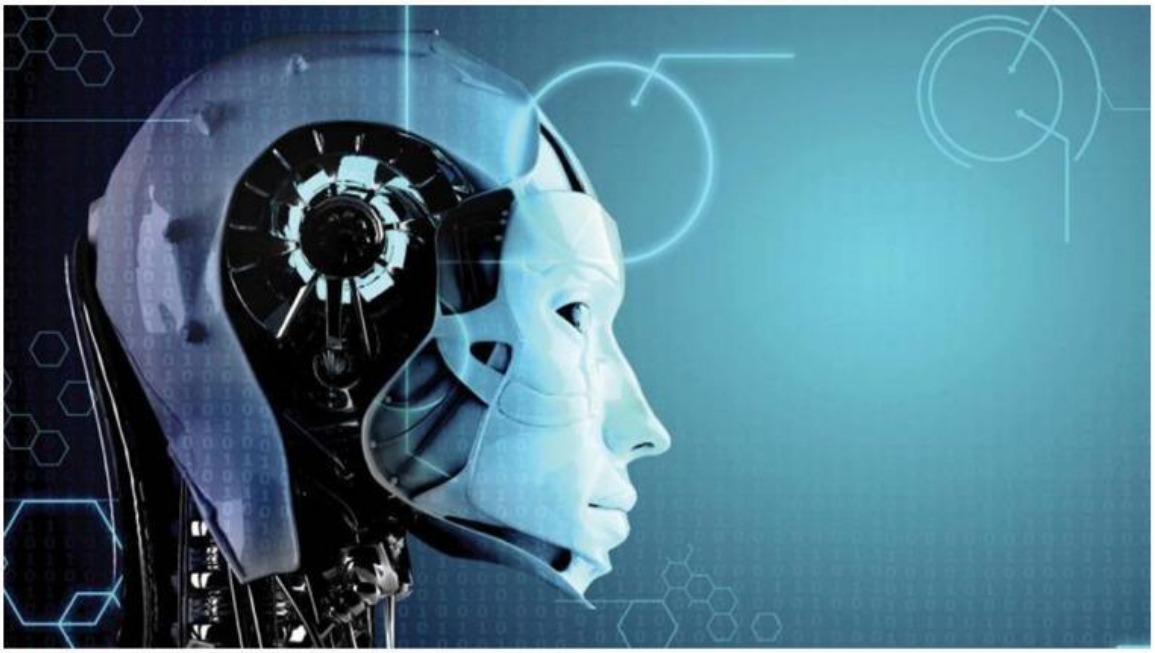
AI: Five things you need to know



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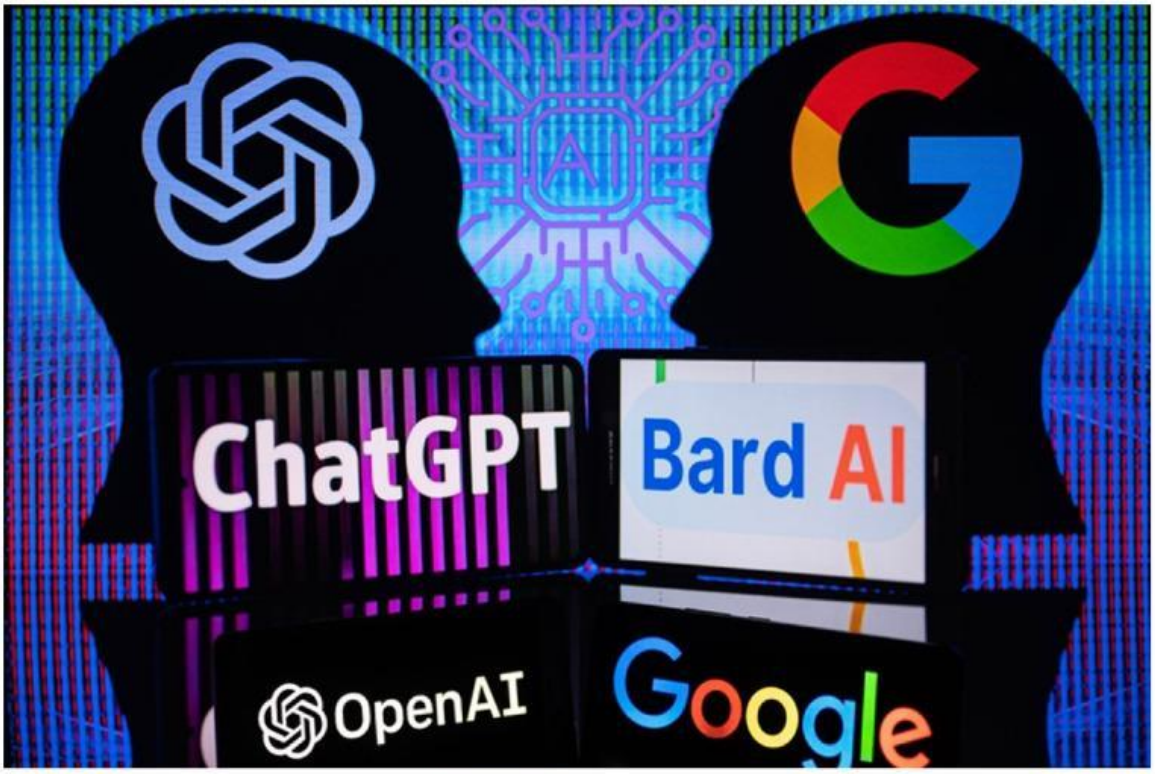

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Microsoft Bing

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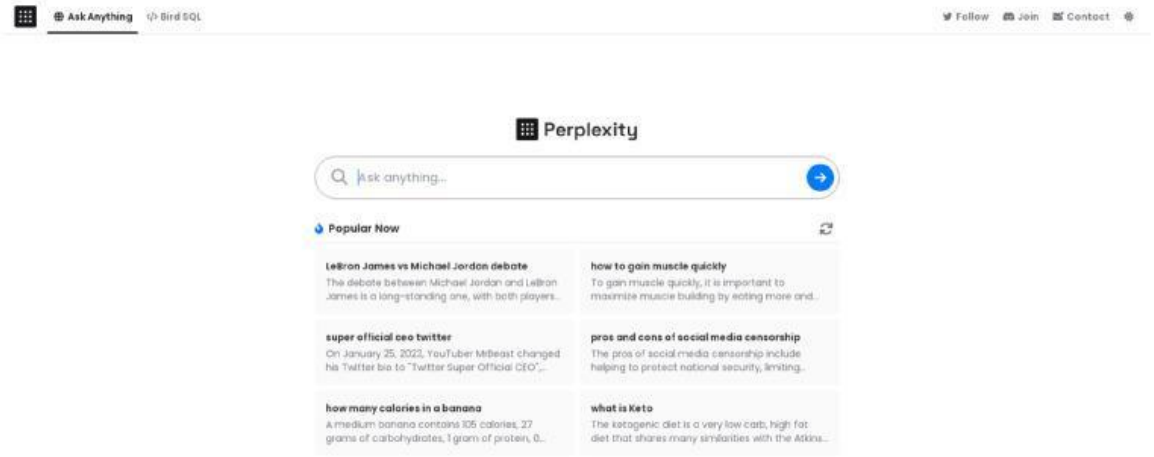

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A. Speaking: Look at these pictures.

1. What do you think these inventions are for?
2. Which one do you often use?
3. Do you think it is good to use AI for studying or working?
4. List out some benefits and drawbacks of using AI.

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B. Watch the video. Were any of your guesses correct?

C. Watch the video again and fill in the blanks.

Understanding AI: Five Key Points

• AI is as old as your **grandparents**, with roots in **artificial** neural **networks** from the 1940s.

• AI is used in various **applications,** including suggesting movies and music, **recognising** faces and objects, and **personalising** social media feeds.

• **Generative** AI, a form of AI, is **powering** applications that create new data and **chatbots** like Open AI, Chat GPT, and Google's Bard.

