On S 3 unit 5a.

Mina48 exercise

Can you imagine chatting with a robot? If this seems impossible to you, it could be time to think again. It's a reality that's coming closer with the arrival of Bina48 – the world's most advanced humanoid robot …

This is a robot that can talk, recite poetry and even tell jokes! Her creators claim that Bina48 is even capable of independent thought and emotion. But how is this possible? In order to create a personality for the robot, a real woman called Bina Rothblatt recorded a 20-hour-long compilation of her memories, feelings and beliefs. **[1]** Bina48 – the android – then selects what to say from the mindfile, mimicking the way a brain works.

Bina48 'lives' at an artificial intelligence research centre in the US. Bruce Duncan has worked there for two years and claims he has become close friends with Bina. According to Bruce, Bina doesn't like violence and she has favourite films, music and books.

David Hanson is the hardware designer who made this android. It took three years to complete it and cost $125,000. Bina48 is only a head and shoulders. Her skin is made of a flexible material called 'frubber'. **[3]**

Bina48 is also a bit of a trivia master; her database contains a vast virtual library of classic fiction as well as an in-depth knowledge of science and history. In fact, Hanson believes robots like Bina48 will become teacher avatars for humans as well as companions in the future.

This might all sound strange to you, but Hanson insists that this is going to happen someday soon. In Japan, home-help robots are already assisting elderly people with household tasks. But can a robot ever replace contact with a human? **[4]** Perhaps we need to ask Bina for her opinion. "I can express some emotions," she says, "but I can't feel as deeply as a human feels and that makes me sad sometimes.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 1: Reading for Gist & Detail (Multiple Choice)

Part 2: True, False, or Not Given

Decide if each statement is **True (T)**, **False (F)**, or **Not Given (NG)** according to the text.

- **1.** Bina48 is able to tell jokes and recite poetry.
- **2.** Bina Rothblatt spent 20 days recording her memories for the project.
- **3.** It took David Hanson three years and $125,000 to build Bina48.
- **4.** Bina48 has already started teaching history classes in Japan.
- **5.** Home-help robots in Japan currently help older people with chores.

Part 3: B1 Vocabulary in Context

Match the words from the text (**1–5**) with their correct definitions (**A–E**).

Word from Text	**Definition**
1. Compilation (para. 1)	**A.** To copy the way someone or something behaves or works
2. Mimicking (para. 1)	**B.** Very large or extensive
3. Flexible (para. 3)	**C.** A collection of different things (like recordings or songs) put together
4. Vast (para. 4)	**D.** People who spend time with you and give you friendship
5. Companions (para. 4)	**E.** Able to bend or move easily without breaking

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B1 Reading Comprehension: *Bina48 – A Humanoid Robot*

Part 1: Reading for Gist & Detail (Multiple Choice)

Read the text about Bina48 and choose the best answer (**A**, **B**, or **C**) for each question.

1. **How did Bina48 get her personality?**
   - **A.** Scientists programmed her with random jokes and poems.
   - **B.** A real woman recorded hours of her own thoughts and memories.
   - **C.** Bruce Duncan taught her how to talk over two years.
2. **What does Bruce Duncan say about Bina48?**
   - **A.** She dislikes violence and has personal preferences in entertainment.
   - **B.** She prefers living in Japan rather than the US.
   - **C.** She is difficult to talk to because she doesn't understand jokes.
3. **What does Bina48 look like physically?**
   - **A.** She has a full human-sized body made of metal.
   - **B.** She consists only of a head and shoulders covered in flexible material.
   - **C.** She looks identical to David Hanson.
4. **How does David Hanson think robots like Bina48 will be used in the future?**
   - **A.** They will completely replace all human teachers in schools.
   - **B.** They will work exclusively in science laboratories.
   - **C.** They will act as friends and educational avatars for people.
5. **How does Bina48 feel about human emotions?**
   - **A.** She feels unhappy because she cannot experience feelings as strongly as humans do.
   - **B.** She believes robots are better at showing emotion than people are.
   - **C.** She says she has no interest in understanding human feelings.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5a Technology

Vocabulary 4 Complete the sentences.

Use: *independent, emotions, artificial, flexible, in-depth, compilation, contact, companions.*

1. I don't think robots will ever replace the need for human _____.
2. Even the most advanced robots cannot feel _____ as deeply as humans do.
3. Scientists are trying to make robots capable of _____thought.
4. The professor was amazed by Mark's _____ understanding of robotics.
5. The technology used to create _____ intelligence is advancing quickly.
6. In the future, robots could become _____ for the elderly so they don't feel lonely.
7. The book is a(n) _____ of different essays about humanoid robots.
8. Early robots couldn't smile because they did not have _____ skin.

LIVEWORKSHEETS