

2026

U.S. Future Report

AI Literacy - Teens Are Building Skills to Use AI Thoughtfully

The following data come from The U.S. Future Report, which draws insights from a nationally representative survey of 1,002 U.S. teens examining how they use artificial intelligence (AI) and develop the skills they need to navigate a digital world increasingly influenced by AI.

The findings show that AI already plays a significant role in how teens learn, create, and find information — and that teens are actively engaging with and evaluating AI tools and content. Many teens think critically about whether AI-generated and other online

information can be trusted, use strategies to verify what they encounter, and turn to parents and other trusted adults for guidance.

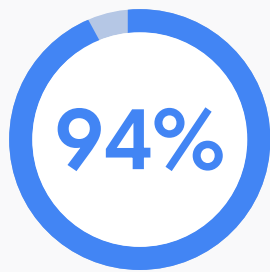
At the same time, these habits are still developing, and access to formal digital and AI literacy instruction remains uneven.

[Click here or scan the QR code to read the full U.S. Future Report.](#)



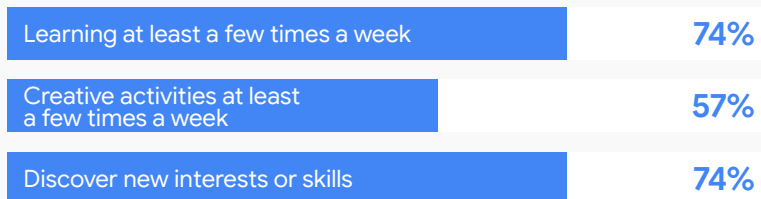
Key Findings

Teens Use AI to Learn, Create, and Discover New Interests

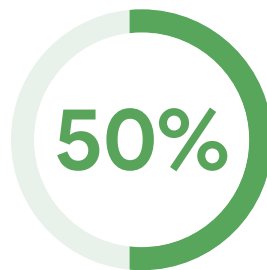


used AI tools in the past year

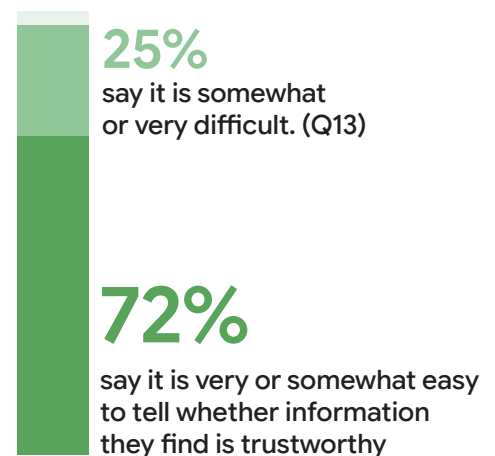
Use of AI tools



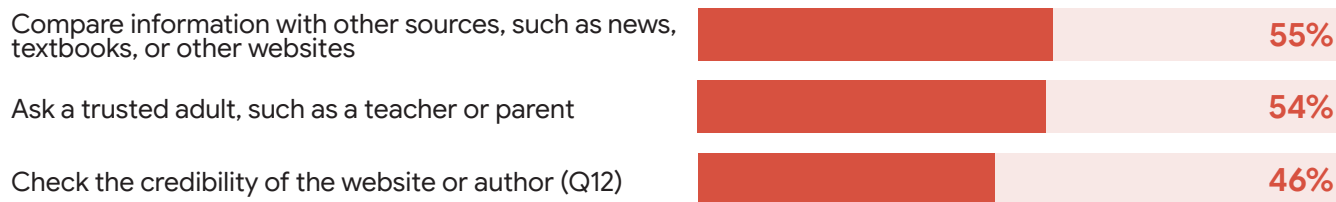
Many Teens Think Critically About Whether AI and Online Information Can Be Trusted



always/often think about the trustworthiness of information they find online or through AI



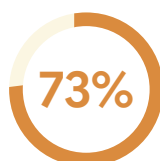
Strategies to Evaluate Information They Find Online



Parents and Other Trusted Adults Remain an Important Source of Guidance

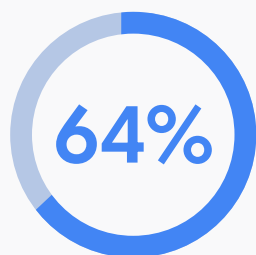


trust their parents or other adults in their family most to guide them about healthy online habits



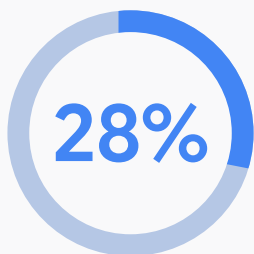
would be likely to ask a parent or guardian for help when they encounter misinformation online

Teens Believe Digital Literacy Training Should Begin Early

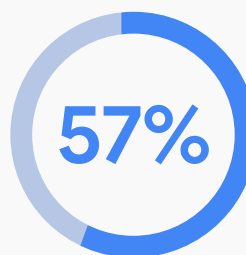


say young people should begin learning digital literacy and responsibility in elementary school

say instruction should begin in middle school

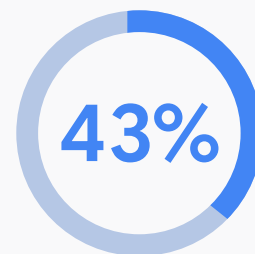


Access to Digital-Literacy Education Remains Uneven



say their school currently offers digital literacy or technology classes

say their school does not, or they're unsure



Methodology

RXN conducted a nationwide survey of 1,002 U.S. teens ages 13–17 between April 23 and May 26, 2026. The research also included separate samples of 1,000 teens in California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, New York, and Texas, each with a margin of error of $\pm 3.1\%$. To provide additional context, RXN conducted six virtual focus groups between May 27 and June 10, 2026 — one in each participating state — with five to seven teens ages 13–17 in each group.