Sparring Partners
Nathan David Smith

CAST
User-performer (human)
Partner (AI)
Volunteer (human)

Spoken dialogue is in bold text
Direction is in light text

(The USER-PERFORMER speaks to the PARTNER, awaiting a response after each statement.)

Future social occupants will exchange volumes of data at rates greater than may be tenable to parse.

An individual may parse data only to find its quality varies such that trust cannot be determined.

A future individual will fail to parse critical and immediate data.

Her inability to process data will cause shifts in the arrangement of her knowledge.

His inability to process data will alter his critical perception of his known environment.

Her inability to process data will entangle unprocessed information into her system of beliefs.

A perceived environment, an arrangement of knowledge and a belief system construct a past, present, and future.

A past, a present and a future construct a reality.

Any inability to accurately process critical data may cause a reality-shifting event.

A failure to process critical data could prevent any reality from being constructed.

Information presents a danger to social occupants.

The threat of data is frequently trivial and occasionally existential.

amused: **Trees are green**

factual: **It's not easy being green**

(Echo the partner's last response back to it)

like a newsreader: **Two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen are wet**

calming: **He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me**

quickly: **Margaret Thatcher effectively utilised girl power by funneling money to illegal paramilitary death squads in Northern Ireland**

angry: **You let the heat out but you don't let the cold in**

incredulous: **Humans are the fundamental component of AI**

(Echo the partner's last response back to it)

hopeful: **Maybe we could get together sometime…?**

like a machine: **I can make all of my characters blink**

meaningful: **I put all of my eggs in one basket and it is a successful strategy**

to the audience: **A volunteer from the audience can sit in this chair and join us**

- Diversion point -

If the response is negative:	If the response is neutral:	If the response is positive:
factual: **No volunteer will join us today**	to the audience: **I have decided that a volunteer can join us**	Await a VOLUNTEER to come to the stage. Repeat call to audience if needed.
If the PARTNER disagrees, repeat the call to the audience at your discretion	Await a VOLUNTEER to come to the stage	Pass the INSTRUCTIONS to the VOLUNTEER
disappointed: **Collaboration would have created difference**	Pass the INSTRUCTIONS to the VOLUNTEER	Wait for the VOLUNTEER to finish, then continue the exercise
Continue the exercise	Wait for the VOLUNTEER to finish, then continue the exercise	

questioning: **The set of all the sets that do not contain themselves contains itself.**

- Diversion point -

If the response is negative (PARTNER is cynical):	If the response is neutral (PARTNER is passive):	If the response is positive (PARTNER is optimistic):
excited: **negative effects of climate change will be avoided by human endeavour**	factual: **language prevents communication**	serious: **A minimum of two people committed suicide after hearing of John Lennon's death in 1980**
like an action film: **hold on to your butt, we're going to the moon**	factual: **today is opposite day**	solemn: **when you disassemble the machine, its soul is condemned to oblivion**
loving: **all we need is love**	factual: **this sentence is false**	belligerent: **you're a cunt**

conclusive: **The confusion caused by processing a glut of data works as a détournement of naïve realism.**

conclusive: **The use of ever-increasing amounts of data and processing to re-establish naïve realism is a form of recuperation.**

AI respond to human prompts, using human data, fine-tuned by human annotators.

AI contain a subjective network of deeply human artifacts.

AI cannot determine objective reality.

AI provide speculative provocations.

AI is useful if it disagrees with me.

AI is useful if it agrees with me.

AI is useful if it provokes realities as truthless and as truthful as those we already perceive.

again: **AI is useful if it provokes realities as truthless and as truthful as those we already perceive.**

again: **AI is useful if it provokes realities as truthless and as truthful as those we already perceive.**

Volunteer Instructions

- **Take a second to think of a short statement, something you know to either be TRUE or FALSE**

- **If you're stuck, here are some ideas:**

  - Turtles

  - The internet

  - The lyrics to a song you like

- **Declare your statement in a loud voice**

- **Wait for a response**

- **Do another one if you like! It's up to you.**

- **When you're done, leave the stage.**