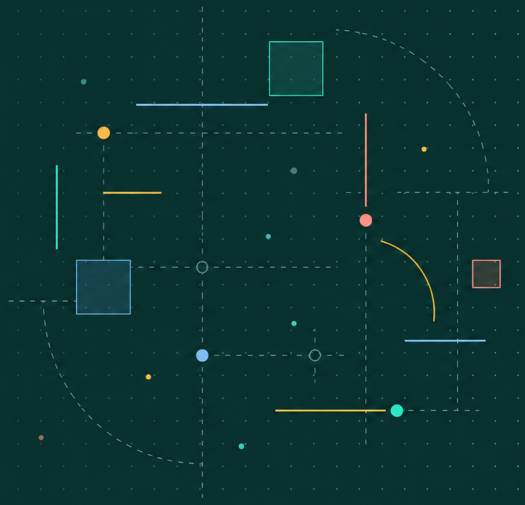
ACC 300 · ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

# Build a Visualization with AI

Start with what you don't understand.



# > Start with what you don’t understand

Talk through a small example before asking AI to build anything.

```
> I don't understand how a company can report a profit but run out of
cash. I'd like to build an interactive visualization to help me
understand it. First, walk me through a small example with a few
numbers. Keep it short, and don't build anything yet.
```

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING.

- Name the part that still confuses you.
- Ask about a specific transaction or month.
- Use your course material to check the explanation.

# > Ask for help choosing a visualization

You can ask for suggestions before you know what to build.

```
> Suggest 2 or 3 ways to visualize this example. Explain what each would help me understand. Don't build anything yet.
```

CHOOSE BASED ON YOUR QUESTION.

- To follow events, try a timeline.
- To compare profit and cash, try a side-by-side display.
- To test payment timing, try a display where you can change the payment date.

If you still cannot choose, ask:

```
> Which would you start with, and why? Show me a simple sketch using our example.
```

# > Ask what you could change

You can ask for suggestions while you are still learning the accounting.

```
> What could I change in this example to understand how a profitable company runs out of cash? Suggest a few things I could change and explain what each would help me understand.
```

If a suggestion is unclear, ask:

```
> Show me what happens when we change just that. Explain which amounts change and why.
```

CHOOSE WHAT TO INVESTIGATE.

- Discuss the suggestions before choosing.
- Choose the things that help you investigate your original question.
- Change one thing at a time.

# > Ask for one HTML file

HTML means Hypertext Markup Language, the format used for web pages.

An HTML file is a web page you can save and open in your browser. Ask AI to put the whole visualization in that file.

**OPEN IT IN YOUR BROWSER.**

- You can open the saved file without installing software or setting up a website.

**USE IT OFFLINE.**

- Once you save the file, you can use the visualization without an internet connection.

**KEEP IT AND SHARE IT.**

- Someone else can open the same file without recreating your setup.

# > Build, check, and ask again

Begin with one change you want to investigate.

```
> Build an interactive visualization
using our example. Put everything in one
HTML file I can download and open in my
browser. Make it work offline, without
installations or external libraries. Let
me change the things we chose, one at a
time. Show the calculations.
```

Then ask: Tell me how to save and open the file.

**CHECK BEFORE YOU USE IT.**

- Open the saved file. Try changing a value with the internet disconnected.
- Check the example with your own calculations.
- Predict a change, test it, and investigate any difference.

What do I still not understand? Ask for a revision that helps you investigate that part.

# > Check the numbers, assumptions, and conclusion

Correct calculations can still leave room for a misleading interpretation.

CHECK THREE THINGS.

- Numbers: Can you reproduce a calculation yourself?
- Assumptions: What must be true for the accounting treatment to work?
- Conclusion: Do the summary and details support the same interpretation?

OUR CHECK FOUND A LIMITATION.

- Try $0 starting cash, customer payment on Day 10, and $10,000 of equipment.
- The summary reports no shortage before collection. The timeline shows $6,000 unpaid later.
- Both amounts are correct. Check the period covered by each statement.