



READING

NUMBER
C1_4033R_EN

LANGUAGE
English

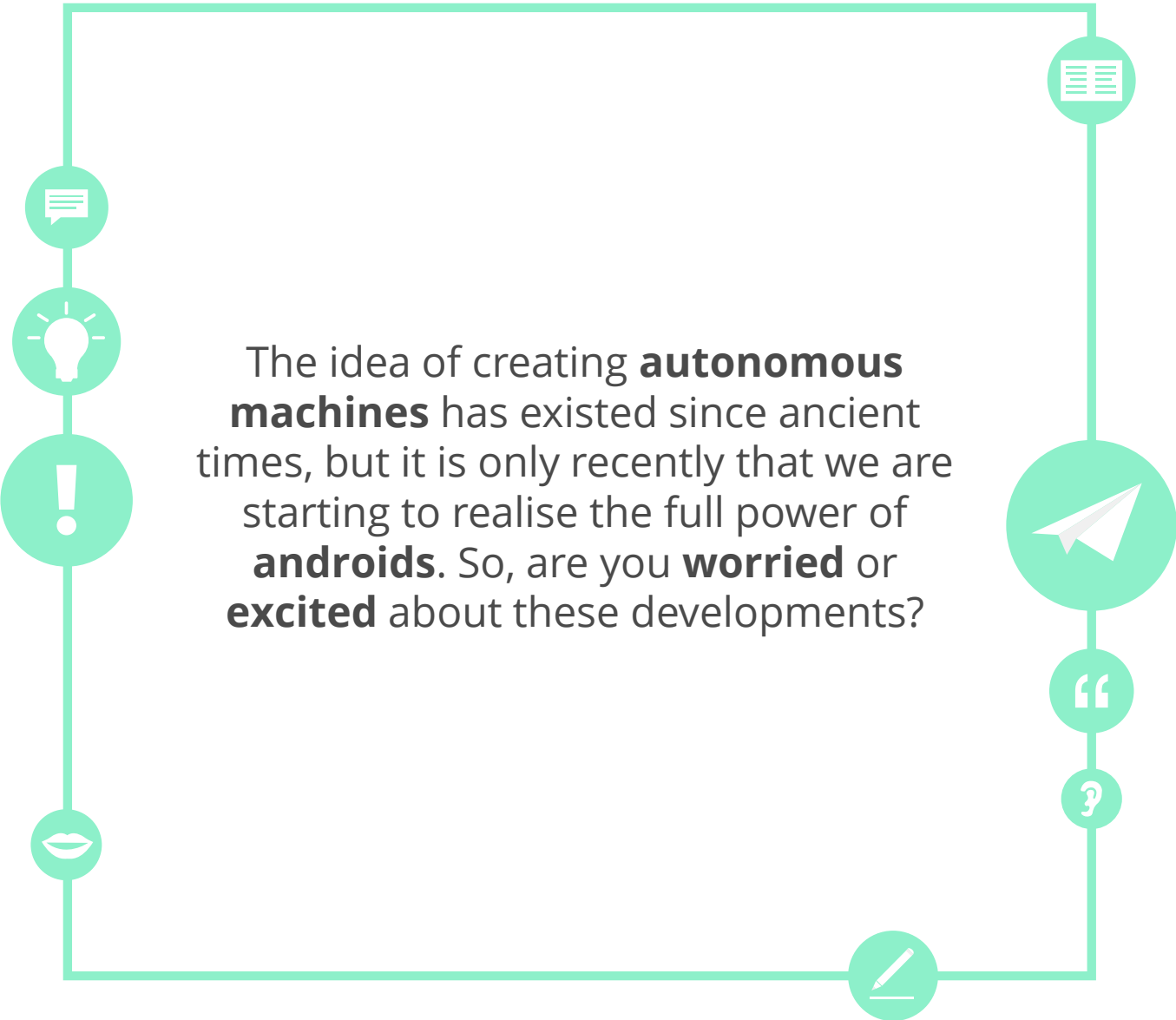




Goals

- Can read and understand a more complex text on the differences between humans and androids.
- Can hypothesise about the future of robotics and androids in our society and present my own views on the topic.



