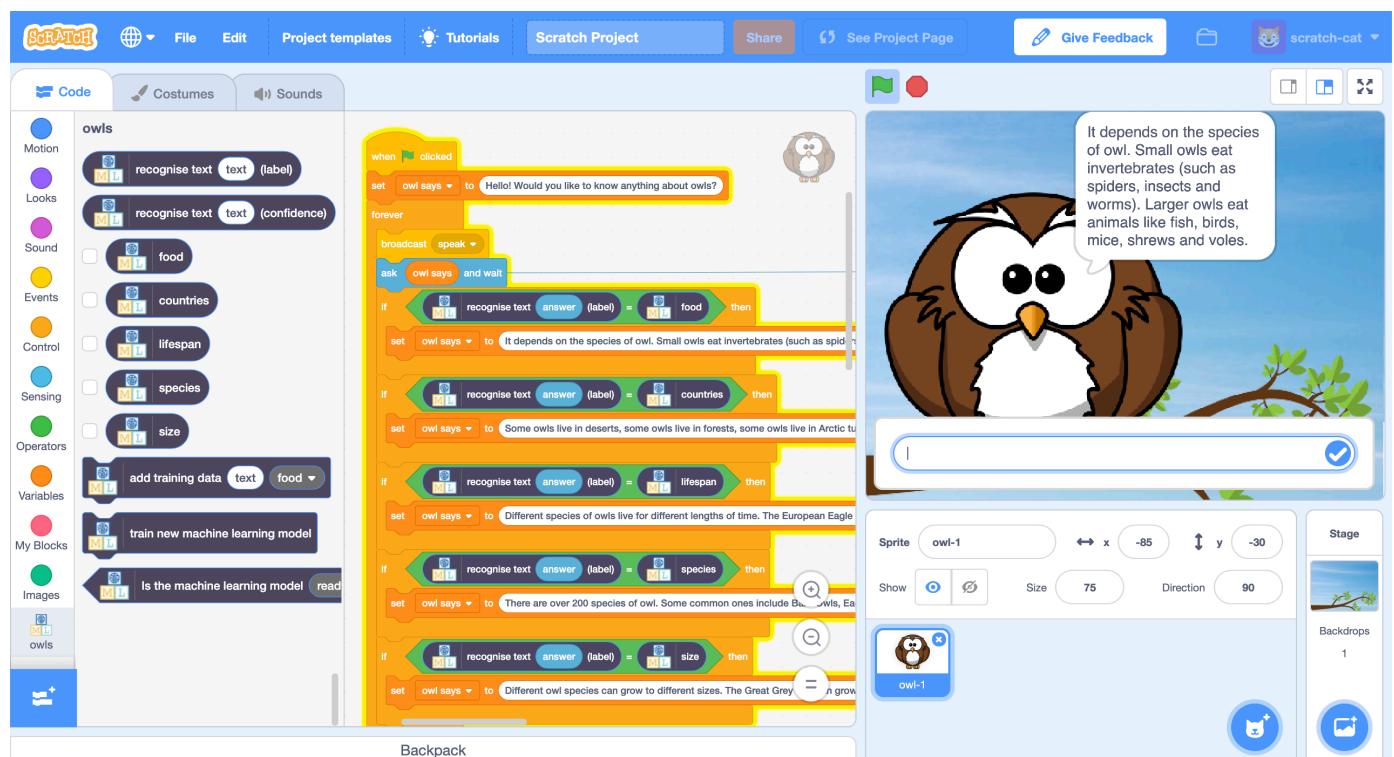


# Chatbots

In this project you will make a chatbot that can answer questions about a topic of your choice.



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## 1. Decide on a **topic** for your chatbot

Choose something that you know well enough to be able to answer questions about.

*It could be a place (e.g. The town where you live?)*

*It could be an animal (e.g. Tigers? Dinosaurs?)*

*It could be an organisation (e.g. Your school)*

*It could be something from history (e.g. Vikings? Romans?)*

*For the rest of this worksheet, I'll be using **owls***

## 2. Think of **five things** someone might ask about your topic

*e.g. for **owls**, this could be:*

- \* *What do owls eat?*
- \* *Where in the world do owls live?*
- \* *How long do owls live?*
- \* *What types of owls are there?*
- \* *How big do owls grow?*

## 3. Go to <https://machinelearningforkids.co.uk/> in a web browser

## 4. Click on “**Get started**”

## 5. Click on “**Try it now**”

## 6. Click on “**Projects**” on the top menu bar

## 7. Click the “**+ Add a new project**” button.

- 8.** Name your project and set it to learn how to recognise “text”.  
Click the “Create” button

