

Tomorrow's World

Read and listen to the radio interview. What prediction does the expert make?



Presenter Hello! My guest today is Selma Nash and she's a futurist. That's an unusual word. What does it mean?

Expert I work for a computer company and I predict the future.

Presenter Do you just guess?

Expert No, I don't. I look at the science and I make predictions. For example, in the future people won't go to a chemist's for medicine, they'll get all their medicine in their food.

Presenter Will the food be unpleasant?

Expert No, it won't. The medicine won't have a taste. People will eat it but they won't know.

Presenter I don't like that idea. What else will happen?

Expert I think AI will be the most important thing in the next ten years.

Presenter Can you explain what 'AI' stands for, please?

Expert Yes. It's Artificial Intelligence.

Presenter Like robots?

Expert Yes, machines with brains. I believe robots will be cleverer than us in the future.

Presenter Really?

Expert Yes, soon robots will learn, think, make decisions and do things independently.

Presenter So they'll be better than us because they'll always be logical. They won't make emotional decisions.

Expert I disagree! I think that very soon, robots will have emotions.

Presenter Will they be like people?

Expert Yes, they will. Like us, they'll feel unhappy sometimes. But they'll be very clever and they won't get tired. And they'll work anywhere because they won't get hot or cold.

Presenter So, they'll never be uncomfortable! Amazing! When will this happen?

Expert The exact date is unknown but I think it'll be very soon.

Read the interview again. Answer the questions.

- 1 What does Selma Nash do every day?
- 2 Does the presenter want to have medicine in his food?
- 3 Is Selma Nash interested in artificial intelligence?
- 4 Do computers have emotions today?

Find the opposites of the words.

comfortable _____

happy _____

known _____

pleasant _____

usual _____

Choose adjectives from the exercise above to describe these people.

1 Cathy doesn't like her job and has no money. _____

2 Curtis lives in a very small flat and he's almost two metres tall. _____

3 Jack isn't friendly and he often says horrible things about people. _____

4 Mike is a singer. He isn't famous but he loves his job. _____

5 Enzo is Italian but he doesn't like pizza or pasta. _____

WILL for predictions

Complete the sentences from the interview with will or won't.

Affirmative

Robots ¹ _____ think and learn.

Negative

People ² _____ go to a chemist's.

Questions

³ _____ they be
like people?

Short Answers

Yes, they ⁴ _____.
No, they won't.

Wh- questions

When ⁵ _____ this happen?

We use will and won't to talk about the future.

Complete the paragraph with will or won't

In the future, computers _____ be better than people. They _____ learn, think and make decisions but they _____ get tired, hungry or ill. _____ these machines be like today's computers? No, they _____. Some experts think they _____ feel anger and happiness. What _____ these clever machine look like? No one knows.



ORAL PRACTICE - Use the cues to make questions about the future.

A Will people use traditional telephones?
B No, everyone will have a mobile phone.

- use traditional telephones
- have an id chip in your body
- have laptops
- read newspapers
- watch television
- write letters

Make predictions about life in ten years' time. Think about:

-school

-home

-clothes

-music

-shopping

Schools won't have libraries. Students will have interactive touch table desk.

Make predictions about your life in ten years' time. Use the cues and your own ideas.

-education

- family life

-home

-money

-interests

-free time

-occupation

-holidays

-transport

