

Overview - Generative AI Fun with ChatGPT & Suno

This document summarizes the key themes, ideas, and facts presented in Modules 1 through 5 of a course on Generative AI. The course, led by Phil Johncock, MA, MMs, aims to make AI accessible and enjoyable for beginners, particularly focusing on the creative application of AI tools like ChatGPT and Suno for songwriting.

Core Message

The core message running through these modules is that **AI is a powerful yet accessible tool that can be used for creativity, connection, and efficiency, regardless of technical expertise**. Phil emphasizes a "pressure-free, friendly space to explore something new" and encourages a playful, experimental approach to learning.

Module 1: Beginner's Guide to AI

Main Theme: Introducing generative AI as an approachable and fun tool for everyone, even those who are not tech-savvy.

Most Important Ideas/Facts:

- AI is rapidly growing and integrating into daily life.
- Tools like ChatGPT and Suno are accessible and often free, making this an ideal time to explore.
- AI can be used to create meaningful and creative content, such as heartfelt tributes and songs. Phil shares a personal story about using AI to create a tribute song called "Invisible Warrior" for a homeless veteran named Rick, which "resonated deeply with everyone who heard it."
- The course is specifically designed for beginners and non-techy individuals who may feel intimidated by AI.
- "Practice Demos" are introduced as hands-on activities to build confidence and demonstrate the ease of using AI. An example involves using a funny prompt like "Write a funny song about AI texting an ex by accident" in ChatGPT and Suno.com to quickly generate a song.
- Module 1 teaches how to generate a first AI song with a simple copy-and-paste prompt, demonstrating AI's accessibility and speed for creativity.
- A key takeaway is that "AI is accessible, even for complete beginners" and the "power of AI to make creativity fun and fast."
- Phil shares a snippet of "The Newbie Song" as an encouraging tribute to new students: "Welcome to AI, let's have some fun, it's a journey we've just begun!"
- Final thought: "Remember, creativity is just a conversation away."

Module 2: Voice-to-Text Is a Gamechanger!

Main Theme: Highlighting the transformative power of Voice-to-Text technology for improving speed, accessibility, and creativity in various tasks, particularly in relation to songwriting with Suno.

Most Important Ideas/Facts:

- Voice-to-Text transcribes spoken words in real-time and is considered a "game-changer" due to its ability to save time and make work easier.
- Phil provides a compelling anecdote about students who increased their writing speed from 10-15 words per minute (typing) to nearly 190 words per minute (Voice-to-Text), drastically reducing task time.
- Phil shares his personal experience of writing 11 books in three months using Voice-to-Text, compared to three years for 11 previous books written by typing. He also mentions co-authoring the book "Rural Solutions for Homelessness" in just three hours by transcribing a conversation using Voice-to-Text.
- The connection between Voice-to-Text and Suno is emphasized: just as Voice-to-Text converts speech to text, Suno converts text to music. This allows users to speak lyrics and quickly turn them into songs, working "smarter and faster, not harder!"
- Beyond speed, key benefits of Voice-to-Text include:
- Feels More Natural: Speaking allows for a free flow of ideas.
- Breaks Barriers: Helps individuals who struggle with typing, making writing accessible to more people.
- Sparks Creativity: Enables capturing ideas instantly, anywhere.
- Practical tips for using Voice-to-Text include speaking clearly, using punctuation commands, reviewing text, and experimenting in different settings.
- Resources are available, including a Voice-to-Text toolkit, a cheat sheet for commands, and a guide with tricks.
- Voice-to-Text has significantly improved in accuracy and is often built into devices. Starting small is encouraged for hesitant users.
- The practice demo involves using Voice-to-Text to create a humorous pop song about AI taking jobs.
- Voice-to-Text is crucial for beginners as it removes writing barriers and helps individuals who don't see themselves as writers or creators to express themselves. This is particularly valuable for songwriting with Suno.
- Voice-to-Text is viewed as "a shortcut to creativity!" and is seen as a significant part of how we will work with AI in the future.

The transition to Module 3 involves building on these skills to personalize lyrics with ChatGPT.

Module 3: Device Harmony Is Like Riding a Bike

Main Theme: Mastering the use of AI tools across multiple devices to create a seamless and flexible workflow.

Most Important Ideas/Facts:

- Initially, Phil preferred using a desktop with a keyboard and large monitors for AI tools.
- He discovered the benefits of using AI apps on mobile devices (phone and iPad mini) for flexibility and convenience, such as using them in the morning without disturbing others.
- Setting up ChatGPT and Suno is described as a "simple process" similar to installing other user-friendly apps.
- Phil discusses the free and paid versions of ChatGPT and Suno. The paid version of ChatGPT (\$20/month) offers unlimited uploads, faster responses, and access to the latest features, which Phil found "worth the investment." Suno's free version provides 50

daily credits, enough for 3-5 songs, and running out taught him to plan better. Beginners should assess their needs.

