

Decorative wavy lines in blue and green, with a trail of white dots, framing the central text.

Grammarly and AI Detection

About This Report

Grammarly recently implemented large language models (LLMs) in its product to help rewrite content, fill in sentences, and more.

To avoid confusion and ensure complete transparency, we conducted an analysis to understand which portions of Grammarly, if any, would get flagged as AI content and which wouldn't. We based the analysis on 1,000 random files from a public essay dataset of human-written, English-language text.

Key Findings

- When it comes to tools such as Grammarly, which offers a GenAI option to help re-write your content entirely, whether you're asking it to improve or shorten the text, it may very well get flagged as AI because, simply put, it is AI-generated. And, the greater the amount of text it changes, the higher the chance of it being flagged.
- On the other hand, none of the content that Grammarly changed to fix grammatical errors, tone issues, etc., was flagged as AI because they do not use genAI to power these features or functionalities.
- If you'd like to completely turn off Grammarly's GenAI, you can do so in the feature customization tab in your account settings.

Writing Assistant	Human	GenAI
Grammarly (Original) Modified Text	100%	0%
Grammarly's GenAI 'Improve' Feature	68.3%	31.6%

Considerations to Note

1. In the last experiment, the content coming back as human-written had fewer overall changes than those coming back as AI.
2. A high cosine similarity between the original text and the 'Improved' means they are very similar. "1" is nearly identical, and the texts are less similar as the value gets lower. The average cosine for the files detected as AI was .76, while the files identified as human-written was .88. This means the text detected as AI was significantly changed, resulting in a lower cosine score than the source. In contrast, texts with minimal changes had a higher cosine score than the source and were not detected as AI.

Key Takeaways

When it comes to tools such as Grammarly, which offers a GenAI option to help re-write your content entirely, whether you're asking it to improve or shorten the text, it may very well get flagged as AI because, simply put, it is AI-generated. And, the greater the amount of text it changes, the higher the chance of it being flagged.

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