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Human Programmer Beats AI in Coding Competition

August 02, 2025

5 Intermediate

Exercise 1

Vocabulary

Repeat each word, definition, and example sentence after your tutor.

competitor

Noun

/kəm'petɪtər/

a person taking part in a sporting competition or contest

The **competitors** lined up for the race.

optimization

Noun

/ɑ:ptɪmə'zeɪʃn/

the action of making something as good or effective as possible

My phone has a power **optimization** mode that helps the battery last longer.

solution

Noun

/sə'lu:ʃən/ a way to solve a problem

We need to find a long-term **solution** to the problem, not a quick fix.

solve

Verb

/sɑ:lv/ to find a solution or answer to a problem

We need to **solve** this issue by Friday.

frustrating

Adjective

/'frʌstreɪtɪŋ/

making a person feel impatient or annoyed because they cannot change or achieve something

He never listens to anything I say; it's so **frustrating**!

beat

Verb

/bi:t/

to get more points or be better than someone in a game or competition

France **beat** Croatia in the 2018 FIFA World Cup final.

Exercise 2

Article

Read the article aloud on your own or repeat each paragraph after your tutor.

Human Programmer Beats AI in Coding Competition

Computers have been able to do certain jobs more quickly than humans for quite some time. But a man from Poland has shown the world that computers, robots and AI haven't taken over just yet.

A 41-year-old programmer, often known by his online name "Psyho," won a 10-hour coding competition in Tokyo this July. He was the only person in the competition to beat the one AI competitor.

However, Psyho, whose real name is Przemysław Dębiak ("psheh-MEE-swaf DEM-byak"), said this may be the last time a human wins the competition.

Competitors at the AtCoder World Tour Finals were asked to complete a very difficult optimization problem. This meant they had to write code to find the best solution to a problem.

Psyho, who won 500,000 yen — around \$3,400 — for his work, said that at the moment the world's best coders are still better than AI at solving problems like these.

However, humans are slower because it takes us time to type the code, while AI is able to produce a lot of code much more quickly than a human can type.

"AI might not be the smartest right now but it's definitely the fastest," he said.

Part of the reason why AI is so good is because of people like Psyho. He used to work for OpenAI, which is one of the world's biggest AI companies.

Psyho said it would be "a little bit frustrating" to be beaten by AI in the future.

Exercise 3

Questions

Answer the following questions about the article.

1. How old is Psyho?

- A. 41
- B. 45

2. Where was the coding competition held?

- A. Osaka
- B. Tokyo

3. How much did Psyho win?

- A. \$4,300
- B. \$3,400

Exercise 4

Discussion

Have a discussion based on the following questions.

1. What are your thoughts on the AtCoder World Tour Finals?
2. What do you make of Psycho's claim that this may be the last time a human wins the competition?
3. Do you know how to code? If so, when did you learn? If not, would you be interested in learning?
4. Do you think there will still be a need for human coders in the future?
5. Do you know many people who work in tech or computing?

Exercise 5

Further Discussion

Have a discussion based on the following questions.

1. What are some of the most impressive things you've seen AI do?
2. Are there any things you think humans will always be better at than AI?
3. Would you trust AI to do your job at the moment?
4. Do you have any concerns about how AI is being used in your industry?
5. What excites you most about the future of AI?