

# Cheat Sheet: Deep Research vs. Fact-checking

- ⚡ Deep Research = Broad & systematic 📄 → context and overview.
- ⚡ Fact-checking = Narrow & binary ✅ → true, false or partly true.

## Why this matters

Both terms suggest “reliability”, but they work in completely different ways:

- **Deep Research** = searching broadly, combining, adding nuance.
  - **Fact-checking** = testing a single claim: true, false or partly true.
- 👉 An essential distinction for anyone using AI as a research assistant.

## What is Deep Research and what is Fact-checking?

- **Deep Research:** A term used in AI contexts for systematically and broadly gathering, comparing and interpreting information (*not an official research method, but an AI-practical label*).
- **Fact-checking:** Verifying whether a specific claim or source is accurate, often with gradations (*true / false / partly true / taken out of context*).

## Working out each technique

### Deep Research

- **Definition:** Multi-step searching and comparing across several sources.
- **Strength:** Provides overview, trends and contradictions.
- **Example prompt + answer:**  
Prompt: “Investigate what recent studies say about the health effects of coffee.”  
Answer: “Studies show both benefits (lower risk of type 2 diabetes, heart health) and risks (sleep disruption, increased blood pressure with overuse).  
Sources: e.g. WHO, Harvard Medical School, Mayo Clinic.”

## Fact-checking

- **Definition:** Verifying whether a specific claim is correct, often with nuance.
- **Strength:** Clear validation (true/false/partly true).
- **Example prompt + answer:**  
Prompt: “Is it true that coffee dehydrates you?”  
Answer: “No. Research shows that while coffee is mildly diuretic, fluid intake compensates for this. Source: e.g. EFSA (2015).”

## Comparison Table

Aspect	Deep Research	Fact-checking
Structure	Broad, iterative, multi-step	Narrow, focused on one claim
Process	Gather & interpret information	True/false, sometimes with gradations
Flexibility	Provides nuance and multiple perspectives	Provides a clearer, singular judgement
Application	Reports, strategy, trend analysis	News, claims, quick verification
Result	Overview, context, trends	True / false / partly true / out of context
Error handling	Risk: too much info, bias, no conclusion	Risk: too simplistic, reliant on 1 source
Risk if confused	Assuming fact-check is “enough” → miss nuance	Assuming research only needs yes/no

### ✓ Handy rules of thumb

- Use **Deep Research** to build a broad picture or context.
- Use **Fact-checking** to validate a claim quickly and precisely.
- Combine both: **research broadly** → **verify narrowly**.

## Try this

Ask the AI:

1. “Investigate the arguments for and against remote working since 2020.” (Deep Research)
2. “Is it true that working from home is a legal right in the Netherlands?” (Fact-checking)

👉 Compare how broad vs. narrow approaches complement each other.

## Learn & apply yourself

“Deep research builds the landscape; fact-checking marks the signposts.”

👉 Use AI for both layers and see how they reinforce each other.

### Discover more

Cheat Sheet: [Deep Research Prompts \(PDF\)](#)

More cheat sheets on prompting: [symbio6.nl/en/sheets](https://symbio6.nl/en/sheets)