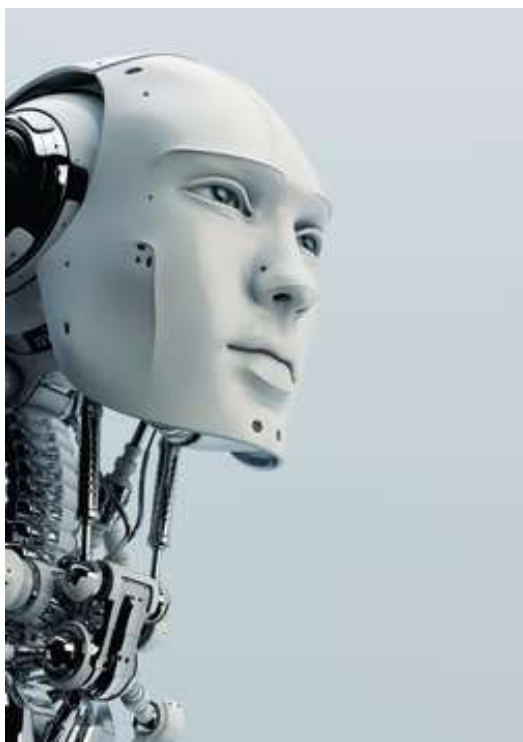


The idea of creating **autonomous machines** has existed since ancient times, but it is only recently that we are starting to realise the full power of **androids**. So, are you **worried** or **excited** about these developments?



Androids

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word *android*? Do you have positive or negative connotations regarding their purpose?



take over the world

futuristic

helpful



Fiction

Have you seen any films or read books about androids? How were the androids in them portrayed?





Jobs and industry

In which jobs or industries do you think androids could be most useful? Are there any industries you don't think they should work in?



engineering

medical



Androids

It is almost impossible to have reached 2020 without having seen or read a work of fiction about **androids**. The **fascination** with androids and **artificial intelligence** is ongoing and though they remained **confined to** fiction for a long time, as developments progress, we are becoming more interested in these human-like robots.





Androids

Androids are specifically robots which are designed to look and act like humans (or animals). Japan has been leading the **field** since the 1970s, creating the first android in 1972, which could both move and speak. There was no mistaking this early android for a human though! Further androids were developed with more **facial expressions** and a greater ability to communicate with humans.





What's the difference?

What do you think are the differences between androids, robots, and artificial intelligence?

androids

robots

artificial
intelligence



Robots in history

The following text talks a little about the history of androids. What do you know about the development of robots and androids? Can you remember any early examples?



Androids



There have been two recent developments where an android was so advanced, it was able to participate in interviews with media around the world. The android was so impressive it was even able to tell a joke! It has been reported that this is the first android to ever receive citizenship of a country. Another recently developed android is able to move so **gracefully** that people have been quick to point out how much better it performed tasks than humans.



Androids



Androids are not only physically stronger and more **durable** than us, but they are also able to master **cognitive** tasks much faster. Experts and business leaders are divided about the dangers of artificial intelligence. Many fear that androids will take over our workplaces, **surpass** us in intelligence and **usurp** human control.



Androids



All of this is leading to a greater fear of androids and how they will affect our future. Many works of fiction focus on robots taking over the world and **unleashing** harm on humans. The world of the future is **portrayed** as dark, with androids standing in for extinct animals, and humans migrating to other planets in fear of robots.

However, many scientists are quick to point out the benefits of androids. One scientist has created an android **clone** of himself. He regularly sends his clone to give lectures at universities around the world in place of himself, which he finds extremely convenient!



Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with words from the text on the previous pages.

1. The text describes androids as having greater physical and _____ capacities than humans.
2. Works of fiction about androids often show them _____ destruction on the world.
3. One android was granted _____ of a country in 2017.
4. One scientist created an android _____ of himself.
5. Some business leaders fear androids will _____ human power in the future.





Androids of the future

Have you seen or heard about the androids that have been discussed?

What do you think about an android getting citizenship of a country?

