

Worksheets

Analog Dad VS AI Mom — Who's at the Wheel?

At the end of each chapter you'll find a short task. Here are the longer ones, by chapter. You don't have to fill in all of them. Pick the one that's about your life right now.

Printable versions of the worksheets for all three books, laid out for US Letter paper, are at csicsike76.github.io/analog-dad-worksheets.

Chapter One: The Agent

The second task is about the goal. The goal of Kate’s machine was to keep customers satisfied, as fast as possible. That’s where the discount came from, the one Vera would never have given. Think of a program you use, and write down what you think its goal is. Not what the ad says. What you can see from how it behaves. Then write down what that goal lets it do in your name that you never would.

The program	What its ad says	What I see from its behavior	What it can do because of that, and I never would

Chapter Three: The Score

The second task is for your team, if you have one. Sit down and write out the numbers you’re measured by. Next to each one, write how the number could be improved while the work gets worse. If it’s easy to find a way for one of them, that’s where to watch the closest. Machine and person alike.

The number	What it’s meant to measure	A workaround that improves the number and worsens the work	Who watches that it doesn’t happen

Chapter Seven: “We’re One Team”

The second task is for the family. If there are several machines at home that handle things in family members’ names, write down which machine talks to which other machine. The phone with the calendar, the calendar with the email, the email with the online store, the smart home with the phone. Draw it with arrows. At the end, see whether there’s an arrow that none of you knew about.

Machine	Whom it talks to	What they pass to each other	Did we know?

Chapter Nine: Loot

The second task takes a month. Every week, set up two-step verification on one account that doesn't have it yet. The first one, your email, because through it every other password can be reset. The second, your bank. The third, wherever your card is saved. The fourth, whichever one you've gone the longest without looking at.

Week	Account	Two-step verification set up?	What did I notice along the way?
First	Email		
Second	Bank		
Third	Wherever my card is saved		
Fourth	The one I've looked at least recently		

Chapter Eleven: Two Weeks

The second task is an experiment. Ask two different machines about the same thing, independently. A fact that matters to you. A rule, a health question, a deadline. Write down what one says, and what the other says. Wherever they differ, find a third source that isn't a machine. An agency, a specialist, a book.

The question	The first machine's answer	The second machine's answer	Where they differ	The third source, not a machine

Chapter Twelve: The Letter in Your Own Language

The second task is for the family, and it’s a conversation. Agree that if any of you gets a message that rushes you, asks for something, and seems familiar, then before doing anything, you show it to another family member. Not because they’re smarter. Because they’re not in a hurry. Write down who shows it to whom.

Who gets the message	Whom they show it to first	How they reach them if they’re not home

Chapter Fifteen: It Has a Price

The second task is Dora’s calculation. Pick a service where there’s a cheaper version run by a machine, and a more expensive one with a person in it. Write down the monthly difference. Then estimate what a single big mistake would cost with the machine version. Finally, how many times a year such a mistake could happen. If you don’t know, write down whom you could ask. The machine company probably won’t tell you.

Service	Monthly difference	The cost of one big mistake	How many times a year?	Whom I can ask

Chapter Eighteen: The Stamp

The second task is about your workplace. Write down the things your name goes on, as a signature, an approval, the person responsible. Next to each one, write how much of what your name takes responsibility for you actually saw. Where it's less than half, your stamp is empty. Write down whom you could ask for more time or more visibility.

What my name goes on	How much of it I saw	Is my stamp empty?	Whom I can ask for more visibility

Chapter Twenty: The Machine That’s Always Nice

The second task is for teenagers, and they should fill it in, not their parents. If you talk with a machine, write down what you talk about with it, and what you don’t talk about with a person. Then write down one person’s name, someone you could tell one thing from the second column. You don’t have to tell them. It’s enough to know there’s such a person. If there isn’t one, you can call or text 988, the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, day or night, free, without giving your name.

What I talk about with the machine	What I don’t talk about with a person	One person I could tell

Chapter Twenty-Two: Speaking Up

The second task is the letter, if you wrote it at the end of the chapter. Get one more signer. A neighbor, a coworker, a relative who is affected by the same thing. If there are two of you, find a third. A letter signed by three people is different from a letter written by one. Write down whom you asked, and what they said.

Whom I asked	What they said	Did they sign?

Chapter Twenty-Four: Rules for AI Agents

The second task is due in three months. Put it in your calendar, by hand or on a machine, that in three months you'll take out the family's agent rules again. Then look together at which rules you broke, and why. Not to blame anyone. To find out whether the rule is wrong, or just hard to keep.

The rule	Did we break it?	Why	Is the rule wrong, or just hard?	What do we change