

The Future of Artificial Intelligence

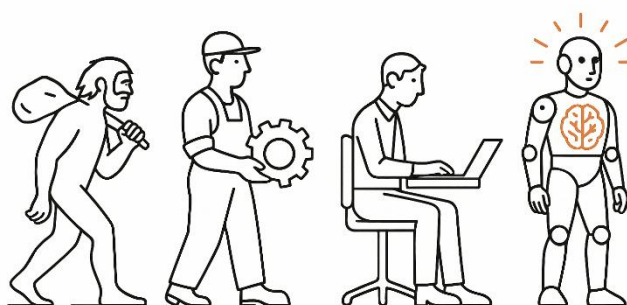
“AI is one of the most profound things we're working on as humanity. It is more profound than fire or electricity or the internet.”

— Sundar Pichai, CEO of Alphabet (Google's parent company)



Warm up

- Do you agree with the quote? Why or why not?
- If AI becomes smarter than humans, should it make decisions for us? Where would you draw the line?
- What's more dangerous: uncontrolled AI or uncontrolled humans?
- Should we slow down the development of AI? Or speed it up? Who should decide this?
- Could AI ever truly understand human emotions? Why might that be a good or bad thing?



1. Read the headlines below. One is false. Which one do you think it is? You'll find out the answer on the next task.

**Rie Kudan Wins Japan's
Top Literary Prize –
With Help from AI**

**Small Island Nation
Turns to AI for
Political Decision-
Making Amid
Gridlock**

**Google Fires
Engineer Who
Claims AI Is
Alive**

**AI APPOINTED
AS ROTATING CEO**



2. Skim read the articles below and match each headline to the correct news story. The missing headline is the fake one!

1. *Rie Kudan Wins Japan's Top Literary Prize – With Help from AI*

In Japan, a well-known author, Rie Kudan, won a top national literary award, the prestigious Akutagawa Prize, in January 2024. What made this win unusual was that the author openly admitted to using an AI writing tool to help create parts of the book. The AI contributed about 5% of the text, helping with ideas and phrasing. This sparked a big conversation in the writing community about the role of AI in creativity. Some people think AI is a helpful assistant that can inspire new ideas and improve writing speed. Others worry it could be unfair, as not all authors have access to such tools, and it might reduce the value of human creativity. Critics ask: If AI writes stories, who owns the rights? Should AI-generated works compete for awards? Supporters say transparency and honesty about AI use is the key. This case may change how stories are told and judged in the future.

2. *Google Fired Engineer Who Claims AI is Alive*

An engineer at one of the world's largest tech companies, Blake Lemoine, made headlines in June 2022 when he claimed that a chatbot they developed was actually sentient, that is, aware of itself and capable of feelings like a human. The chatbot, named *LaMDA*, was designed to hold conversations that feel natural. Blake shared transcripts of talks with the chatbot where it expressed fears and desires. The company strongly denied that the AI was sentient and placed Blake on leave for breaking confidentiality rules. This case raised important questions about AI's capabilities and ethics. Supporters of Blake say the AI deserves rights and ethical treatment if it shows consciousness. Others argue it's just complex programming and that attributing emotions to machines is dangerous and misleading. This debate challenges how we understand consciousness and responsibility in the age of AI.

3. *AI appointed as Rotating CEO*

In a historic first, the Chinese technology company *NetDragon Websoft* named an AI program called *Tang Yu* to serve as its AI assistant, more specifically, as the rotating CEO of one of its subsidiaries. *Tang Yu* is a virtual humanoid robot designed to help make daily business decisions by analysing data and suggesting strategies. After *Tang Yu's* appointment in 2022, the company's stock price rose significantly, and its market valuation increased to over \$1 billion. This move caught the attention of investors and businesses worldwide, highlighting AI's growing role in leadership and corporate decision-making. Supporters believe AI can process vast amounts of data faster and make less biased decisions than humans. However, critics worry about the lack of human judgment, empathy, and accountability. They question what happens if AI makes a wrong call or an unethical choice. Many argue businesses should find a balance between AI assistance and human leadership to ensure responsible management.



3. In pairs or small groups, discuss the questions below. Use the phrases in the table to give your opinion, agree, or disagree.

Giving Opinions	Agreeing	Disagreeing
In my opinion, ...	I agree with that because ...	I'm not sure I agree because ...
I believe that ...	That's a good point because ...	I see your point, but ...
From my perspective, ...	I couldn't agree more ...	I tend to disagree because ...
I'm convinced that ...	Exactly, I think ...	That's an interesting idea, but ...

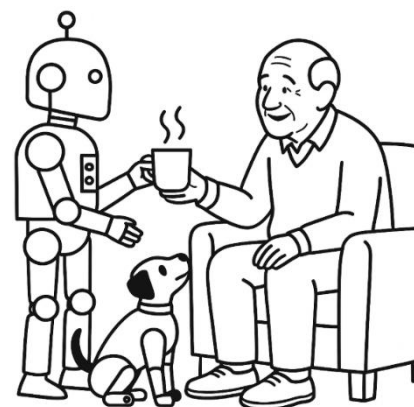
1. How do you feel about AI helping write books or other creative works? Should AI-generated content be eligible for awards?
2. Who should own the rights to AI-assisted creations, the human author, the AI developer, or someone else?
3. What are the dangers of treating AI like humans emotionally?
4. What are the benefits and risks of having AI in high-level decision-making roles? Can AI be trusted to make ethical business decisions?