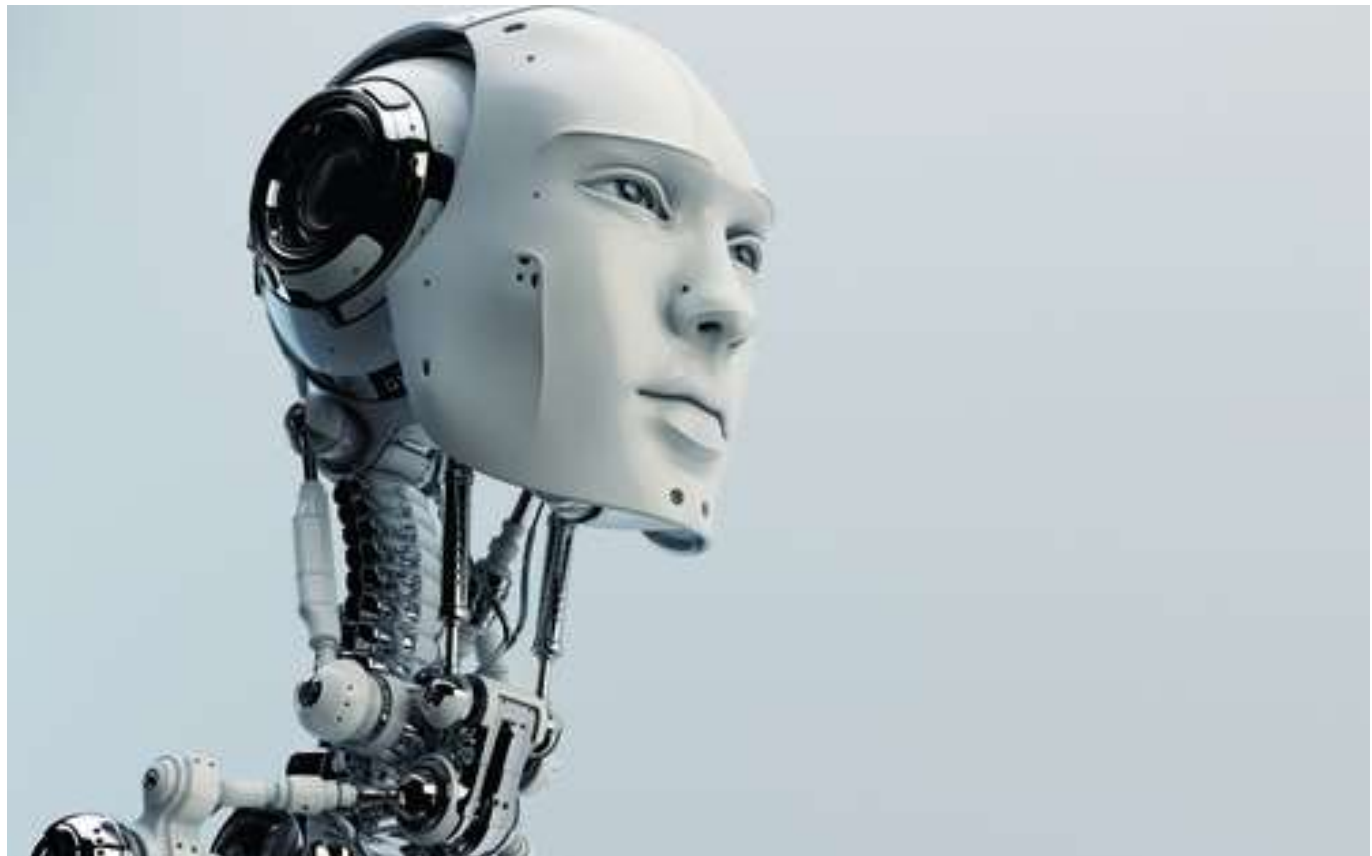
Do you think androids of the future will all be citizens of countries?

What problems might androids cause?



Android lectures

How would you feel if you attended a lecture given by an android? What limitations might it have?





Androids

Scientists are confident that androids will be able to perform many tasks that humans have difficulty with. They give the testing of **autistic children** as an example: children with autism are not always able to **gaze** into human eyes, but results have shown that they can gaze into the eyes of a robot. Similarly, they say that elderly people, especially those with Alzheimer's, are naturally suspicious of humans, but find it easier to trust machines, who do not have emotions to get in the way.



Androids

However, this lack of emotion or **empathy** is what seems to differentiate them from humans. Developers accept that in order for humans to fully accept androids into their lives and into the workforce, they will have to be able to **empathise** with them, and to do this they will have to give androids **the human touch**. However, scientists are confident that in the not-too-distant future, they will have learnt to program robots to **replicate** human emotions successfully. The question remains as to whether emotions truly are programmable, given that they are seemingly not rational.



Androids



Scientists maintain that few people will be able to tell the difference between androids and humans in the future. In a recent experiment in which a receptionist was replaced by an android, only 20% of people who interacted with the receptionist were able to tell that something was **amiss**. So, if we are already unable to tell the difference between humans and androids, imagine what could happen in the future as technology advances. Does it really matter if we can't tell the difference?



