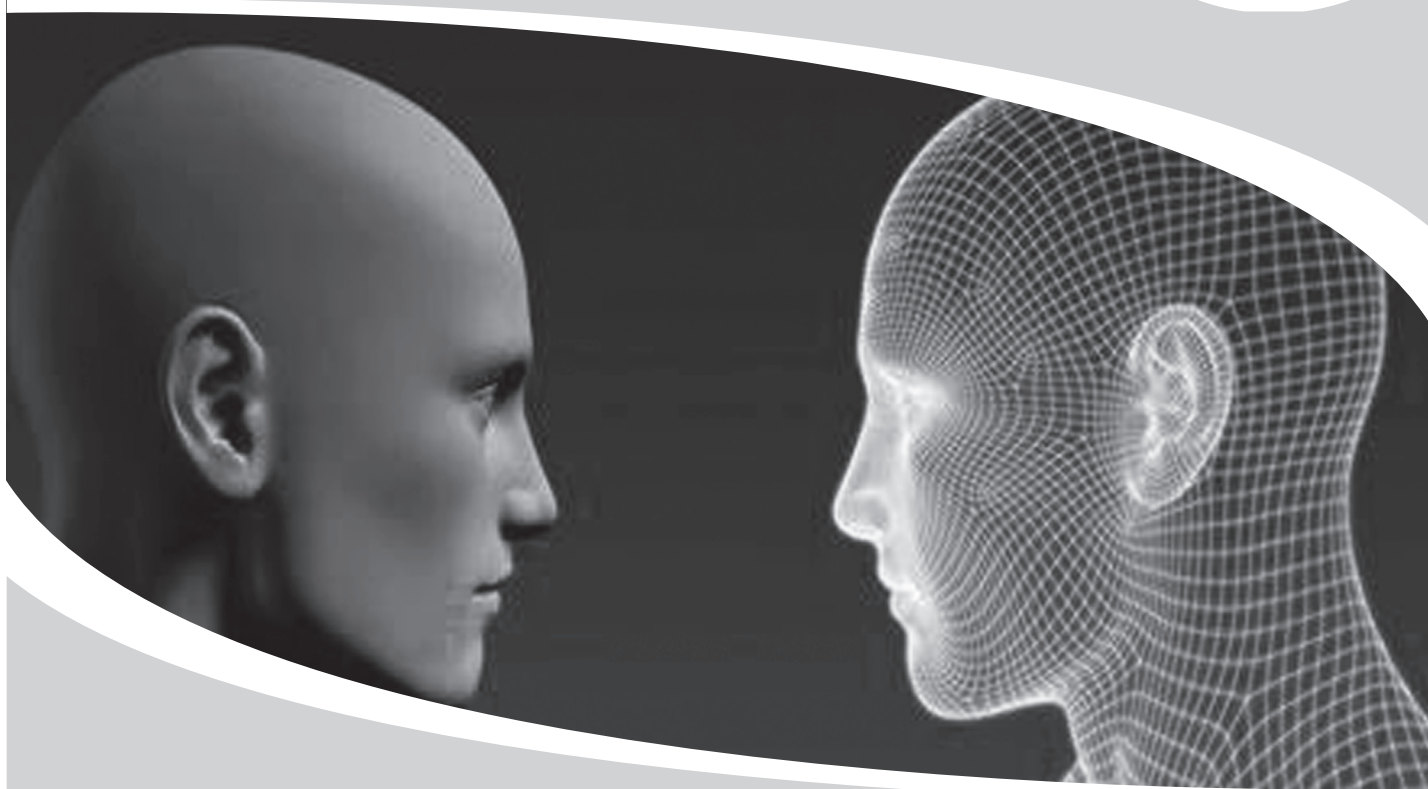


Unit 1

AI and Man



Learning Objectives

In this unit, you will:

- have some basic ideas about the relationship between AI and man;
- learn some key words and expressions about AI;
- get the knowledge about how to become a confident speaker.



Take a quiz!

Background

The development of artificial intelligence (AI) promises amazing opportunities for transforming human's life and the way we work. It will help elevate our potential in ways we cannot yet see or even imagine.

Section A Listening

Pre-Listening

Work in pairs and discuss the following questions.

