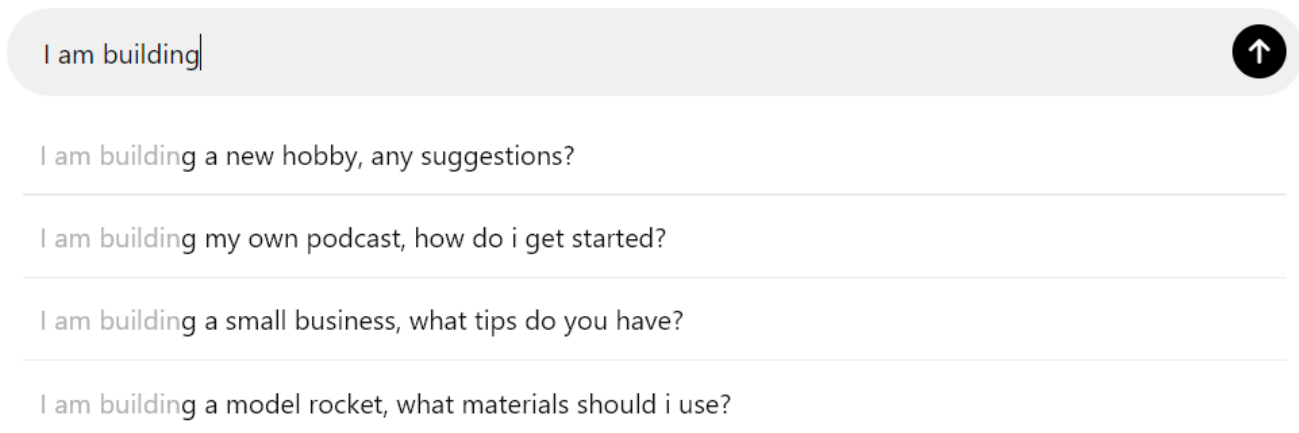# Is ChatGPT autocomplete bad UX/UI?

2025-01-05 / rants UI/UX

I get it. I am not the only user the world revolves around. When an app does not behave the way I would prefer, it's probably because most people have different preferences, and the app is optimized for them.

But sometimes, I encounter UI/UX decisions that puzzle me. Not because I dislike them but because I have trouble imagining *anyone* likes them.

One of those puzzling UI/UX decisions is ChatGPT autocomplete.

I was able to come up with only two possible explanations for its existence:

1. UX/UI experts at OpenAI (and other multi-billion companies) have a flawed understanding of how people chat.
2. I am weird and chat differently than most people.

Before we conclude that solution #2 is the correct one, let me make my case for #1.

Autocomplete is helpful in search bars because the potential response space is small and the likelihood of success big - two words can be enough to guess a four-word search query.

Chat is different. I write long-ish posts that are a lot more complex than a typical search query - the likelihood of ChatGPT getting what I want after the first characters is minuscule. My experience corresponds with this - ChatGPT *never* guesses correctly what I want to write. Literally not once.

This explains why ChatGPT autocomplete is useless to me. But why does it feel so annoying and frustrating? Because the mental process I use when chatting differs from the one I use when searching.

When using a search, I already know what I am searching for. Using chat is a lot more like regular talking... and when I talk, I do not know exactly what I will say before I say it. I am thinking aloud. And when someone is talking over me, it is distracting. My train of thought gets derailed when I start typing and ChatGPT inserts something completely unrelated.

Imagine if ChatGPT were a colleague. You want to discuss how to implement a new feature in your app...

Should we...

...go to the library? Exercise more? Make compound chicken for lunch?

No, I want to talk about...

...the latest tech trends? Healthy lifestyle tips? My favorite books and why I love them?

For Christ's sake, could you shut...

...the front door? All the windows in the building? Our business?

A colleague like that would drive me crazy. And I would be puzzled if other people were like "Oh, he finished my sentence again. He is awesome". What am I missing?

UPDATE: interesting comments on Hacker News

Can writing about summer help with winter... >

(• ‿•) Hi, I am **Honza**. Do you need a **data analyst**? Check out my resume.