Hi, Bot

Spot the Slip

8–16 · 2+ players or solo · ~10 min · 12 rounds

Your bot only competes after you check its work.

OBJECTIVE

Your bot, Sprocket, is in a contest. Before each match it shows its work. Check it: tap the line with the slip and pick why, or call "No slip". A right call sends Sprocket into the match. Catching a slip and saying "no slip" when the work is right score exactly the same.

PLAY WITH THE CARDS

1. One player is the Reader and holds the Round cards and Answer cards, matched by code.
2. The Reader reads a Round card aloud: the ask, then each numbered line.
3. The other players decide: slip or no slip. If slip, name the line and say why in your own words.
4. The Reader reads the matching Answer card. Each right call earns a point, catch or clean.
5. Pass the Reader role on. Play 6 rounds, or the whole deck.

WHAT IT TEACHES

1. How to check a machine's work: is it right, and how do you know?
2. Five slips to look for: a wrong fact, a broken pattern, a wrong label, a made-up source, and a right answer with a wrong reason.
3. Machines are often right. Saying "no slip" for a good reason is just as useful as catching a mistake.

PLAY ON A SCREEN: HIBOT.SPACE/GAMES/SPOT-THE-SLIP/PLAY

1. 30 rounds in three levels, 6 per game. Free, no account, nothing to type.

FIVE SLIPS TO WATCH FOR

1. Wrong fact. Check one fact you already know for sure, or redo the math yourself. A machine can sound certain and still be wrong.
2. Broken pattern. Say the rule out loud, then test it on every line, not just the first two.
3. Mislabeled example. Cover the label, decide for yourself, then compare.
4. Made-up source. Ask whether the source could exist: a real author, a date that has happened, a page that's in the book.
5. Right answer, wrong reason. A right answer isn't enough. Try the reason on a different example and see if it still works.

WHEN THERE'S NO SLIP

1. Before you call a slip, try to prove the line wrong. If you can't, it may be right: machines often are.
2. About a third of the rounds are clean. Calling them right scores the same as a catch.