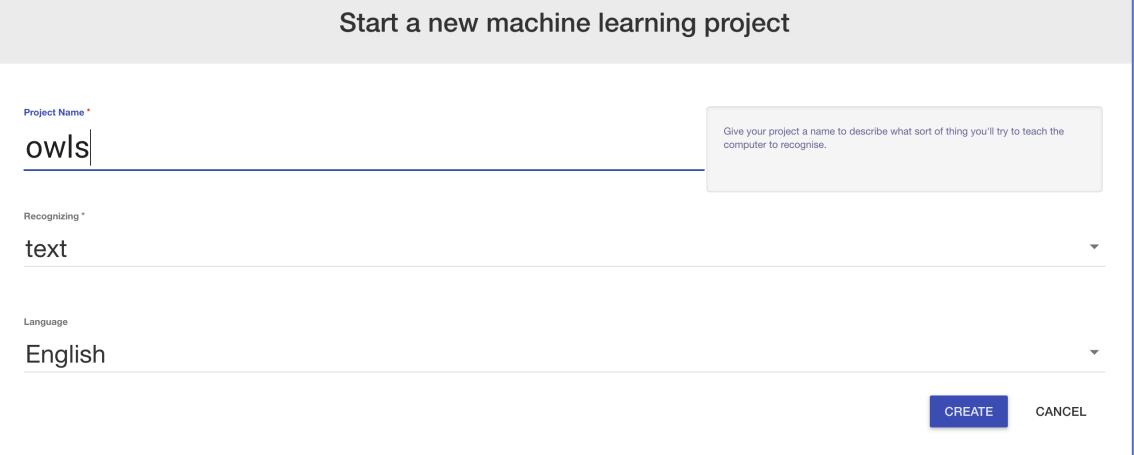
Start a new machine learning project

Project Name \*  
**owls**

Recognizing \*  
**text**

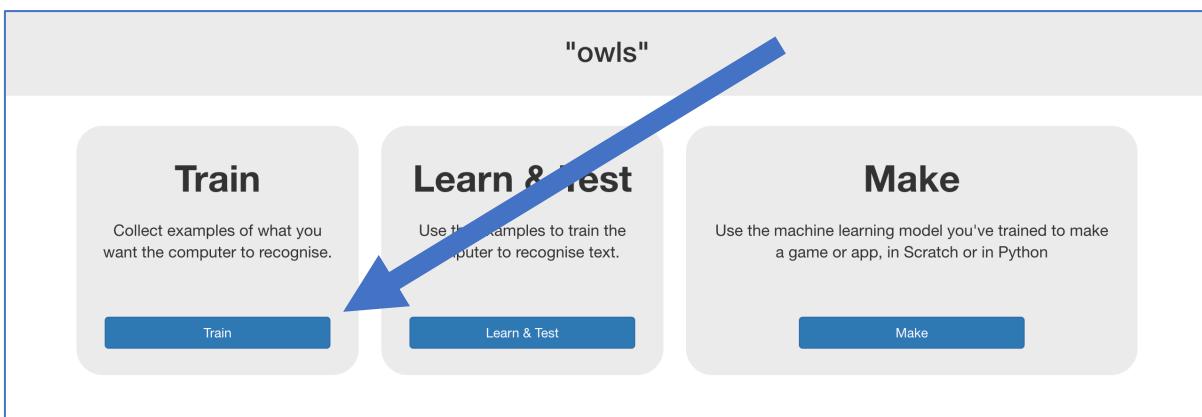
Language  
**English**

**CREATE**   **CANCEL**

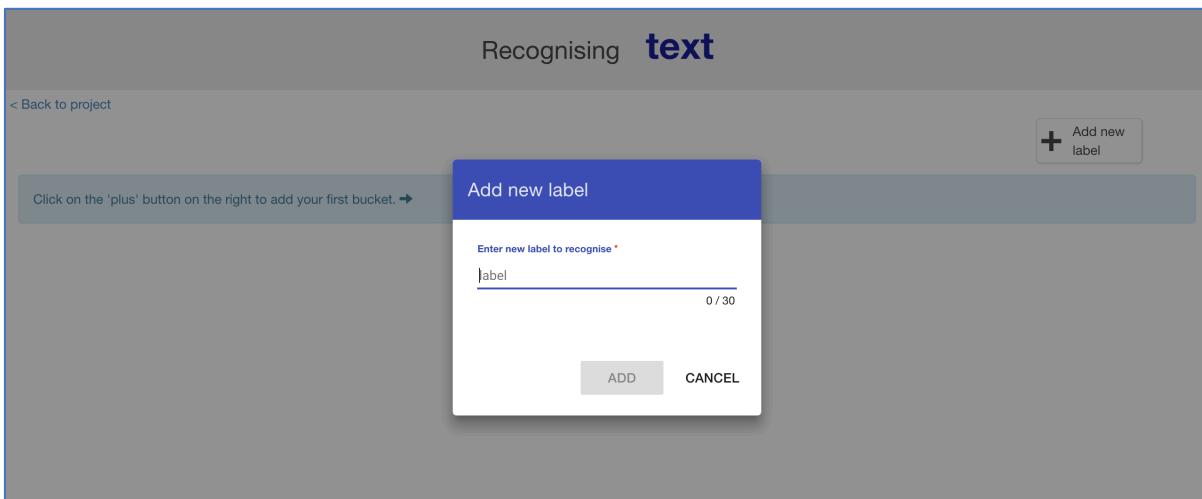


- 9.** Click on your new project in the projects list

- 10.** Click the Train button.



- 11.** Click the “+ Add new label” button



- 12.** Type in **one word** that sums up the first of your things from Step 2, then click **Add**.