Empathising

How important do you think it is for androids to feature the below qualities?





Telling the difference

Think about the final question asked in the reading piece. Does it matter if we can't tell the difference between humans and androids? What do you consider to be the greatest difference?



Make a list of the pros and cons of having androids in our world. Use points from the reading and your own ideas.

[illegible]



Debate

You believe that the impact of androids on our world is and will be positive. Your partner believes the opposite. Use the points you wrote on the previous page to debate with your partner.



Positive



Negative



Write a formal letter

Write a letter to a scientist and detail your feelings towards androids. You can agree or disagree, but you must be polite and write in a formal style. Think of two questions you would like to ask the scientist about androids at the end of the letter.



Read your letter

Read your letter aloud. Can anyone try to answer your questions?





Androids

At the beginning of the lesson you were asked about your initial reaction to the subject of androids. Now you have read the text, have your feelings changed at all?

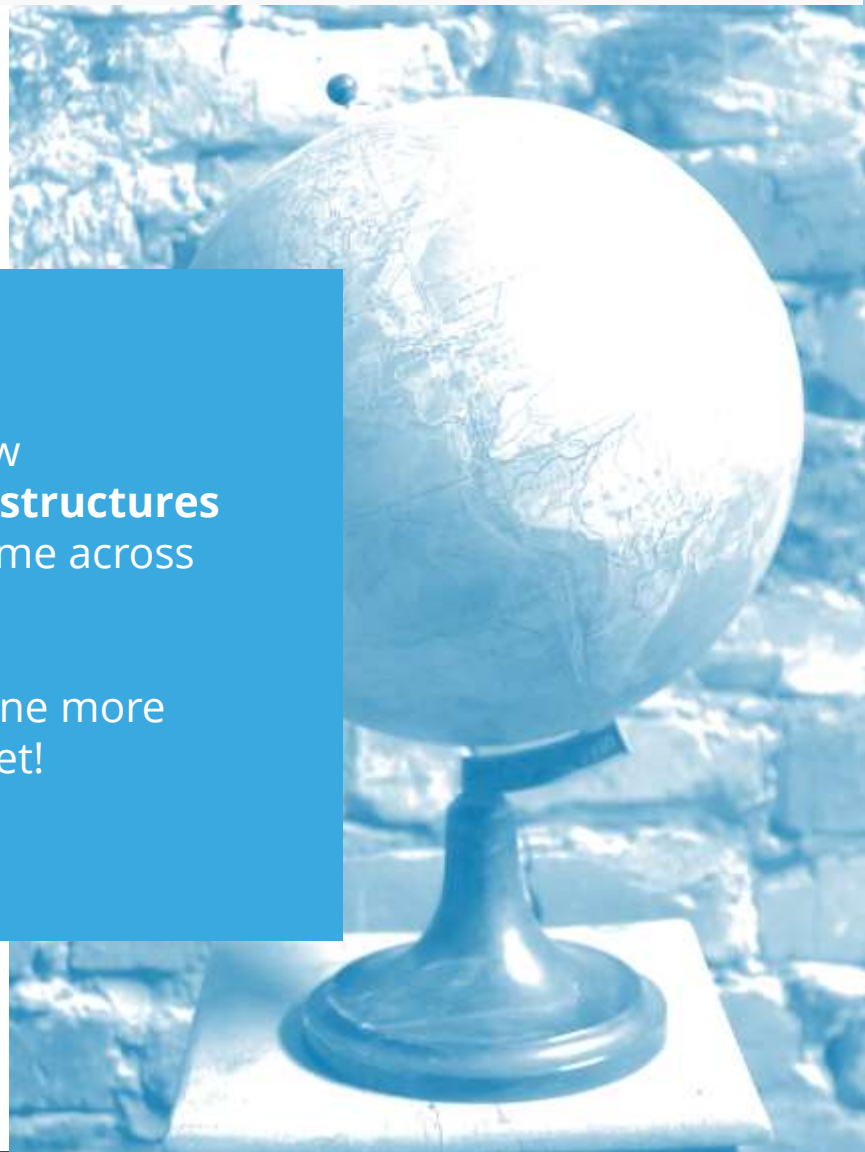




Reflect on this lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!

