

5. Understanding: True or false?

1. The author suggests that most people won't like the idea of having a romantic relationship with a robot.
2. A man who was paralysed after a car accident was given bionic hands so he could play computer games.
3. So far, technology has not been able to synthesise the functions of the human brain.
4. 13-year-old Eugene Goostman is a genius computer programmer.
5. There is controversy about whether the Turing test has been successfully passed.
6. In the film *Her*, it is Samantha's human qualities that make her attractive to Theodore.
7. We know for sure that other humans are conscious but we cannot know that about artificial intelligence.
8. The author is highly optimistic about the future of romantic relationships between humans and robots.

6. Language: Useful expressions

Find a word or phrase from the text that means:

1. ridiculous, laughable =
2. you're not excited or positive about the idea = it doesn't
3. in our day-to-day existence = in our
4. combining, uniting gradually =
5. using the rules unfairly to get a desired result = the
6. (changing) really fast = at a
7. unclear distinctions between one thing and another = lines
8. gradually learn more about someone = someone
9. understand what you find funny = your of
10. the one problem = the

7. Discussion

- A. Do you know of any other examples of humans being enhanced or cured by technology?
- B. Do you think Eugene Goostman passed the Turing test? Or do you agree that his makers cheated the system?
- C. Have you ever had any experience interacting with Siri, or other programs with artificial intelligence? How intelligent did it seem?

"I don't know if you're conscious. You don't know if I'm conscious. But we have a kind of gut certainty about it."

Michael Graziano, neuroscientist, Princeton University, USA

- D. What is consciousness? Do you think a robot could ever be conscious? If consciousness is created out of non-biological materials, is it still consciousness? What are the implications then in the way we treat robots?
- E. Is it possible to fall in love with someone very different from you?
- F. How can you know if someone loves you back? Can you ever be sure that someone loves you in the same way as you love them?
- G. Now you've thought about it, do you think a human could have a romantic relationship with a robot?

8. Thinking back to the Collecting Europe questions

- A. Which of your answers show the most about you? Why?
- B. What did your classmates' answers show about them? In what ways are they different to you? How do you respond to these differences?
- C. How might the people you have relationships with define you as a person?
- D. Write six questions for your own quiz about boundaries and identity.