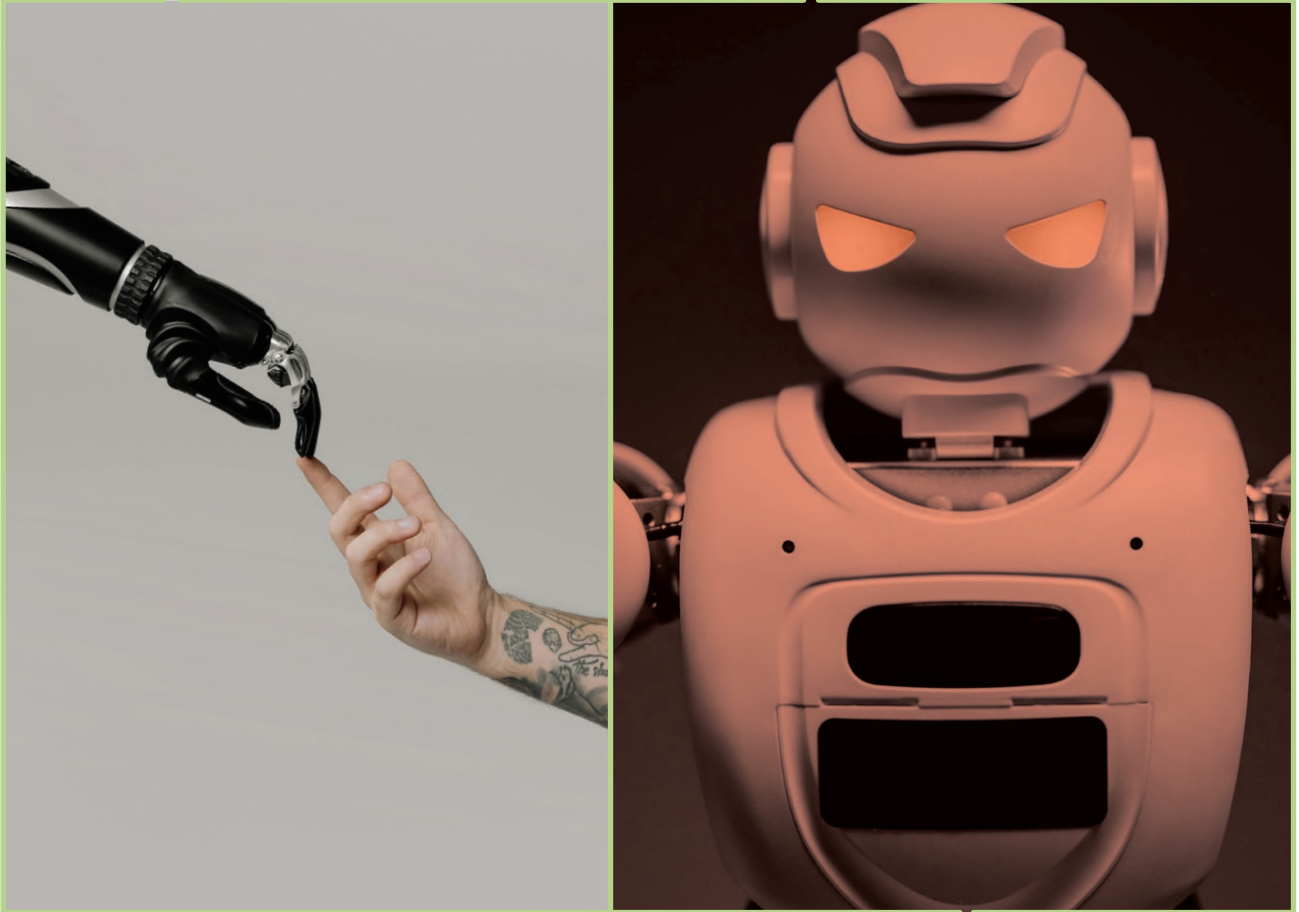


The Good and Bad Sides of AI

Reading Comprehension for Adults



Word Bank:

reasoning (noun): the process of thinking about something in a logical way

harmful (adjective): causing or capable of causing damage or hurt

accurate (adjective): exact, correct in all details

uncertain (adjective): unknown, unsure, undecided

The Good and Bad Sides of AI

The world is changing quickly since the creation of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI is when a computer program is able to do things that humans normally do, like learning and thinking. So AI could be defined as the new technology that acts like human **reasoning**. Some people find AI very helpful in their daily lives, but there are also some aspects of AI that can be **harmful** and worrying. Let's look at the good and bad sides of AI.

