

Do the preparation task first to help you with the difficult vocabulary. Then read the article and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the number 1–8.

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 1..... huge | a. a task which is difficult but stimulating |
| 2..... to cope | b. very big |
| 3..... to tie (something) down | c. to confront a problem successfully |
| 4..... a pattern | d. to attach something with ropes so that it cannot move |
| 5..... a challenge | e. a regular or repeated way in which something is done |
| 6..... a tool | f. artificial intelligence |
| 7..... robotics | g. an instrument that helps us do a task |
| 8..... AI | h. the design and construction of robots |

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|----|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | People think that robots are going to have a big effect on some areas of our lives in the future. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | According to Dr Hawes, robots were limited because they could not work for a long period of time. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | There was little interest from newspapers and TV when Bob the robot started working. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | A robot normally has no problems functioning in a place where human beings live and work. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | If a robot can function for a longer period of time, it can learn new things it didn't understand before. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | Dr Hawes says that the majority of robots in the future will look like human beings. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. | The next thing that needs to be done with Bob the robot is to make him able to work for a longer period of time. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. | Dr Hawes thinks that only a small team of experts should work on this technology. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your vocabulary: gap fill

Read the text and write the correct form of the word in brackets to complete the gaps. Look at the example at the beginning of the text.

Many scientists feel very *EXCITED* (**EXCITE**) about the future of robots. According to Dr Nick Hawes, robots are going to be of great _____ (**IMPORTANT**) in many industries. However, one thing that was _____ (**PROBLEM**) for scientists was the fact that robots could only work for two hours and do one specific task. It was important to invent a robot that had the _____ (**ABLE**) to function for more than two hours and so Bob the robot was invented. A robot which can function for a _____ (**LONG**) of time superior to two hours can begin to learn new things. The _____ (**OBJECT**) of the Bob the robot project is to see if Bob can learn about his environment by seeing what is going on around him. It's probable that most robots will be _____ (**LIKE**) how many people imagine them and most will not look like humans at all. Although there are some advantages to having robots which look like humans, robots that look more like machines than people shouldn't be seen _____ (**NEGATIVE**). Dr Hawes thinks that the future of robot technology is very important, and this should give _____ (**ENCOURAGE**) to students who are interested in this field.

Discussion

Would you like a robot to help you in your daily life?

What would you want it to do for you?

Would you prefer your robot to look like a human or a machine?

Vocabulary Box

Write any new words you have learnt in this lesson.