

Scientists fear people will fall in love with AI voices

12th August 2024



OpenAI, the company that owns ChatGPT, is worried that people may become emotionally dependent on artificial intelligence voices. The company released a new "advanced voice mode" to users last week. The chatbot comes equipped with an array of lifelike voices that are almost indistinguishable from human voices. They can have an authentic conversation in real time, laugh at the right time, interject with "umms," "aahs" and "hmms," and they can adjust to being interrupted. An OpenAI report states that the newly-released, human-sounding voices may lead people to rely on AI for companionship, and even for romance and love. It cautioned: "Users might form social relationships with the AI, reducing their need for human interaction."

The OpenAI report warns that future chatbots could fundamentally change societies. They will reshape how we interact with family, friends and colleagues. They may even usurp communication among humans. The report points to benefits of the new tool. These include bringing comfort and friendship to lonely people, and giving confidence to those who lack self-confidence. The report says people may gain enough confidence to start dating in the real world. On the flip side, chatbots could cause people to be ruder, more impatient and more selfish. Wired.com writes that the new chatbot includes "the potential...to amplify societal biases, spread disinformation, and aid in the development of chemical or biological weapons".

Sources: [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) / [popsi.com](https://www.popsi.com) / [wired.com](https://www.wired.com)

Writing

Falling in love with an AI chatbot is OK. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

emotionally dependent / artificial intelligence / voices / chatbots / conversation / love / change societies / colleagues / friendship / dating / disinformation / chemical weapons

True / False

- 1) ChatGPT owns the tech company OpenAI. T / F
- 2) We can't tell the difference between ChatGPT voices and human voices. T / F
- 3) The new chatbot uses natural fillers like "umm" and "aah". T / F
- 4) A report suggested people may fall in love with chatbot voices. T / F
- 5) The report said AI could greatly change society. T / F
- 6) The chatbot could help shy people start dating. T / F
- 7) The article says chatbots will help people become better mannered. T / F
- 8) AI could be used to create biological weapons. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. dependent | a. contact |
| 2. mode | b. line-up |
| 3. array | c. intensify |
| 4. authentic | d. structurally |
| 5. interaction | e. genuine |
| 6. fundamentally | f. reliant |
| 7. usurp | g. increase in |
| 8. gain | h. prejudices |
| 9. amplify | i. function |
| 10. biases | j. remove |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How worried are you that AI will change society?
- c) Will we one day talk to computers more than to humans?
- d) How might AI change dating and love?
- e) How possible is it to fall in love with an AI voice?
- f) How might AI chatbots 'amplify societal biases'?
- g) How might AI chatbots aid in the development of weapons?
- h) What questions would you like to ask OpenAI?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. people may become emotionally | a. on AI for companionship |
| 2. interject with " | b. side |
| 3. they can adjust to being | c. dependent |
| 4. lead people to rely | d. biases |
| 5. reducing their need for human | e. interrupted |
| 6. They may even usurp communication | f. "umms," "aahs" and "hmms" |
| 7. those who lack | g. disinformation |
| 8. On the flip | h. interaction |
| 9. the potential to amplify societal | i. self-confidence |
| 10. spread | j. among humans |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of artificial intelligence?
- What do you know about ChatGPT?
- What do you think of chatting with a computer?
- When might chatting with AI be better than talking to a human?
- Can AI lead to companionship and friendship?
- What would you talk to a computer about?
- What problems might reduced human interaction lead to?
- What will AI be like in 20 years from now?

Spelling

- people may become emotionally enpedtdne
- an aryar of lifelike voices
- iblnguhtndiseiisa from human voices
- ihttceaun conversation
- ctjietrne with "umms," "aahs" and "hmms"
- rely on AI for impnhnipaoocs
- nftlyaeuamnld change societies
- family, friends and cgellosaeu
- They may even rupus communication
- more ipaitenmt
- the potential to amplify societal bsieas
- chemical or oglbcolaii weapons

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. b	4. e	5. a
6. d	7. j	8. g	9. c	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Companionship

You think companionship is the biggest benefit of A.I. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their benefit isn't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least beneficial of these (and why): decision-making, customer service or medical diagnoses.

Role B – Decision-making

You think decision-making is the biggest benefit of A.I. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their benefit isn't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least beneficial of these (and why): companionship, customer service or medical diagnoses.

Role C – Customer Service

You think customer service is the biggest benefit of A.I. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their benefit isn't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least beneficial of these (and why): decision-making, companionship or medical diagnoses.

Role D – Medical Diagnoses

You think medical diagnoses is the biggest benefit of A.I. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their benefit isn't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least beneficial of these (and why): decision-making, customer service or companionship.

Speaking – Benefits of A.I.

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest benefits at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| • Companionship | • Customer service |
| • Reduced human error | • Medical diagnoses |
| • Decision making | • Education |
| • Essay writing | • Information |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.