机器人能照顾我们吗？ Can robots care for us?

Hello. This is 6 Minute English.

大家好，这里是六分钟英语。

I'm Rob.

我是罗伯。

And joining me to do this is Sam.

跟我一起的是萨姆。

Hello.

大家好。

In this programme, we're talking about robots.

在本节目中，我们要讨论机器人。

Robots can perform many tasks, but they're now being introduced in social care to operate as carers, to look after the sick and elderly.

机器人可以执行很多任务，但是它们现在作为照料者被引进到社会关爱服务，它们照料病人和老年人。

We'll be discussing the positive and negative issues around this, but first, let's set you a question to answer, Sam.

我们要讨论关于这个话题的正面和负面问题，但是首先，有一个问题需要你回答，萨姆。

Are you ready for this?

你准备好了吗？

Fire away.

来吧。

Do you know in which year was the first commercial robot built?

你知道第一个商业机器人是在哪一年被造出来的吗？

Was it in a) 1944, b) 1954, or c) 1964?

是 A. 1944年，B.1954年，还是 C. 1964年？

They're not brand new inventions, so I'll go for 1954. OK, well, I'll tell you if you're right or wrong, at the end of the programme.

它们并不是一个全新的发明，所以我要选1954年。好的，我会在节目结束的时候告诉你你是否答对了。

So, let's talk more about robots, and specifically ones that are designed to care for people.

所以，我们再来谈一下机器人，尤其是那些被设计用来照顾人的机器人。

Traditionally, it's humans working as nurses or carers who take care of elderly people-those people who are too old or too unwell to look after themselves.

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按照传统，一般是由人类来充当护士或者照顾老人的照看者——那些过于年老或过于不健康而无法照顾自己的人。

But finding enough carers to look after people is a problem-there are more people needing care than there are people who can help.

但是找到足够的照看者来照顾人们是个问题——需要照顾的人比能照顾别人的人要多。

And recently in the UK, the government announced a £34 million fund to help develop robots to look after us in our later years.

最近在英国，政府宣布要使用3400万英镑来帮助开发能在我们的晚年照顾我们的机器人。

Well, robot carers are being developed but can they really learn enough empathy to take care of the elderly and unwell?

嗯，看护机器人正在开发中，但是它们真的会有足够的同理心来照顾老人和身体不好的人吗？

Empathy is the ability to understand how someone feels by imagining what it would be like to be in that person's situation.

同理心指的是能够通过设身处地地为别人着想来理解某人的感受的能力。

Well, let's hear about one of those new robots now, called Pepper.

嗯，我们来听听其中一个机器人 Pepper 的相关信息吧。

Abbey Hearn-Nagaf is a research assistant at the University of Bedfordshire.

Abbey Hearn-Nagaf 是贝尔福德大学的一名研究助手。

She spoke to BBC Radio 4's You and Yours programme and explained how Pepper is first introduced to someone in a care home...

她向 BBC 电台 4 频道的《You and Yours》节目发表了观点，并解释了Pepper是如何被介绍给看护中心里的某个人的......

We just bring the robot to their room.

我们把机器人带到他们的房间。

And we talk about what Pepper can't do, which is important so we can't provide physical assistance in any way.

同时我们讨论了 Pepper 不能做什么，这一点很重要，所以我们无论如何都不能提供体力上的帮助。

It does have hands, it can wave...when you ask for privacy, it does turn around and sort of cover its eyes with its hands but that's the most it does.

它确实有手，它能够挥手......当你需要隐私的时候，它会转过身去，然后用手把眼睛遮起来，但是它最多也就做到这样了。

It doesn't grip anything, it doesn't move anything because we're more interested to see how it works as a companion-having something there to talk to, to converse with, to interact with.

它无法抓起任何东西，它无法移动任何东西，因为我们对它如何作为一个陪伴者工作更感兴趣——有人聊天，交流。

So, Abbey described how the robot is introduced to someone.

所以 Abbey 描述了机器人是如何被介绍给某个人的。

She was keen to point out that this robot has limitations-things it can't do.

她极力指出这个机器人有局限性——它所不能做的事情。

It can wave or turn round when a person needs privacy-to be private-but it can't provide physical assistance.

它可以挥手，或者在某人需要隐私的时候转身，但是它无法提供体力上的帮助。

This means it can't help someone by touching or feeling them.

这意味着它无法通过触摸或感知某人来帮助他们。

But that's OK, Abbey says.

但是 Abbey 说这没关系。

This robot is designed to be a companion-someone who is with you to keep you company-a friend, in other words, you can converse or talk with.

这个机器人被设计用来充当陪伴者——陪伴你的人——换句话说，就是能够陪你说话的朋友。

Well, having a companion is a good way to stop people getting lonely, but *surely* a human is better for that-*surely* they understand you better than a robot ever can?

