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Level 2

Robots smarter than humans by 2029

26th February, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140226-artificial-intelligence-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140226-artificial-intelligence-2.html>

A scientist thinks robots will be more intelligent than humans by 2029. His name is Ray Kurzweil. He works for Google as Director of Engineering. He is a leading expert on artificial intelligence (AI). Mr Kurzweil says computers will learn from experiences, just like us. He says they will tell jokes and stories, and even flirt. His 2029 prediction is a lot sooner than many people thought. In 1999, many experts said it would take hundreds of years for computers to be very intelligent. Now it won't be long before computer intelligence is one billion times more powerful than the human brain.

Mr Kurzweil joked that many years ago, people thought he was a little crazy. His thinking has stayed the same but everyone else has changed their thinking. He said his views were not crazy any more. He said the rest of the world was changing its view. He pointed to examples of high-tech things we use, see or read about every day. These make us think computers are intelligent. He said people changed because the public has seen things like voice-recognition technology, where you talk to a computer. He also said Google's self-driving cars make people think about computer intelligence.

Sources: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/technology-science/technology/ray-kurzweil-robots-smarter-humans-3178027>
<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/02/23/business/computers-to-top-humans-by-2029/>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140226-artificial-intelligence-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. robots will be more | a. long |
| 2. a leading expert on artificial | b. jokes and stories |
| 3. computers will learn | c. than the human brain |
| 4. He says they will tell | d. hundreds of years |
| 5. a lot sooner than many | e. intelligent than humans |
| 6. many experts said it would take | f. intelligence |
| 7. it won't be | g. people thought |
| 8. one billion times more powerful | h. from experiences |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. many years | a. tech things we use |
| 2. people thought he | b. driving cars |
| 3. His thinking has | c. was a little crazy |
| 4. everyone else has changed | d. recognition technology |
| 5. examples of high- | e. ago |
| 6. These make us think computers | f. their thinking |
| 7. things like voice- | g. stayed the same |
| 8. Google's self- | h. are intelligent |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140226-artificial-intelligence-2.html>

A scientist thinks (1) _____ intelligent than humans by 2029. His name is Ray Kurzweil. He works for Google as Director of Engineering. He is (2) _____ artificial intelligence (AI). Mr Kurzweil says computers will learn from experiences, just like us. He says (3) _____ and stories, and even flirt. His 2029 (4) _____ sooner than many people thought. In 1999, many experts said it would take hundreds of (5) _____ to be very intelligent. Now it won't be long before computer intelligence is (6) _____ powerful than the human brain.

Mr Kurzweil (7) _____ ago, people thought he was a little crazy. His thinking has (8) _____ but everyone else has changed their thinking. He said his views were (9) _____. He said the rest of the world was changing its view. He (10) _____ high-tech things we use, see or read about every day. These make us think computers are intelligent. He said people changed (11) _____ has seen things like voice-recognition technology, where you talk to a computer. He also said Google's (12) _____ people think about computer intelligence.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140226-artificial-intelligence-2.html>

Ascientistthinksrobotswillbemoreintelligentthanhumansby2029.HisnameisRayKurzweil.HeworksforGoogleasDirectorofEngineering.Heisaleadingexpertonartificialintelligence(AI).MrKurzweilsayscomputerswilllearnfromexperiences,justlikeus.Hesaystheywilltelljokesandstories,andevenflirt.His2029predictionisalotsoonerthanmanypeoplethought.In1999,manyexpertssaiditwouldtakehundredsofyearsforcomputerstobeveryintelligent.Nowitwon'tbelongbeforecomputerintelligenceisonebilliontimesmorepowerfulthanthehumanbrain.MrKurzweiljokedthatmanyyearsago,peoplethoughthewasalittlecrazy.Histhinkinghasstayedthesamebuteveryoneelsehaschangedtheirthinking.Hesaidhisviewswerenotcrazyanymore.Hesaidtherestoftheworldwaschangingitsview.Hepointedtoexamplesofhigh-techthingsweuse,seeorreadabouteveryday.Thesemakeusthinkcomputersareintelligent.Hesaidpeoplechangedbecausethepublichasseenthingslikevoice-recognitiontechnology,whereyoutalktoacomputer.HealsosaidGoogle'sself-drivingcarsmakepeoplethinkaboutcomputerintelligence.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)