The Pros of AI

Avoid Mistakes

It is natural for humans to make mistakes. Artificial Intelligence uses precise and **accurate** information, which reduces the possibility of errors when we give it clear and correct instructions.

No Breaks

People usually work between four and eight hours a day and need breaks. We get tired and need to rest, but AI can work all day long without getting tired or bored, and without taking breaks.

The Cons of AI

Laziness

With so many applications **automating** our jobs, people can become lazy. We get comfortable and let machines do our work. We even give AI the responsibility of making decisions for us and choosing what to watch or buy.

Risk of Losing Jobs

One of the biggest concerns about AI is that it could take away many jobs. If machines are so smart and can think and learn efficiently, why wouldn't they do the jobs people do now? They say that many jobs will be created too, but this issue still makes workers feel **uncertain** and worried.

Small Tasks

In our daily lives, there are small tasks that need to be done, like revising and correcting our written texts, sending emails or rescheduling meetings. With AI, we don't need to worry about these small tasks any more, they are done automatically for us.

Useful Apps

We have many applications in our daily routines that use AI to make our lives easier. We use apps for navigating, searching for the next bus, food delivery, health tracking, or virtual assistants for customers on websites.

Lack of Bonds

Yes, machines can be more efficient than humans, but aren't personal relationships and good communication important in almost every job? AI won't be able to replace human bonds.

Limited Creativity

AI is programmed to do tasks based on the information it is given. While it can create interesting things, it cannot have unique ideas or **think outside the box** like humans can.

As we can see, it is clear that we can benefit from what AI offers, but the human touch in creativity and thinking is irreplaceable. AI is a useful tool that can help us in our daily lives, but we should remember that the human ability to connect, communicate and create is unique.

Activity 1

Read the following sentences and fill in the gaps with the appropriate words.

reasoning

harmful

uncertain

accurate

1. Drinking alcohol can be _____ to your health.
2. The student provided an _____ and clear answer to the teacher's question.
3. I feel _____ about how to do this project. I'll call Kathy to confirm.
4. My daughter had to take a test at school to check her _____ abilities.

Activity 2

Reading Comprehension Questions.

1. Explain what AI is in your own words, and give some examples of AI apps or programs you use.

2. What aspects of AI can be worrying or harmful? Think of other aspects that are not mentioned in the text and write your answer below.

3. What types of jobs do you think AI could replace in the future? Are there any jobs that you think AI will never be able to replace?

4. Do you think the positive or negative aspects of AI are greater? Justify your answer.

Activity 3

Find the following concepts in the text and choose the right definition based on the context.

1. **automating**

- a. doing a lot of tasks in a short period of time
- b. replacing people's jobs
- c. using technology to do tasks that normally people do

2. **think outside the box**

- a. think creatively and differently from the usual and traditional ways
- b. go somewhere else to come up with new ideas
- c. think of something related to construction

Activity 4

Reflection Questions.

1. Do you use any apps that use AI? Explain which ones and what you use them for.

2. How do you think AI will change our future?

Disclaimer: This resource has been made for the purpose of teaching English language learners. We know that students can be learning English in many different places, in many different ways and at any age, so we try to keep these resources as general as possible.

There are many acronyms associated with English language teaching. These include (but are not limited to) ELT, TEFL, EFL, ELL, EAL and ESOL. While the term ESL may not fully represent the linguistic backgrounds of all students, it is the most widely recognised term for English language teaching globally. Therefore, we use the term 'ESL' in the names of our resources to make them easy to find but they are suitable for any student learning to speak English.

Answers

Activity 1

1. Drinking alcohol can be **harmful** to your health.
2. The student provided an **accurate** and clear answer to the teacher's question.
3. I feel **uncertain** about how to do this project. I'll call Kathy to confirm.
4. My daughter had to take a test at school to check her **reasoning** abilities.

Activity 2

Suggested answers:

1. **AI stands for Artificial Intelligence and it is the new technology that acts like human reasoning. Some AI tools I'm familiar with and find very useful are Siri, Google Maps, and ChatGPT.**
2. **The negative aspects of AI mentioned in the text include people becoming lazy, job losses, lack of connection, and limited creativity. One negative aspect that hasn't been mentioned is that AI can be unethical. There have been situations where AI has violated privacy and misused personal data.**
3. **Students' own answers.**
4. **Students' own answers.**

Activity 3

1. c
2. a

Activity 4

Students' own answers.