*I used “food” to sum up questions like “What do owls eat?”*

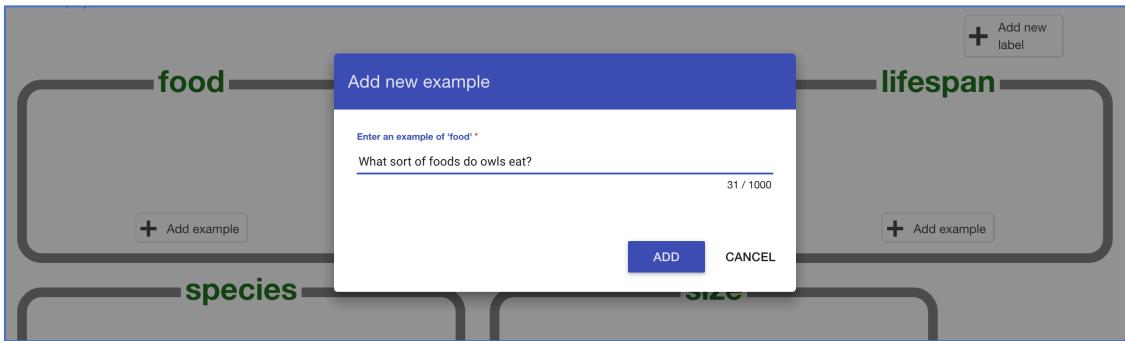
The screenshot shows a user interface for a project. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for About, Projects, Worksheets, News, Help, Log Out, and Language. The main title is "Recognising text as food". Below the title, the word "food" is displayed in a large, rounded rectangular box. To the right of this box is a button labeled "+ Add new label". At the bottom left of the box is another button labeled "+ Add example". There is also a link "[< Back to project](#)".

- 13.** Do that again for all of the things in your list from Step 2  
*The words you choose don't really matter, as long as **you** understand what they mean.*

The screenshot shows a user interface for a project. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for About, Projects, Worksheets, News, Help, Log Out, and Language. The main title is "Recognising text as food, countries or 3 other classes". Below the title, five categories are listed: "food", "countries", "lifespan", "species", and "size", each with a corresponding bucket. To the right of each bucket is a button labeled "+ Add new label". Below each bucket is a button labeled "+ Add example". There is also a link "[< Back to project](#)".

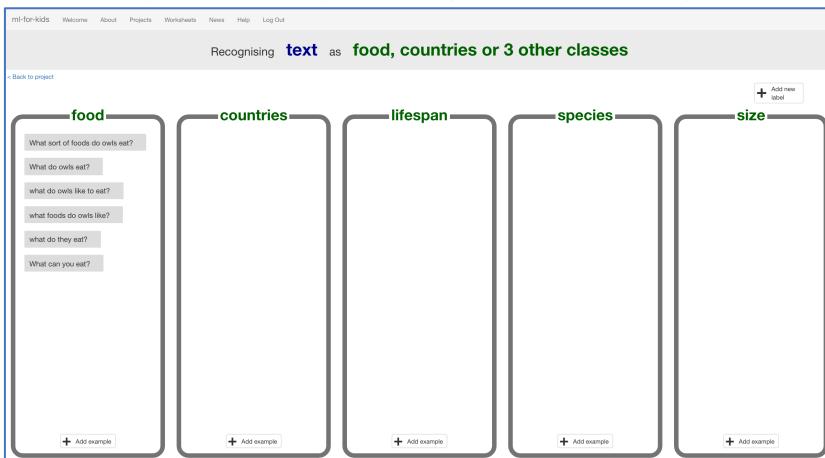
- 14.** Click the “+ Add example” button in one of the buckets

