

What does ChatGPT know?

Published: January 13, 2026, 9:58 am

The Guardian [had a story yesterday](#) about the fact that ChatGPT had a block on questions about someone called David Mayer over the weekend. ChatGPT could not explain why. The bug has, apparently, been resolved. I did, however, wonder what would happen if I put my name into ChatGPT because the Guardian article made clear some anomalies around names were still being found.

This was the exchange (but I stress you might get a different outcome; all I make clear is that this one is unedited):

Me: Richard Murphy

ChatGPT: Could you clarify what you'd like to know about Richard Murphy? Are you referring to a specific individual, such as the economist and tax justice advocate, or someone else? Let me know!

Me: The economist

ChatGPT: Richard Murphy is a British economist, academic, and political commentator known for his work in accounting, taxation, and economic justice. He is a vocal advocate for progressive economic policies and has significantly influenced debates on tax reform, inequality, and public finance.

Key Points About Richard Murphy:

1. Background:

- Murphy trained as a chartered accountant before transitioning to academia and activism.
- He is a professor of accounting practice at Sheffield University Management School.

2. Tax Justice and Activism:

- Murphy co-founded the Tax Justice Network, an organization that promotes transparency in global financial systems and campaigns against tax evasion and avoidance.
- He developed the concept of “country-by-country reporting”, which requires multinational corporations to disclose their financial data in every country where they operate.

3. Publications and Theories:

- Murphy has written extensively on tax policy, economics, and inequality, including books like *The Joy of Tax* and *Dirty Secrets: How Tax Havens Destroy the Economy*.
- He is a proponent of modern monetary theory (MMT) and argues for the use of public spending to drive economic growth and social equity.

4. Policy Influence:

- His ideas have influenced political parties like the UK Labour Party under Jeremy Corbyn’s leadership, particularly in designing tax reforms and public finance strategies.
- Murphy is a critic of austerity policies and advocates for government investment in public services and green initiatives.

5. Public Presence:

- He frequently writes on his blog, Tax Research UK, where he discusses current economic issues.
- As a media commentator, Murphy is known for challenging conventional economic thinking and addressing pressing topics like tax havens, climate change, and wealth inequality.

If you’d like more detailed insights into his work, theories, or recent activities, let me know!

So, what does ChatGPT know? Quite a lot, it seems. I would definitely edit this, but you can see why academia is so worried about the risks from programs like this.