

Robots- A balanced view

My group has put together this talk. I'm going to argue that new stuff happening in what's called artificial intelligence is the most amazing, exciting thing going on right now. We're all used to the idea of robotic arms working in car assembly lines, but the next step is to go beyond this and create intelligent machines.

There are different points of view. Scientists don't agree about whether robots can ever really be intelligent or not. Whereas some say that we're on the brink of producing artificially intelligent machines; others argue that we don't properly understand how human intelligence works. It's not the same as programming a computer.

Sometime in the future, I, personally, believe we will have smart machines that can learn new things, solve problems and work things out for themselves without having to be programmed by a human being. We've had chess-playing computers for a long time now. But new robots will be able to learn new games and chat while you're playing.



In my opinion, one day, robots will do lots of the boring jobs, so that people don't have to do them. You must agree that this is a good thing. Isn't it also better to have clever machines doing some of the dangerous work that people risk their lives doing? They will work accurately and never get tired or ill.

Finally, some people worry that we'll be dominated by mad, terminator machines. What, I believe, scientists will never be able to do is create a thinking robot that feels things like anger, sadness or happiness. Machines are machines and we will be in charge. This isn't the movies.

1. Write down the sentence that Harry uses to introduce his topic.
2. Give **three** examples of the kinds of words and phrases you commonly find in balanced arguments.
3. Harry expresses his personal opinion now and again in order to be persuasive. Write down **two** examples.
4. Harry argues that intelligent robots will be smarter than any machine invented so far. What does he compare them to?
5. He does admit that scientists still have a long way to go. What is the main problem they face?
6. Harry suggests that there are advantages in having robots doing jobs that human beings do at the moment. What are these advantages?
7. Harry believes that we shouldn't be frightened of the idea of intelligent robots. What does he say in his conclusion to reassure us?