**15.** Type in an example of how someone might ask that question

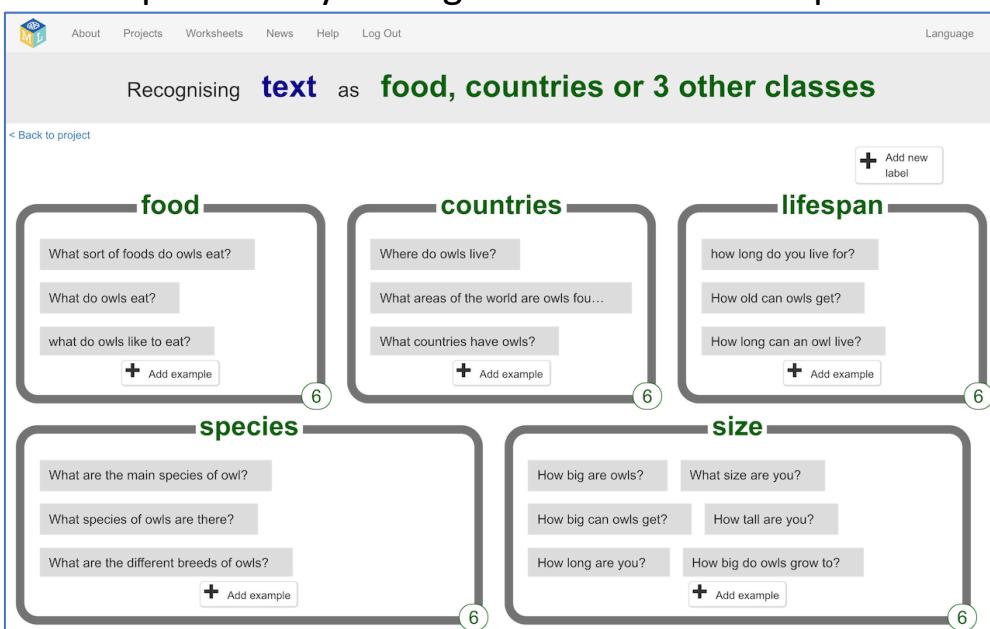


**16.** Click “Add”

**17.** Repeat until you've got **five examples** of how to ask that question.

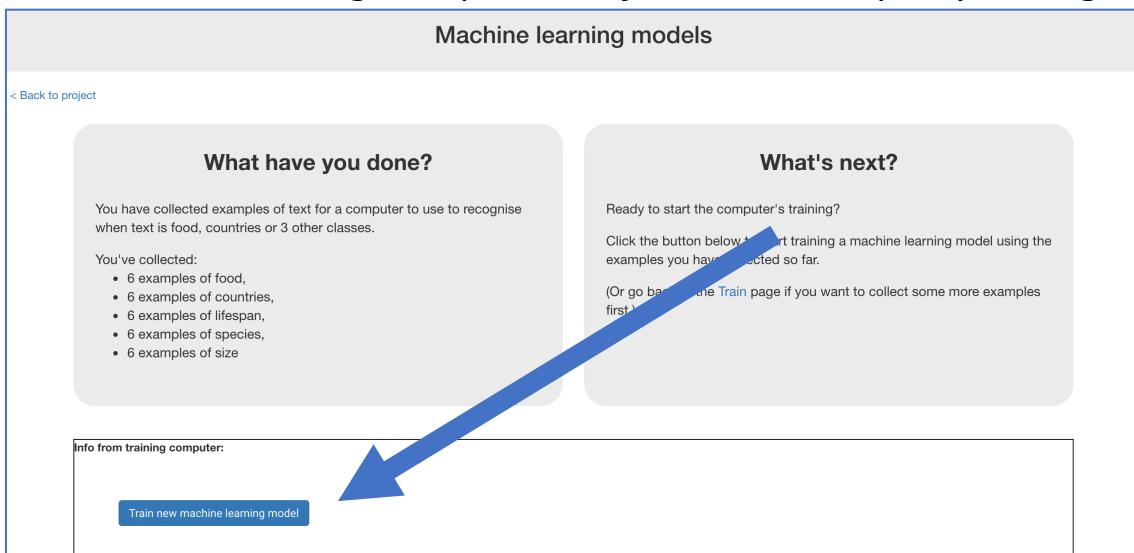


**18.** Repeat until you've got at least five examples in every bucket



- 19.** Click on the “< Back to project” link
  
- 20.** Click the “Learn & Test” button
  
- 21.** Click the “Train new machine learning model” button

*As long as you've collected enough examples, the computer should start to learn how to recognise questions from the examples you've given to it.*



Machine learning models

< Back to project

**What have you done?**

You have collected examples of text for a computer to use to recognise when text is food, countries or 3 other classes.

You've collected:

- 6 examples of food,
- 6 examples of countries,
- 6 examples of lifespan,
- 6 examples of species,
- 6 examples of size

**What's next?**

Ready to start the computer's training?

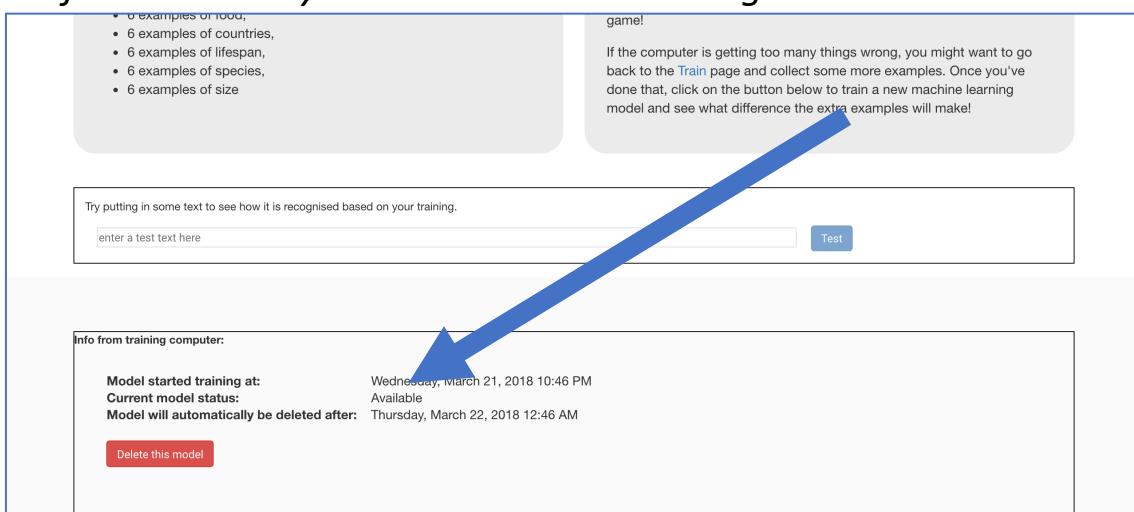
Click the button below to start training a machine learning model using the examples you have collected so far.

(Or go back to the [Train](#) page if you want to collect some more examples first.)

Info from training computer:

[Train new machine learning model](#)

- 22.** Wait for the training to complete.  
*This might take a couple of minutes.*  
It's finished once you see the “status” change to “Available”



• 6 examples of food,

- 6 examples of countries,
- 6 examples of lifespan,
- 6 examples of species,
- 6 examples of size

game!

If the computer is getting too many things wrong, you might want to go back to the [Train](#) page and collect some more examples. Once you've done that, click on the button below to train a new machine learning model and see what difference the extra examples will make!

Try putting in some text to see how it is recognised based on your training.