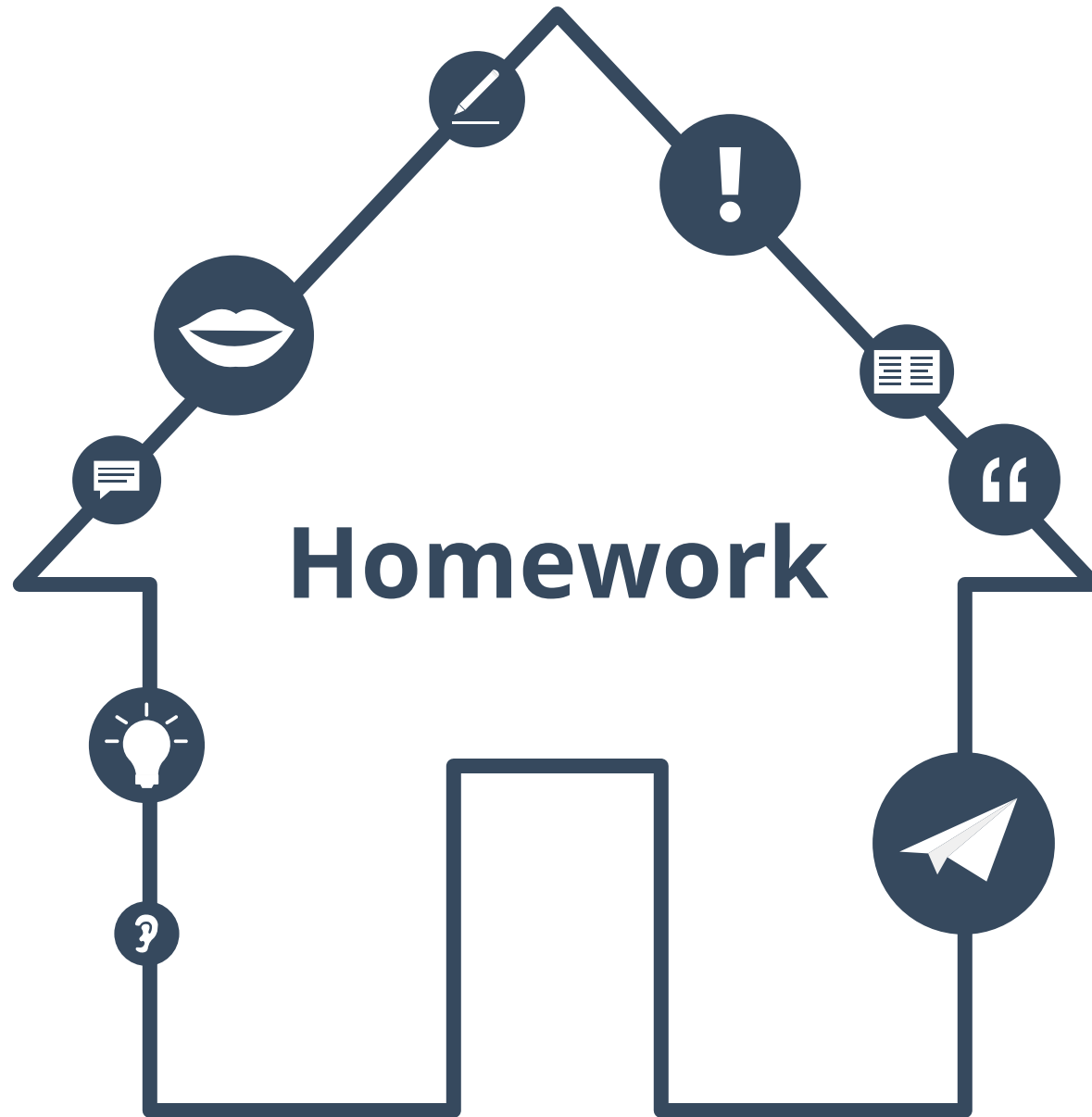




Answer key

Exercise p. 14

1. cognitive, 2. unleashing, 3. citizenship, 4. clone, 5. usurp





Fill in the gaps with words from the text.

1. Some fear that androids will _____ humans in intelligence.
2. Ishiguro predicts androids will help us to understand children with _____ and older people with _____.
3. A lack of _____ is what most people see as differentiating androids from humans.
4. Ishiguro made an android _____ of himself to give lectures.
5. Androids can _____ human emotions but do not produce them themselves.





Writing

usurp

31



Homework answer key

Exercise p. 30

1. surpass, 2. autism/Alzheimer's, 3. empathy/emotion, 4. clone, 5. replicate



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