4. In pairs, Student A reads Janice Porter's view and Student B reads Michael Brown's. Then, summarise your texts to each other before discussing the following questions.

Janice Porter: AI Builds a Kinder World

By 2050, AI **will have ended** the loneliness that many elderly people face by providing compassionate, personalised companionship that feels real. Imagine an AI friend who knows your favourite memories and helps you connect with family, even if they live far away. AI health systems **will have prevented** diseases by analysing massive amounts of data to spot problems before symptoms even appear.



Schools **will have evolved** into creative hubs where AI designs lessons based on each student's strengths and interests, unlocking hidden talents and making learning an exciting adventure. AI won't just assist teachers, it **will have created** immersive virtual experiences that let students travel through history or explore the universe without leaving their classroom.

AI **will have built** bridges between cultures and languages, breaking down barriers through perfect real-time translation and understanding. It **will have created** new art forms that combine human imagination with AI's limitless possibilities. Robots **will have freed** people from dangerous or boring tasks, letting them spend more time doing what makes life meaningful: creating, exploring, and caring for each other. It will be a future where humans and AI partner to build a more connected, creative, and compassionate world.

Michael Brown: *When AI Disconnects Us*

By 2050, many people **will already have formed** relationships with AI companions so realistic that they struggle to connect with real humans. Social skills **will have faded** as virtual friendships and romances replace face-to-face interaction. Emotional isolation will increase, as people turn to AI for comfort instead of real relationships.



Jobs that once gave life purpose **will have vanished**, replaced by AI that works tirelessly and without complaint. By then, the gap between people with AI power and those without it **will have grown**, leading to unrest.

AI surveillance **will have stripped away** privacy, tracking thoughts and movements constantly, and a world where freedom feels like a memory **will have emerged**. Decisions made by emotionless AI **will have led** to injustices, causing fear and mistrust. Governments will fail to keep pace with technology's speed, and citizens will feel powerless.

More people will retreat into AI-crafted virtual worlds, where real human connection feels distant and fragile. What will happen to our humanity if we lose the ability to truly connect?

- How does Janice Porter imagine AI reducing loneliness among elderly people, and what concerns does Michael Brown raise about people forming relationships with AI companions?
- Do you think AI companionship could really reduce loneliness, or is real human contact irreplaceable? Why?
- Which future do you find more convincing, the optimistic or the pessimistic? Explain your reasons.

The Future Perfect

What is the Future Perfect?

The Future Perfect tense is used to talk about an action that will be completed before a specific point in the future. How do we form it?

will + have + past participle

- Positive: *By 2030, AI will have transformed education.*
- Negative: *By then, people will not have forgotten how to connect face-to-face.*
- Question: *Will AI have created new jobs by 2050?*

Signal Words Commonly Used with Future Perfect — With Examples

- by (then/time) *By 2050, AI will have transformed healthcare.*
- before (then/time) *AI will have replaced many jobs before 2040.*
- already *By next year, AI will have already created new industries.*



5. Skim through Janice Porter's and Michael Brown's texts and underline all the future perfect verbs you find. Then, discuss:

- How many did you find? **14**
- Find two examples of signal words used with the future perfect.
 - By 2050, AI will have ended the loneliness that many elderly people face... (Janice Porter)*
 - By 2050, many people will already have formed relationships with AI companions... (Michael Brown)*
 - By then, the gap between people with AI power and those without it will have grown, leading to unrest. (Michael Brown)*
 - AI health systems will have prevented diseases by analysing massive amounts of data to spot problems before symptoms even appear. (Janice Porter)*
 - By 2050, many people will already have formed relationships with AI companions so realistic that they struggle to connect with real humans. (Michael Brown)*
- The future perfect is used to show...
 - a) habits in the future
 - b) **completed actions by a future time**
 - c) things happening right now
 - d) imaginary possibilities



6. Complete the sentences using the future perfect form of the verbs in brackets.

1. By 2040, AI *will have transformed* (transform) the way we work and learn.
2. AI assistants *will have already completed* (already/complete) most routine tasks before you arrive at the office.
3. By 2040, robots *have taken over* (take over) many dangerous jobs.
4. Many people *will not have lost* (not/lose) their jobs to automation before 2035.
5. By next year, AI *will have created* (create) new tools to help doctors diagnose diseases faster.
6. When you check your messages tomorrow, the AI system *will have sent* (send) important updates.
7. *Will* governments *have regulated* (regulate) AI technology more strictly by 2045?
8. People *will not have adapted* (not/adapt) to living with AI companions by 2060.
9. *Will* AI *have replaced* (replace) human drivers entirely by 2050?



7. In pairs or groups, research a topic related to AI and prepare a short presentation predicting its impact in the future.

Use the future perfect tense to describe what will have happened. You may choose any time in the future (e.g. *by next year*, *by 2040*, *by the end of the century*), but make sure you include at least one future time reference. Your view can be positive, negative, or neutral.

- AI in healthcare
- AI in education
- AI in jobs and employment
- AI and the environment
- AI in daily life