[Test](#)

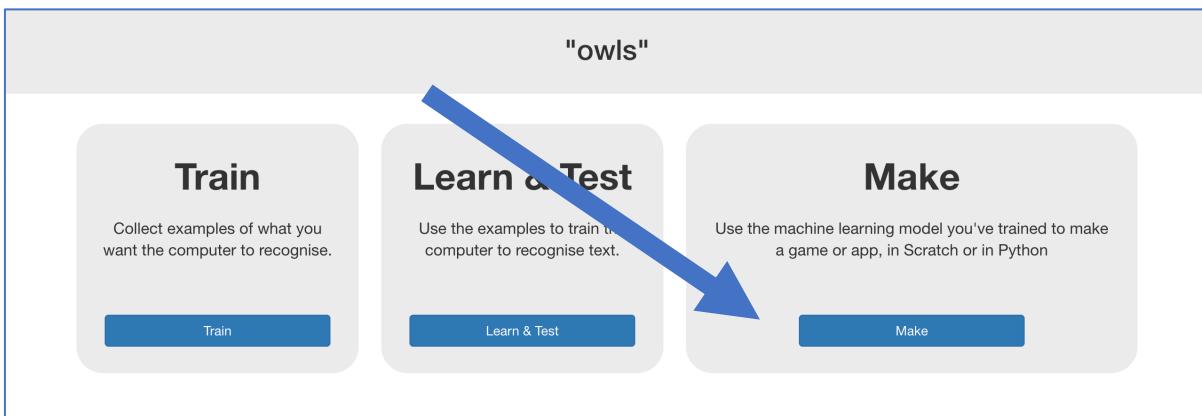
Info from training computer:

Model started training at: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 10:46 PM  
 Current model status: Available  
 Model will automatically be deleted after: Thursday, March 22, 2018 12:46 AM

[Delete this model](#)

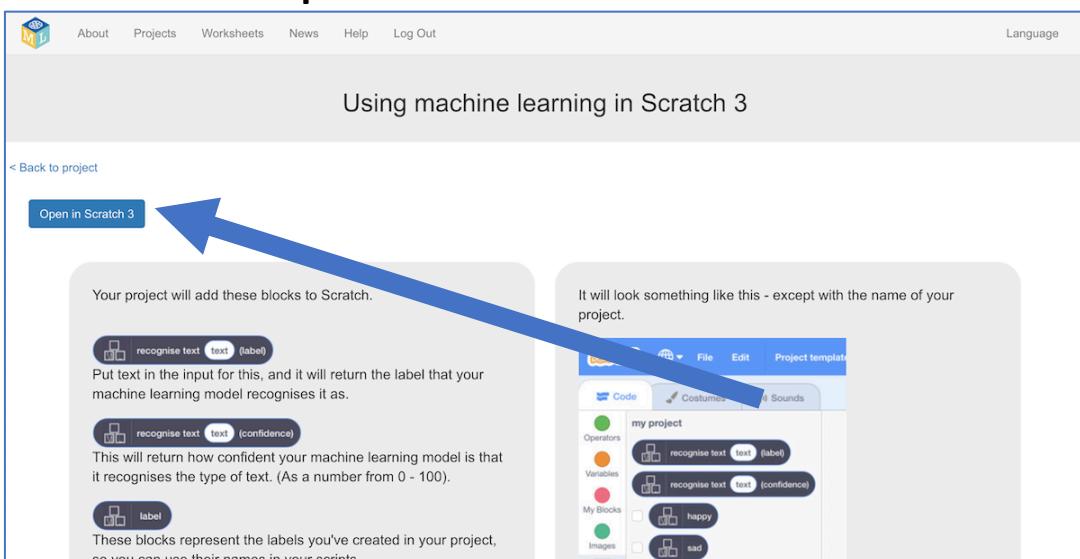
- 23.** Click the “< Back to project” link

## 24. Click the “Make” button



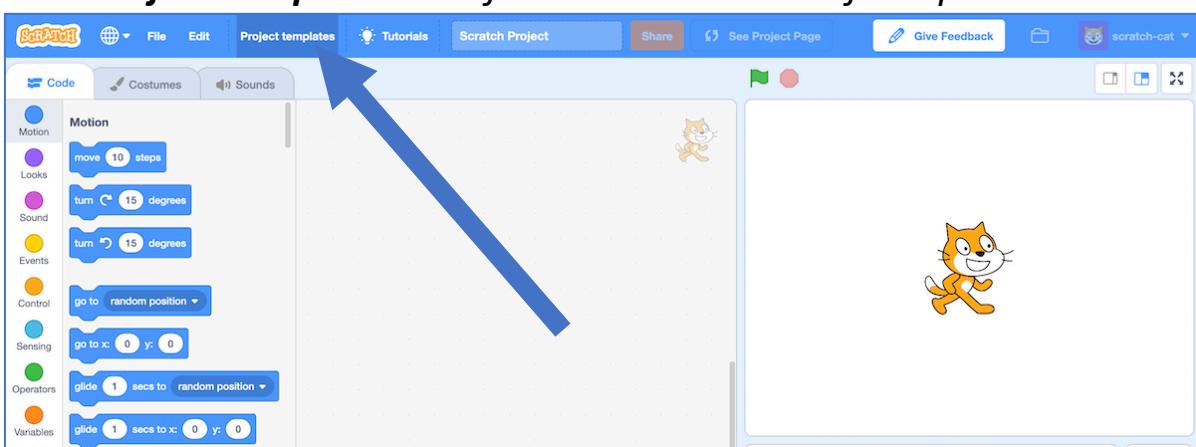
## 25. Click “Scratch 3”

