Live AI on Meta’s smart glasses is a solution looking for a problem



Here’s the scene: I’m wearing Meta’s latest Ray-Ban glasses with a new feature called Live AI, which can answer questions about the world around you. I’m preparing for a four-hour road trip to my in-laws for the Christmas holiday. I’m preplanning the next day’s breakfast because I’m 99.9 percent certain I will have no brain cells to concoct an edible one at 5AM. I don’t even know if I have anything to make a meal *with*. I open the fridge door and say, “Hey Meta, start Live AI.” Suddenly, John Cena’s voice is in my ear telling me that a Live AI session has begun.

“What breakfast can I make with the ingredients in my fridge?” I ask.

The inside is a sad sight with month-old Thanksgiving leftovers, a carton of eggs, soda, condiments, a tub of Greek yogurt, and a big jug of maple syrup. Meta-AI-as-John-Cena replies that I can make a “variety of breakfast dishes,” such

as “scrambled eggs, omelets, or yogurt parfaits.”

To be clear, there is not a single fresh fruit with which to make a parfait. The egg carton has two eggs in it. My spouse put an empty milk carton back in the fridge, meaning scrambled eggs and omelets are also out. My stomach rumbles, reminding me I skipped lunch. I bail on the breakfast idea and instead open the freezer door and ask what kind of dinner I can make with the ingredients inside. It’s mostly a bunch of frozen pizzas, an assortment of frozen veggies, and hamburger buns. I’m told, “frozen meals, stir-fries, and casseroles.”

I decide to order in for dinner. It’ll be a drive-through breakfast on the road.

This is the issue with Live AI. More often than not, I don’t know when to use it. When I do, the answers I get are too obvious to be helpful.

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a:hover]:text-black [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a:hover]:text-gray-e9 dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-gray-63 [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13 dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63″>Journey with me as I figure out how to ask Meta AI the right questions to get the answer I wanted.
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a:hover]:text-gray-63 [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a:hover]:text-gray-bd dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-gray [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63 dark:[&>a]:text-gray-bd dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray”>Photo by Amelia Holowaty Krales / The Verge
After Googling the artists Meta AI suggested, I was left back

at square one. I liked their art, but none of them felt like *my* style. I relayed the experience to my best friend, who rolled her eyes and promptly sent me three artists on Instagram. I loved all of them. In a chiding voice, she said I should've just asked her and not bothered with a bot. Because, unlike Meta AI, she said, she actually knows me.

Live AI has other issues outside of the philosophical ones. It struggles to differentiate when you're talking to it versus someone else in the room. At one point, it straight up lied and said it'd witnessed me feed my cat when I hadn't. (It'd been confused by my spouse saying they'd fed the kitties.) It also only works in 30-minute windows before the battery runs out. That means you have to be intentional in how you use it — a hard thing to do when there are few obvious use cases.

I'm not against Live AI. The overarching vision is for all of us to be like Tony Stark, wearing cool glasses with their own little Jarvises in them. When you're being hand-held through controlled demos, that future feels both inevitable *and* magical. It's just that the fantasy starts to crack when you're left to explore on your own. And once that happens, nine out of 10 times, you're going to reach for your phone.

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