

WordPress Meetup Activity

Using AI in your WordPress dashboard

60 minutes · Beginner to Intermediate · WordPress Playground

playground.wordpress.net

What We Will Cover Today

Part 1 — Setup

15 min

Part 2 — Image Generation and Editing

5 min

Part 3 — Editor Experiments

30 min

Part 4 — Admin Experiments

5 min

Part 5 — Discussion and Debrief

5 min

By the end of this activity, you will be able to:

1. Set up the WordPress AI plugin in Playground and connect it to a free AI provider API key.
2. Use at least 3 AI writing experiments inside the block editor.
3. Enable AI-powered comment moderation in the admin.
4. Evaluate which experiments fit your workflow and which tradeoffs matter.
5. Explain the difference between stable features and opt-in experiments.

Setup

1. playground.wordpress.net — Playground auto-logs you in as admin.
2. Playground sidebar → select the latest WordPress RC. Environment reloads.
3. Settings > Connectors. Click Install next to the AI plugin.
4. Click Install next to your provider. Paste your API key in the field that appears.
5. Settings > AI. Toggle Enable AI on (top right). Experiments become active.

Getting a Free API Key

The AI plugin is provider-neutral — connect any of these:

Provider	Link	Notes
Google Gemini	aistudio.google.com	Free — no credit card required. Required for Image Generation.
OpenAI	platform.openai.com/api-keys	Requires a paid plan.
Anthropic	console.anthropic.com	Requires a paid plan.

Image Generation and Editing

1. Settings > AI → toggle on Image Generation and Editing.
2. Add an Image block to a new post (Posts > Add New Post).
3. Click Generate Image in the Image block toolbar. Enter a prompt and generate.
4. Try Edit with AI to modify the generated image with a new prompt.

Note: Image generation requires Google Gemini — Anthropic and OpenAI keys may not support it.

Editor Experiments

First: Settings > AI → enable all 9 Editor Experiments (toggles save automatically).

Then: paste your draft blog post into the post editor. Work through each experiment:

- ✓ Title Generation
- ✓ Excerpt Generation
- ✓ Meta Description Generation
- ✓ Content Classification
- ✓ Content Resizing
- ✓ Content Summarization
- ✓ Alt Text Generation
- ✓ Review Notes
- ✓ Refine from Notes

Writing Tools

1. **Title Generation** Click the title field → AI icon → generate titles from your content. Pick one.
2. **Excerpt Generation** Document sidebar → Excerpt panel → AI Generate. This targets search-result snippets.
3. **Meta Description Generation** Document sidebar → Meta Description panel → Generate. (Integrates with Yoast/Rank Math if installed.)
4. **Content Classification** Document sidebar → Categories and Tags panels → AI suggestions. Accept or reject each one.

Content Tools

1. **Content Resizing** Select a paragraph → AI icon in toolbar → try Shorten, Expand, and Rephrase.
2. **Content Summarization** Select all text → AI Summarize. Compare to the Excerpt: summarization is a prose overview, not a search snippet.
3. **Alt Text Generation** Click your image → Image block sidebar → Alternative text field → AI Generate. Read the result carefully. Does it describe the image accurately?

Review Notes + Refine from Notes

These two experiments work as a pair: review first, then apply.

1. **Review Notes** In the post editor toolbar, click Review Notes. The AI reads your post block by block and adds inline notes with suggestions for Accessibility, Readability, Grammar, and SEO. Read through several notes before moving on.
2. **Refine from Notes** After reviewing, click Refine from Notes. The AI applies the suggested edits automatically. Open Revisions (Document settings > Revisions) to compare before and after. Undo any change you disagree with.

Admin Experiments

First: Settings > AI → toggle on Admin Experiments (saves automatically)

- 1. Comment Moderation** Settings > Discussion → AI Comment Moderation settings. Go to Comments to see AI scoring on test comments.
- 2. Abilities Explorer** Tools > Abilities Explorer. Browse abilities registered via the WordPress Abilities API (introduced in WP 6.9). Developer-facing — useful for plugin and theme authors.

Discussion

- 1 Which experiment was most useful for your content workflow? Which one would you turn on right now if this were your real site?
- 2 You needed an API key from an external provider. What does that mean for data, cost, and control as a site owner?
- 3 After today: AI in your workflow — yes, occasionally, or skip? What changed?

Keep Going

WordPress AI plugin	https://wordpress.org/plugins/ai/
WordPress AI Team handbook	https://make.wordpress.org/ai/handbook/
Free Gemini API key — Google AI Studio	https://aistudio.google.com
Abilities API documentation	https://developer.wordpress.org/apis/abilities/



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