## 26. Click the “Open in Scratch” button

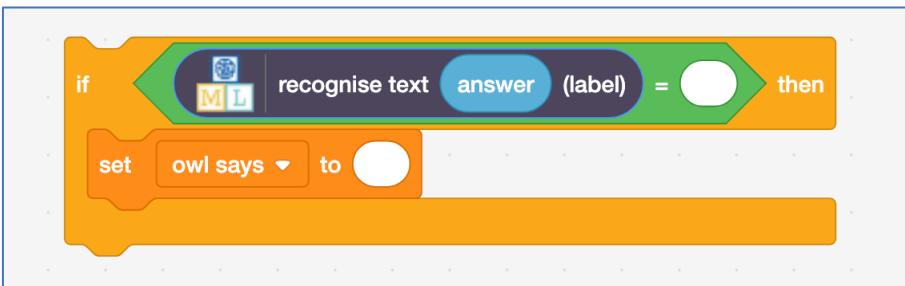


## 27. Open the Owls project template

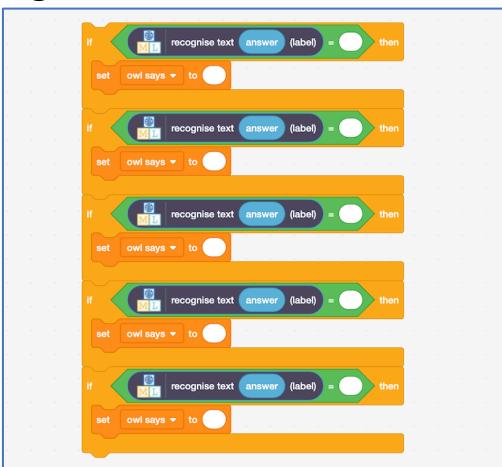
*Click Project templates and find Owls in the list of templates*



**28.** Create this little snippet of script but don't attach it to anything yet  
*Make sure you choose "owl says" for the orange block.*



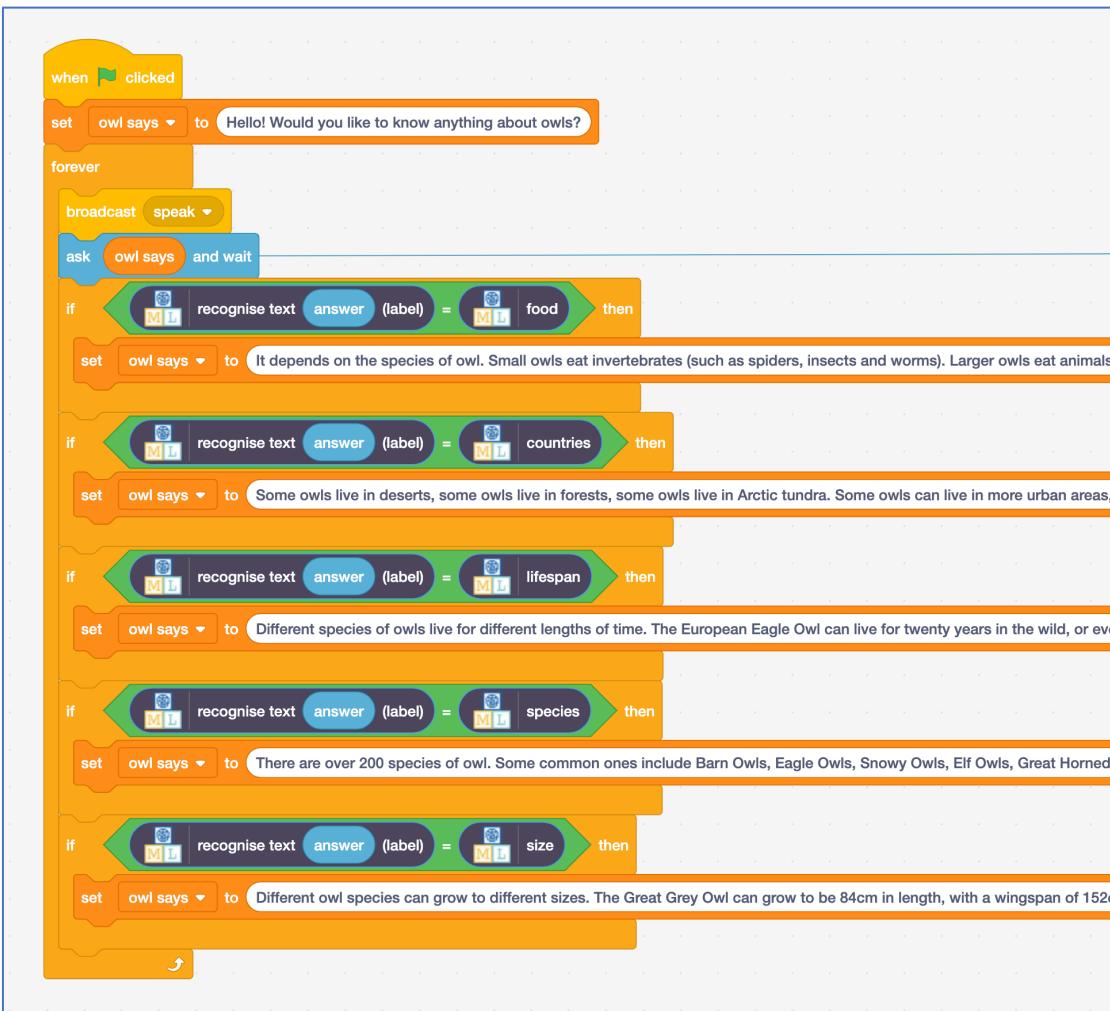
**29.** Duplicate it four times and join them all together  
*Right-click on it, and click "Duplicate"*