1. Will AI replace human's jobs?
2. What do you think of AI bot ChatGPT?

Language Bank

frontier	['frʌntiə(r)]	<i>n.</i>	尖端; 边缘
breed	[bri:d]	<i>v.</i>	饲养; 培育 (动植物)
convergence	[kən'vɜ:dʒəns]	<i>n.</i>	汇集; 相交
accelerate	[ək'seləreɪt]	<i>v.</i>	(使) 加速
pledge	[pledʒ]	<i>v.</i>	保证给予 (或做)
interdisciplinary	[,ɪntədɪsə'plɪnəri]	<i>adj.</i>	多学科的
consortium	[kən'sɔ:tiəm]	<i>n.</i>	联盟
artificial	[,ɑ:trɪ'fiʃl]	<i>adj.</i>	人工的
intelligence	[ɪn'telɪdʒəns]	<i>n.</i>	智能

Activity One

You will hear a passage about using AI in sci-tech research. Listen and choose the best answer to each question.



1. What is the purpose of China's Artificial Intelligence for Science project?
 - A. To accelerate the construction of a national open innovation platform for AI.
 - B. To develop AI models and algorithms for major scientific problems.

- C. To promote the use of AI in frontier sci-tech research.
D. To bring together interdisciplinary research and development teams.
2. Which organizations jointly launched the project?
- A. The Ministry of Science and Technology of China and the National Natural Science Foundation of China.
B. The Ministry of Science of China and Technology and the Ministry of Education of China.
C. The National Natural Science Foundation of China and the Ministry of Education of China.
D. The Ministry of Science and Technology of China and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China.
3. What are some of the key sci-tech fields that the project will focus on?
- A. Drug development, gene research, and biology breeding.
B. Climate crisis, cancer treatment, and renewable energy.
C. AI, robotics, and nanotechnology.
D. Quantum computing, space exploration, and cybersecurity.
4. What will the Ministry do under the project?
- A. Promote the innovation of AI models and algorithms for major scientific problems.
B. Develop a number of platforms for typical research fields.
C. Accelerate the construction of a national open innovation platform for AI.
D. All of the above.
5. What are some of the common human scientific challenges that the project aims to address?
- A. AI and robotics.
B. Cancer treatment and the climate crisis.
C. Quantum computing and space exploration.
D. Renewable energy and nanotechnology.

While-Listening

Text A The Benefits and Dangers of Using AI in Recruitment

Language Bank

prejudice	['predʒədis]	<i>n.</i>	偏见
recruitment	['rɪ'kru:tmənt]	<i>n.</i>	招募

(Continued)

reassure	[ˌri:ə'ʃʊə(r)]	v.	使安心
innovative	['ɪnəveɪtɪv]	adj.	创新的
redundant	[rɪ'dʌndənt]	adj.	过剩的
transfer	[træns'fɜ:(r)]	v.	使转移

Activity Two

You will hear a short passage about using AI in recruitment. Fill in each blank within three words.



1. What if it turns out that machines were actually capable of making decisions in a way that is fairer and less _____ and bias than decisions made by humans?
2. Recently there is a conversation between Polli and human in which they discussed how it is _____ help companies understand concepts like “soft skills”.
3. By helping organizations get a better understanding of what candidates have to offer in this regard, AI can lead to less biased and _____ decisions.
4. Going on with technology skills, automation is _____ that people can do.
5. The Reskill and Restart program has enabled hundreds of people to reskill for _____ careers in the tech industry.

Activity Three

You will hear the passage again. Match the following five viewpoints with three people marked A, B or C.



A. Interviewer B. Polli C. Moorthy

- () 1. We might feel a bit uneasy at the thought of AI deciding whether we can have a job or not.
- () 2. It's important to recruit people not based on their degrees but on their skills.
- () 3. What's beautiful about AI is that we can be very prescriptive and personalized in our recommendations.
- () 4. The intelligent assessment and personalized recommendation is crucial to the role Infosys hopes to play reskilling the workforce of tomorrow.
- () 5. The recruitment will focus on means by which we can identify those people who carry transferrable skills.

Text B Artificial Artists



Language Bank

prestigious	[pre'stɪdʒəs]	<i>adj.</i>	有威望的
gallery	['gæləri]	<i>n.</i>	美术馆
sophisticated	[sə'fɪstɪkeɪtɪd]	<i>adj.</i>	复杂巧妙的；先进的
fuzzy	['fʌzi]	<i>adj.</i>	模糊的
glitch	[glɪtʃ]	<i>n.</i>	小故障；小毛病
eerie	['iəri]	<i>adj.</i>	怪异的；神秘的
ghostlike	['gəʊstlaɪk]	<i>adj.</i>	恐怖的；灵魂似的
laud	[ləʊd]	<i>v.</i>	称赞
palette	['pælət]	<i>n.</i>	调色板



Activity Four

You will hear a passage about artificial artists. Listen and choose the best answer to each question.