- Using multiple devices (PC, laptop, smartphone, iPad mini) offers versatility, with each device having unique advantages (mobile for convenience, PC for in-depth editing).
- Guiding students across different platforms (Android, iPhone, tablets, websites) is essential because people use a mix of devices.
- Top tips for a smooth transition between devices include:
 - Master Copy-and-Paste Mastery: Learning to copy content across devices.
 - Use Cloud Storage: Utilizing services like Google Drive or iCloud for seamless file access.
 - Save your documents in the cloud and external drives: Always backing up work for access anywhere.
- Apps are preferred for quick, on-the-go interactions with real-time notifications, while websites are better for tasks requiring more visibility and precision.
- Tech glitches are normal and teach patience and planning. Always logging in with a secure account saves work.
- Learning new technology is compared to "learning to ride a bike—it feels shaky at first, but with practice, it gets easier."
- Module 3 is described as foundational and crucial for overcoming initial hurdles to unlock the full potential of AI tools, even if it feels "less exciting and more foundational compared to others."
- Practice Demo A involves editing voice-to-text on a desktop to improve workflow and precision.
- Practice Demo B involves starting a collaborative project using a shared cloud document and switching between devices to add updates or comments, demonstrating "device harmony" and the flexibility of cloud storage.
- The cloud "keeps everything synced," making collaboration and progress tracking easy across devices.

Module 4: Crafting Your Lyrics

Main Theme: Utilizing ChatGPT, particularly its text generation capabilities, to create personalized and meaningful song lyrics.

Most Important Ideas/Facts:

- Phil has been using AI, specifically ChatGPT, for 11 months to create personalized song lyrics, building on his existing skill of making impromptu songs.
- AI tools like ChatGPT and Suno make it accessible for anyone to create meaningful song tributes, regardless of musical talent.
- ChatGPT is a type of AI skilled at understanding and generating text, making it excellent for lyric writing. Its name stands for Generative Pre-trained Transformer: "generative" (creates new content), "pre-trained" (learned from vast text data), and "transformer" (understands words in context).
- To generate truly special songs with ChatGPT, users need to be "very, very specific and detailed in your prompts or instructions."
- Phil introduces the "5-Star Plus Lyric Maker" framework for prompting ChatGPT:
 - Subject: Who is the song for? Details about their name, personality, and unique qualities.
 - Tone & Theme: The mood and message (e.g., "This song should make my friend feel like a superstar.").

- Audience & Occasion: Who will hear the song and for what event (birthday, anniversary, tribute)?
- Rhythm & Style: The genre (pop, folk, etc.) and desired instruments.
- Plus (+): Format & Structure: Providing a clear song structure to ChatGPT (e.g., "[Verse 1], [Chorus], [Verse 2], [Chorus], [Outro]").
- Using this structured approach helps prevent "messy lyrics" and ensures the song feels cohesive.
- Phil shares the creation process and a snippet of "Katie's Smile," an upbeat pop song created using the 5-Star Plus framework for a birthday tribute. The song highlights how deeply personal and heartfelt AI-generated songs can be.
- A more spontaneous example, "A Nappy Kind of Day," is shared, which started as a simple melody and was developed into a full song with AI. A case study on its creation is available.
- The Module 4 Practice Demo involves using a "5-STAR Plus ChatGPT Worksheet" to simplify the lyric-writing process.
- Tips for editing AI-generated lyrics include: Personalize More (add inside jokes), Check the Flow (read aloud), Match the Mood, Enhance the Chorus (make it catchy and repeat it), and Fine-Tune Rhymes & Lyrics (adjust wording, ask ChatGPT for help). Repeating a catchy phrase three times at the end of the song is suggested for the chorus.
- Action steps for students include listening to full song examples, downloading resources (case study, worksheet), watching the demo, and filling out their own worksheet to create lyrics.
- The module concludes by emphasizing the ability to craft meaningful and rhyming lyrics using ChatGPT in preparation for using Suno in the next module.

Module 5: Intro to Suno

Main Theme: Exploring Suno as a creative tool that makes music creation accessible and fun for everyone, allowing users to easily turn text into full songs.

Most Important Ideas/Facts:

- Suno is described as the "ChatGPT of music" because it simplifies the process of writing and producing songs, making it feel like "magic."
- Users can type in an idea, and Suno generates a full song with vocals and instruments.
- Suno is a "creative playground" used by various people (musicians, teachers, marketers, comedians) to express emotions, create jokes, or just experiment. Many creations are going viral.
- The accessibility of Suno allows individuals who have never made music before to create songs.
- Suno songs are "incredibly shareable" and appear on various platforms like TikTok, YouTube, and in classrooms. The vibe is described as "playful and empowering."
- Users can choose between two creation modes:
- Non-custom: Suno handles everything.
- Custom: Users can provide their own lyrics or specify a vibe. This mode is highlighted for greater control.
- In custom mode, "meta tags" (little cues) can be used to organize song sections (verses, choruses) and influence the song's energy. These are demonstrated in the practice demo.

- Suno offers various song ending options, including "fade out" (Phil's favorite), "big finale," "surprise silence," and "dramatic drop." These can be added when writing lyrics in custom mode.
- Each genre in Suno brings its own flavor, and Suno automatically adds instruments to match the chosen genre. Users can add instruments in custom mode for more control.
- The resources section in Module 5 includes guides on genre-based instruments, examples of song endings, and a guide covering FAQs, tips, and common pitfalls.
- Common mistakes to avoid include:
- Not using real artist names in prompts (Suno blocks them for copyright).
- Not listening to both versions of a generated song.
- Forgetting to toggle into custom mode when using custom lyrics.
- Module 5 is presented as eye-opening, highlighting the creativity, speed, and fun of using Suno.
- Phil shares creating a song about whistling just for fun, demonstrating the platform's ease of use for spontaneous creation.