

What people will live in our world in the future?

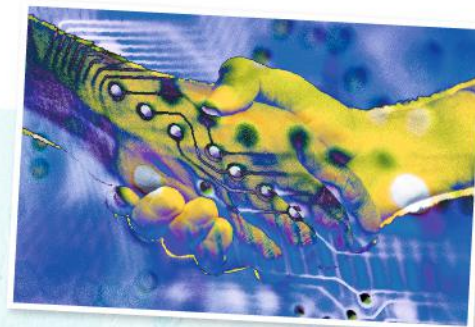


READING

15 ES Read the text and answer the questions.

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the intelligence of machines. A machine is intelligent when it knows its environment and performs actions with a high chance of success. Thinking machines and artificial beings already appeared in very ancient times in Greek myths and Egyptian stories, but it is only in recent times that scientists have begun exploring a new approach to intelligent machines, based on discoveries in neurology, on cybernetics, and, above all, on the invention of the digital computer, a machine which can simulate the process of the human mind. Several futurists say that Artificial Intelligence will go beyond the limits of progress and it will transform humanity. They calculate that computers will have the same reasoning ability as the human mind by the year 2029 and that in the future human beings and intelligent machines will merge into "cyborgs". Today Artificial Intelligence has become an essential part of robotics, the science and technology of robots. But what is a robot?



A robot is a machine that can perform autonomous or preprogrammed tasks. Some robots may perform tasks that are repetitive, others may perform tasks that are too dangerous or difficult for humans. They may be controlled directly by a human or they may act according to their artificial intelligence. This is the case of Topio, a humanoid robot, which can play tennis with any courageous human who wants to confront it. Topio comes from Vietnam and it was the star in 2009 International Robot Exhibition in Tokyo. A curiosity: this steel robot expresses feelings when it loses or wins a game.



1. What does "Artificial Intelligence" mean?
2. What is an intelligent machine?
3. Are intelligent machines a modern curiosity?
4. On what basis did scientist begin to build intelligent machines?
5. What will people and machines become in the future?
6. What is robotics?
7. What kind of tasks does a robot perform?
8. Can a robot decide what action to perform autonomously?
9. What can Topio do?
10. What does it do when it wins or loses a game?

high chance = alta possibilità
approach = approccio
beyond = oltre
reasoning = ragionamento
merge = fondersi
perform tasks = eseguire compiti



LISTENING

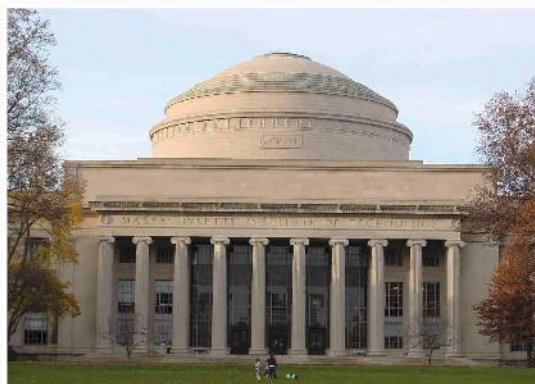
16a **1.20** Listen to the interview with Dr Rodney Brooks of MIT and tick the subjects of the interview from the list below.

1. The development of computer technology.
2. Computers in the house.
3. Dr Brooks's book *How Robots will change us*.
4. The creation of robots which will help factory workers.
5. The manufacture of a robot able to think and act like a person.



16b **1.20** Listen to the interview again and complete the sentences. Choose a, b or c.

1. Dr Rodney Brooks is
 - ☐ a. the founder of the humanoid robots group.
 - ☐ b. the founder of Intelligent Robot Corporation.
 - ☐ c. the founder of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
2. In his opinion, computer technology
 - ☐ a. has already got its results.
 - ☐ b. will have a great future.
 - ☐ c. may have some difficulty in developing.
3. Domestic electrical appliances
 - ☐ a. will help robots.
 - ☐ b. might become very expensive.
 - ☐ c. are thinking computers.
4. Cog is
 - ☐ a. the centre where Dr Brooks's group works.
 - ☐ b. the expert who has created a robot.
 - ☐ c. a humanoid robot without a face.
5. The robot will
 - ☐ a. interact with people in normal social relations.
 - ☐ b. replace people in their jobs.
 - ☐ c. learn to speak.
6. The robot will be like a human being and people
 - ☐ a. may be scared of it.
 - ☐ b. may want it as a friend.
 - ☐ c. may behave like it.



SPOKEN INTERACTION

17 What will life be in the future? In turn ask and answer with a classmate.

Example: (have) robots / an intelligence?
A Will robots have an intelligence?
B Yes, they will. / I'm not so sure. They might have an intelligence, but different from ours.

Will...

- (direct) technology / world?
- (control) the mobile phone / our life?
- (help) robots / people?
- (interact) people / only via computers?
- (have) people / intelligent assistants?
- (talk) people / with their technological devices?
- (solve) your mobile / problems with your school work?

WRITING

18 What will your life be like with robots around you? Write a short text, in which you give your opinion about the development of technology. Point out the positive and the negative sides of the issue.

