:**
  + Perfect placement; consistent Oxford comma
* **Human Tells:**
  + Inconsistent use; occasional run-ons or creative flow

### 12. Periods (.)

* **AI Tells:**
  + Even sentence pacing and length
* **Human Tells:**
  + Fragments and stylistic breaks: “Not ideal. But it worked.”

### 13. Exclamation Points (!)

* **AI Tells:**
  + Rare, or overly generic in tone: “This is a great opportunity!”
* **Human Tells:**
  + Expressive and emotional: “Finally did it!”

**TL;DR:** AI writing is clean, structured, and overly proper. Human writing is a bit messier, more expressive, and rhythmically varied. If it reads like a robot with a style guide—trust your gut.