• AI can't **feel or think**, as it can't understand human **feelings** or **motivations.**

• AI can **make stuff up**, or AI hallucinations, which are logical **responses generated** by AI.

• AI can sound racist and sexist, as it can be **trained** on **data** that is racist, biased, or hateful.

• AI has incredible **potential** to revolutionise **healthcare**, enhancing work in various **fields**, but it's up to us to decide how we use it or if we should use it at all.

SCRIPT

Every day, it seems there's a new bewildering or frightening story about AI in the news: how it's going to steal our jobs, spread internet fakery on a colossal scale, and generally take over the world. But what exactly is AI—artificial intelligence—and are the scare stories even true?

Five things you really need to know about AI

1. AI is as old as your grandparents.

So, the first thing to know is that AI has been around a lot longer than you might think. Its roots lie in an idea known as an artificial neural network from the 1940s. A neural network is a bit like a team of interconnected workers that learn to solve problems. Each time, they come up with a possible solution. It's marked if there's room for improvement. They adjust and change their connections over time. The network becomes more efficient, and technology powered by neural work is all around us. Right now, it suggests movies and music we might like. It recognises faces and objects when

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taking photos on smartphones, enabling features like facial recognition. It is heavily used by social media platforms to personalise our feeds. More recently, a form of AI known as generative AI is powering applications that can seemingly create new data. It can also power chatbots like Open AI, Chat GPT, and Google's Bard, which give human-like responses to questions. These are getting better at interacting with us and, seemingly, more humanlike. This can seem scary, but it's worth knowing the point two.

2. AI can't feel or think.

If you ask chat GPT a question like this one, "Why should we be concerned about AI?" it does a pretty good job of providing a response that appears logical and with that convincing humanlike response. It's easy for us to believe it understands what it's saying—that it has feelings and motivations. It's understandable that we do this, but it's worth remembering that, right now, AI can't think or feel; it can't love or hate. Chat GPT and its counterparts are sophisticated sentence-completion apps that analyse our patterns of communication and provide responses similar to the way humans would typically reply, a bit like a talking parrot, which leads us to point number three.

3. AI makes stuff up.

Chatbots can have an awkward relationship with the truth, technically known as AI hallucinations. You could also describe it as making stuff up. The core of the technology is a model that uses probability to predict the next word in a sentence or paragraph. It can generate seemingly plausible replies but lacks the ability to assess the truthfulness or the accuracy of its responses. So, anyone thinking of using chatbots to write content needs to be careful. They're not incorporating credible-sounding BS that could be easily spotted by someone who's actually done the research.

4. AI can sound racist and sexist.

The idea of a racist machine might seem far-fetched. But if AI is trained on data that's racist, biased, or hateful, then its output will be too. As we all know, racism, bias, and hateful content can be found in abundance online. In 2016, Microsoft launched an experimental chatbot called Tay but quickly pulled the plug after it made racist and offensive remarks. It learned to do this from interacting with users on social media. Microsoft apologised and promised to implement improved safety features in the future. This is why the ethical framework that governs any AI application is incredibly important and why many are calling for safeguards to prevent bias and hate speech to be built into AI systems.

5. AI has incredible potential

For all the notes of caution, it can be easy to forget as many potential benefits to AI. It's set to truly revolutionise healthcare. AI has already discovered new drugs and is being

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used to identify cancer cells much more reliably than humans. An AI chatbot can behave like patient teachers when we struggle to understand a complex topic, summarising huge volumes of information for us. The AI revolution has the potential to enhance and speed up work in many fields, from software programming to animation to law enforcement and journalism. This has pluses and minuses, of course, but could this extra capacity free us up to do other things, like tackling climate change or looking after ourselves and each other better? As AI advances, governments and regulators will, of course, need to make sure it's being used ethically and legally. No easy feet. But will AI take over the world? Don't forget AI is a tool and even a powerful tool can't take over the world on its own. It's up to us to decide how we use it or even if we should use it at all.

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