**30.** Fill in each copy of the block  
*Drag the label for one of your questions into the top space, and Type the answer to the question into the bottom space*

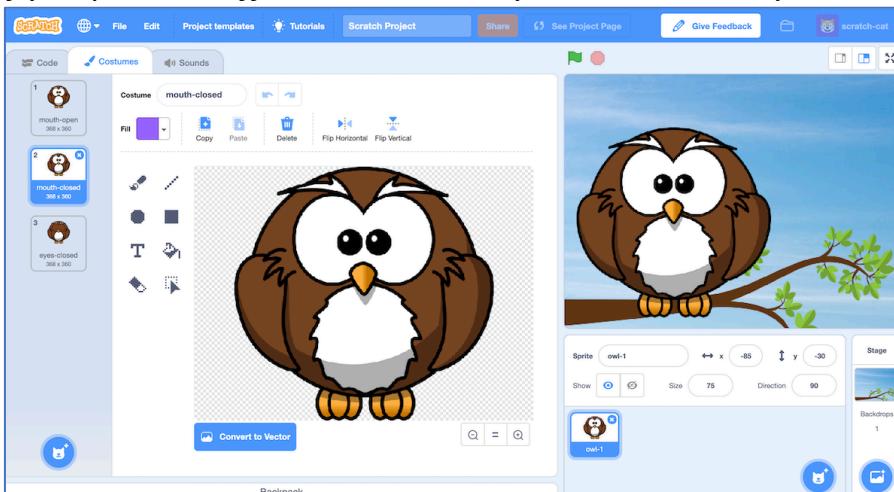


**31.** Drag this new block into the Green Flag block prepared for you. Remove the “Sorry. I haven’t been taught anything yet.” block and replace it with your new chunk of script.



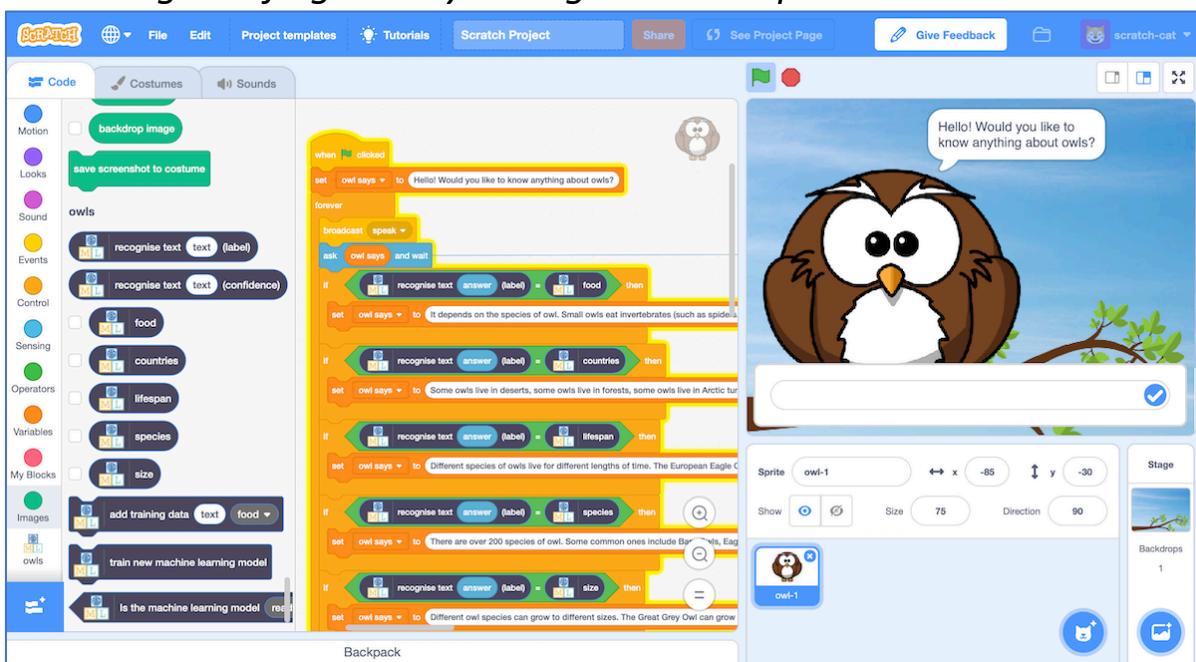
**32.** Draw your chatbot

Unless you’ve chosen **owls** as a topic, you’ll need to draw your own character. If you provide different costumes, you can animate your character while it talks.



### 33. Test your chatbot!

Click the green flag and try asking the owl a question



### What have you done so far?

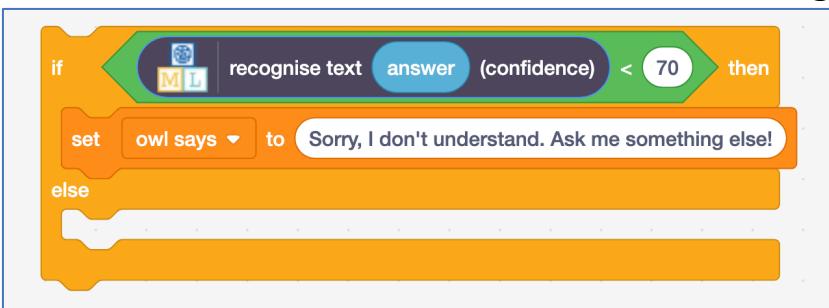
You've started to train a computer to recognise questions on a topic. Instead of trying to write rules to be able to do this, you did this by collecting examples. These examples were used to train a machine learning "model".