- What is the speaker suggesting about computer-produced works?
 - People's acceptance of them can vary considerably.
 - A great deal of progress has already been attained in this field.
 - They have had more success in some artistic genres than in others.
 - The advances are not as significant as the public believes them to be.
- According to Geraint Wiggins, why are many people worried about computer art?
 - It is aesthetically inferior to human art.
 - It may ultimately supersede human art.
 - It undermines a fundamental human quality.
 - It will lead to a deterioration in human ability.
- What is a key difference between Aaron and the Painting Fool?
 - Their programmer's background.
 - Public response to their work.
 - The source of their subject matter.
 - The technical standard of their output.
- What point does Simon Colton make?
 - Software-produced art is often dismissed as childish and simplistic.
 - The same concepts of creativity should not be applied to all forms of art.

- C. It is unreasonable to expect a machine to be as imaginative as a human being.
 D. People tend to judge computer art and human art according to different criteria.
5. The speaker refers to the paintings of a chair as an example of computer art which _____.
 A. achieves a particularly striking effect
 B. exhibits a certain level of genuine artistic skill
 C. closely resembles that of a well-known artist
 D. highlights the technical limitations of the software

Activity Five

Listen again and decide whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F).



- () 1. Computers are capable of producing art and music that surpasses human imagination.
- () 2. The potential for computer-generated art to democratize creativity scares a lot of people.
- () 3. Painting Fool displays imagination solely by web searches and material found on social media sites.
- () 4. According to Simon Colton, the designer of Painting Fool, computers should be treated differently than human artists because they are limited in their color palette.
- () 5. David Cope is a classical music expert who was fooled by EMI into believing he was hearing genuine Bach.

Post-Listening

Work in pairs and discuss the following questions.

1. How can you respond to AI recruitment as job seekers?
2. What do you think about the difference between works of art created by AI and human?

Section B Speaking

Activity One

Read the passage below and get some knowledge about how to be a confident speaker.

To Be a Confident Speaker

Most people are nervous about the prospect of giving a speech in public. Stage fright is a global phenomenon that cuts across language, culture, and national borders. It is such a common occurrence that some of the greatest public speakers in history have suffered from it, including Mahatma Gandhi, Abraham Lincoln, and Winston Churchill.

Rather than trying to eliminate every trace of stage fright, you should aim at transforming it from a negative force into one that experts call positive nervousness—a zesty, enthusiastic, lively feeling with a slight edge to it. It's still nervousness, but it feels different. You're no longer victimized by it; instead, you're vitalized by it. You're in control of it. Don't think of yourself as having stage fright. Instead, think of it as "stage excitement" or "stage enthusiasm". It can help you get focused and energized in the same way that it helps athletes, musicians, and others get primed for a game or a concert. Think of it as a normal part of giving a successful speech.

Here are a number of time-tested ways you can turn your nervousness from a negative force into a positive one.

Acquire speaking experience

Think back to your first day at kindergarten, your first date, your first day at a new job. You were probably nervous in each situation because you were facing something new and unknown, but once you became accustomed to the situation, it was no longer threatening. So it is with public speaking. For most people, the biggest part of stage fright is fear of the unknown. The more you learn about public speaking and the more speeches you give, the less threatening speech-making will become.

Prepare, prepare, prepare

Another key to gaining confidence is to pick speech topics you truly care about and then to prepare your speeches so thoroughly that you cannot help but be successful. A standard rule is that each minute of speaking requires one to two hours of preparation—perhaps more, depending on the amount of research needed for the speech.

Think positively

Confidence is mostly the well-known power of positive thinking. If you think you can do it, you usually can. On the other hand, if you predict disaster and doom, that is almost always

what you will get. This is especially true when it comes to public speaking. Speakers who think negatively about themselves and the speech experience are much more likely to be overcome by stage fright than are speakers who think positively.

Activity Two

Answer the following questions according to the passage above.

1. Why is stage fright such a common occurrence among public speakers?
2. How can stage fright be transformed into positive nervousness?
3. What role does preparation play in gaining confidence for public speaking?

Activity Three

Read a speech on artificial intelligence and the future of mankind and complete the outline of it.

Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Mankind

Hi friends,

Every age has its scientific discoveries and inventions. But today's scientific advancements can make an impact globally in very short time. Such is the progress made in the field of artificial intelligence or AI.

AI is in simple terms machines and computers learning, thinking and doing what human intelligence does. Instead of doing certain tasks repeatedly, with AI, machines operate from data that we feed them with to recognize human voices, use human language, drive cars or even to suggest the next course of treatment or an article or book you might like to read.

Artificial intelligence is something that impacts our everyday life. If you have ever used the Google search engine, it gives you optimized results based on AI, so near to what you asked for. On the other extreme, AI is used in robotics and even in weaponry which can function without human aid.