嗯，有一个陪伴者是一个让人们不感到孤单的好办法，但是可以肯定的是还是人类更适合作为陪伴者——他们肯定会比机器人更懂你吧？

Well, innovation means that robots are becoming cleverer all the time.

嗯，创新意味着机器人在不断变得更聪明。

And as we've mentioned, in the UK alone there is a growing elderly population and more than 100,000 care assistant vacancies.

正如我们提到的那样，仅仅在英国老年人口就在不断增加，而且有超过10万个看护助手的空缺。

Who is going to do all the work?

谁来做这些工作呢？

I think we should hear from Dr Sarah Woodin, a health researcher in independent living from Leeds University, who also spoke to the BBC's You and Yours programme.

我认为我们应该听听利兹大学的自主生活方面的健康研究员 Sarah Woodin 的话，她也在 BBC 的 《You and Yours》节目中发表了观点。

She seems more realistic about the introduction of robot carers.

她似乎对于引入机器人看护显得更加现实。

I think there are problems if we consider robots as replacement for people.

我认为如果我们把机器人看做人类的替代品的话会有问题。

We know that money is tight-if robots become mass-produced there could be large institutions where people might be housed and abandoned to robots...

我们知道资金很紧张——如果大批量产机器人的话，那么可能会有大型的机构让人们居住，然后把他们丢给机器人......

I do think questions of ethics need to come into the growth and jobs agenda as well because sometimes they're treated very separately.

我真心认为伦理道德问题也需要进入到增长与就业议程中，因为有时候它们被区分得很开。

OK, so Sarah Woodin suggests that when money is tight-meaning there is only just enough-making robots in large quantities-or mass-produced-might be a cheaper option than using humans.

好的，所以 Sarah Woodin 表示当资金紧张——意思是刚刚够用——大量制造机器人——或者说批量生产——可能相对于使用人来说是一种更廉价的选项。

And she says people might be abandoned to robots.

她说人们可能会被丢给机器人。

Yes, abandoned means left alone in a place, usually forever.

是的，丢弃的意思是被留在某个地方，往往是永久性的。

So she says it might be possible that someone ends up being forgotten and only having a robot to care for them.

所以她说有可能某人最终会被遗忘，并且只有机器人照顾他们。

So is this right, ethically?

所以这从伦理道德上来说是正确的吗？

Yes, well, she mentions ethics-that's what is morally right-and that needs to be considered as part of the jobs agenda.

是的，她提到了伦理道德——即道义上的正确——并且它需要被当做是就业议程的一部分。

So, we shouldn't just consider what job vacancies need filling but who and how it should be done.

所以我们不应该只考虑需要被填补的职位空缺，还要考虑谁来做，以及如何做。

And earlier I asked you, Sam, did you know in which year was the first commercial robot built?

之前我问你，萨姆，你知道第一个商业机器人是在哪一年被制造出来的吗？

And you said?

你说的是？

I said 1954. Well, you didn't need a robot to help you there because you are right.

我说的1954年。嗯，你不需要机器人帮你，因为你答对了。

Well done!

干得漂亮！

Now let's do something a robot can't do yet, and that's recap the vocabulary we've highlighted today, starting with empathy.

现在我们来做一些机器人目前还无法做到的事情，那就是回顾我们今天强调的单词，先从同理心开始。

Empathy is the ability to understand how someone feels by imagining what it would be like to be in that person's situation.

同理心指的是通过站在别人的角度想象情景来理解某人感受的能力。

Physical assistance describes helping someone by touching them.

体力上的帮助描述的是通过触碰来帮助某人。

We also mention a companion-that's someone who is with you and keeps you company.

我们还提到了陪伴者——指的是跟你在一起陪着你的人。

Our next word was tight-in the context of money, when money is tight it means there is not enough.

我们的下一个单词是吃紧的——在讲金钱的语境里，如果资金紧张，那么这意味着钱不够。

Abandoned means left alone in a place, usually forever.

被丢弃指的是被留在某个地方，往往是永久性的。

And finally, we discussed the word ethics-we hear a lot about business ethics or medical ethics-and it means the study of what is morally right.

最后我们讨论了伦理道德这个词——我们听到很多关于商业道德或医疗道德这样的说法——这个词的意思是针对什么是道义上的正确的研究。

OK, thank you, Sam.

好的，谢谢你，萨姆。

Well, we've managed to get through 6 Minute English without the aid of a robot.

嗯，我们已经在没有机器人帮助的情况下成功完成了六分钟英语。

That's all for now but please join us again soon.

今天就到这里，但是请务必再次收听我们。

Goodbye!

再见！

Bye bye, everyone!

再见，各位！

Our next word was tight-in the context of money, when money is tight it means there is not enough.

我们的下一个单词是吃紧的——在讲金钱的语境里，如果资金紧张，那么这意味着钱不够。