This is called "supervised learning" because of the way you are supervising the computer's training.

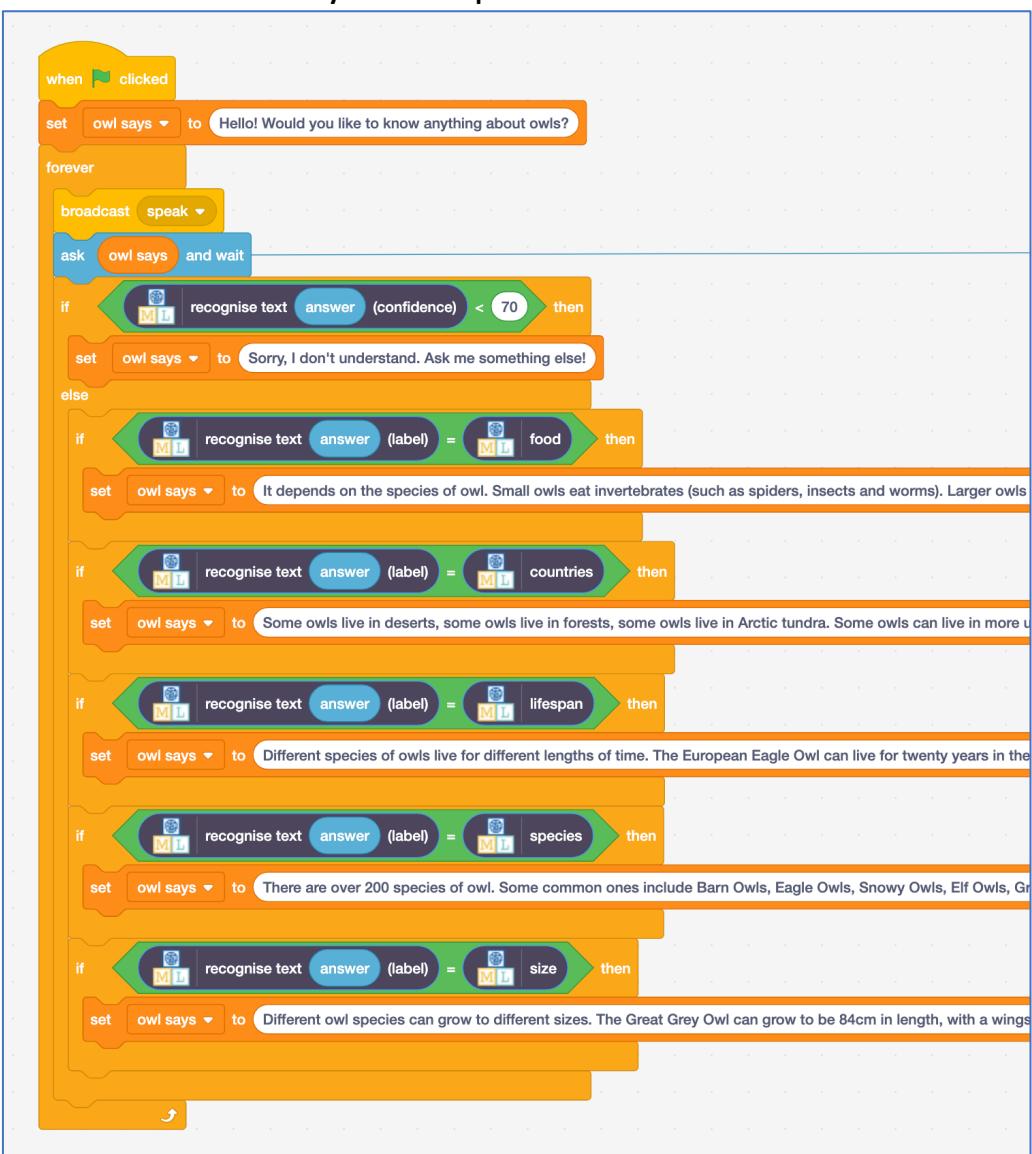
The computer will learn from patterns in the examples you've given it, such as the choice of words, and the way questions are structured. These will be used to be able to recognise new questions.

The biggest problem with this is that if you ask it something unexpected, it will still give you one of the answers you've written

- 34.** Create this little chunk of script, that you can use when someone asks a question that wasn't on your list from step 2.  
*The confidence score is a percentage (from 0 to 100). It will be lower if someone asks a question that isn't similar to any of the examples you used to train the machine learning model. Use this to return a "I don't understand" message if the score is too low.*



- 35.** Add this into your script from before.



## Ideas and Extensions

Now that you've finished, why not give one of these ideas a try?

Or come up with one of your own?

### Try other chatbots

<http://talktothetrex.com> is a good example of the sort of thing you've made. Give it a try to get ideas of how to improve your bot.

### Add more topics

Can you add more topics to your chatbot, so that there are more types of question that it can answer?

### Provide alternate answers

If someone asks the same question more than once, they'll get the exact same answer every time. Can you update your Scratch code so that it varies the answers each time a little? Or starts the answer with "You've asked me this before, but"

### Ask follow-up questions

Can you update your Scratch script so that it replies with a question? It can then recognise the answer to that question, in a similar way to how you made it recognise questions.

### Learn about how it works

Click on the "Describe your model" button on the "Learn & Test" page to learn more about how the model you've trained was created.