Now let me ask this vital question: Why is there a surge in the field of AI? Several thrusts can be pointed out. But science and technology are trying to create a super intelligence that can outperform human beings not just in specific tasks but in complex cognitive activity which includes decision-making, problem-solving, memory, speech recognition, attention and judgement.

This can lead mankind to a life of ease never known before when a lot of what they had to

perform is done to perfection with the help of AI aided robots or machines. But then there is a danger here. What if AI through some chance or misjudged human calculation acquires smarter intelligence that can control human beings or wreck disasters unheard of?

Yes, there are benefits of AI that we are yet to see and that far outweighs these assumed dangers. Maybe no one can stop the march of science or those with scientific pursuit and perseverance who are passionately working in the R&D of AI. Soon someday what many thought as science fiction, which people read about in novels or watched in movies as future, becomes real and operational now.

If AI creates automated jobs in plenty, will that replace much of human skill and labor? That might be an interesting question of concern to many. Or will AI create more careers or at least offer a few career paths which intelligent kids might be tempted to pursue?

Well, let me conclude. There was a time called the beginning when God created man in his image and likeness. But man running independent of God is capable of acts and deeds that mar the purpose for which man was created. We see the impact of that in the environment as well as in senseless destruction through wars and man's greed.

Likewise, AI created by man to have the complex ability to think and act like human beings can act in destructive mode if something goes wrong. Hacking and programming errors or even robots starting to communicate with each other in a language man will not be able to understand can well be the nightmare of tomorrow.

Thank you.

Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Mankind	
Introduction	The purpose of the lecture: To talk about what AI is and the future of mankind
Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is AI? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AI is in simple terms machines and computers learning, thinking and doing what 1. _____ does. - AI is something that 2. _____ our everyday life. ● Why is there a surge in the field of AI? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Science and technology is trying to create a(n) 3. _____ that can 4. _____.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Benefits and danger of AI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead mankind to a life of ease never known before when a lot of what they had to perform is done to perfection with the help of AI aided 5. _____.

(Continued)

Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Mankind	
	- AI through some chance or misjudged human calculation acquires 6. _____ that can control human beings or 7. _____ disasters unheard of.
Conclusion	AI created by man to have the 8. _____ to think and act like human beings can act in a destructive mode if something goes wrong.

Activity Four

Choose one of the following topics and make a speech by using the knowledge above.

- ◆ What is the ethical implication of AI in human decision-making?
- ◆ Can AI complement and enhance human intelligence?
- ◆ What is the impact of AI on the job market?

Section C Further Listening

Activity One

You will hear a short passage about volunteering. Choose six answers from the box and match them with the following volunteers.



What Volunteers Have Helped People Do	Volunteers
A. Overcome physical difficulties	1. Habib _____
B. Rediscover skills not used for a long time	2. Consuela _____
C. Improve their communication skills	3. Minh _____
D. Solve problems independently	4. Tanya _____
E. Escape isolation	5. Alexei _____
F. Remember past times	6. Juba _____
G. Start a new hobby	

Activity Two

Listen to the following passage and complete the notes below. Fill in each blank with one word only.



Early History of Keeping Clean

Prehistoric times:

- Water was used to wash off 1. _____.

Ancient Babylon:

- soap—like material found in 2. _____ cylinders

Ancient Greece:

- People cleaned themselves with sand and other substances.
- used a strigil-scraper made of 3. _____
- washed clothes in streams

Ancient Germany and Gaul:

- used soap to color their 4. _____

Ancient Rome:

- animal fat, ashes, and clay mixed through action of rain, used for washing clothes
- from about 312 BC, water was carried to Roman 5. _____ by aqueducts

Europe in the Middle Ages:

- decline in bathing contributed to occurrence of 6. _____
- 7. _____ began to be added to soap.

Europe from the 17th century:

- 1600s: Cleanliness and bathing started becoming usual.
- 1791: Leblanc invented a way of making soda ash from 8. _____.
- early 1800s: Chevreul turned soapmaking into a(n) 9. _____.
- from 1800s: There was no longer a(n) 10. _____ on soap.

Activity Three

You will hear a news report about China's navigation satellites. Fill in each blank within three words.



The BeiDou Navigation Satellite System has significantly improved its accuracy and reliability, 1. _____ an independent, controllable, complete, and mature BeiDou industrial chain and the three systems of BeiDou industrial guarantee, application promotion, and innovation. The BeiDou Navigation System is widely used in transportation, maritime

fisheries, hydrological monitoring, 2. _____, surveying and mapping, 3. _____
_____, time synchronization of communication, power dispatching, disaster reduction and
relief and 4. _____, influencing all aspects of people's life and production, and
5. _____ into global economic and social development.