Sam: Hello. This is 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English. I'm Sam.

Neil: And I'm Neil.

Sam: In the **1)** .... of 2021, something **2)** .... happened at the Google **3)** .... in California's Silicon Valley. A software **4)** .... called, Blake Lemoine, was working on the **5)** .... intelligence project, 'Language Models for **6)** .... Applications', or LaMDA for short. LaMDA is a **7)** .... – a computer **8)** .... designed to have conversations with humans over the **9)** ....

Neil: After months talking with LaMDA on **10)** .... ranging from movies to the meaning of **11)** ...., Blake came to a surprising **12)** ....: the chatbot was an intelligent person with wishes and **13)** .... that should be respected. For Blake, LaMDA was a Google employee, not a **14)** .... He also called it his 'friend'.

Sam: Google quickly **15)** .... Blake from the project, announcing that his **16)** .... were not supported by the **17)** .... But what exactly was going on?

Neil: In this programme, we'll be discussing whether artificial **18)** .... is capable of **19)** .... We'll hear from one **20)** .... who thinks AI is not as intelligent as we **21)** .... think, and as usual, we'll be learning some new **22)** .... as **23)** ....

Sam: But before that, I have a **24)** .... for you, Neil. What happened to Blake Lemoine is **25)** .... similar to the 2013 Hollywood movie, **26)** ...., starring Joaquin Phoenix as a lonely writer who talks with his **27)** ...., voiced by Scarlett Johansson. But what happens at the end of the movie? Is it: a) the computer comes to life? b) the computer dreams about the **28)** .... ? or, c) the writer falls in **29)** .... with the computer?

Neil: … c) the writer falls in love with the computer.

Sam: OK, Neil, I'll reveal the **30)** .... at the end of the programme. Although Hollywood is full of movies about **31)** .... coming to life, Emily Bender, professor of **32)** .... and computing at the University of **33)** ...., thinks AI isn't that smart. She thinks the words we use to talk about **34)** ...., phrases like 'machine learning', give a false **35)** .... about what computers can and can't do.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. put this phrases in the order you hear them

- [ ] **Neil**: In other words, we anthropomorphise computers – we treat them as if they were human.

- [ ] **Neil**: Here is Professor Bender discussing another misleading phrase, 'speech recognition', with BBC World Service programme, The Inquiry.

- [ ] **Professor Emily Bender**: We anthropomorphise animals all the time, but we also anthropomorphise action figures, or dolls, or companies when we talk about companies having intentions and so on. We very much are in the habit of seeing ourselves in the world around us.

- [ ] **Sam**: The problem with using words in this way is that it reinforces what Professor Bender calls, technical bias – the assumption that the computer is always right.

- [ ] **Professor Emily Bender**: That just describes the input-output relation, and not any theory or wishful thinking about what the computer is doing to be able to achieve that.

- [ ] **Charmaine Cozier**: And while we're busy seeing ourselves by assigning human traits to things that are not, we risk being blindsided.

- [ ] **Sam**: Using words like 'recognition' in relation to computers gives the idea that something cognitive is happening – something related to the mental processes of thinking, knowing, learning and understanding.

- [ ] **Professor Emily Bender**: So 'ism' means system, 'anthro' or 'anthropo' means human, and 'morph' means shape… And so this is a system that puts the shape of a human on something, and in this case the something is a computer.

- [ ] **Neil**: But thinking and knowing are human, not machine, activities. Professor Benders says that talking about them in connection with computers is wishful thinking – something which is unlikely to happen.

- [ ] **Sam**: When we encounter language that sounds natural, but is coming from a computer, humans can't help but imagine a mind behind the language, even when there isn't one.

- [ ] **Professor Emily Bender**: The more fluent that text is, the more different topics it can converse on, the more chances there are to get taken in.

- [ ] **Neil**: Here's Professor Bender again, discussing this idea with Charmaine Cozier, presenter of BBC World Service's, the Inquiry.

- [ ] **Professor Emily Bender**: If you talk about 'automatic speech recognition', the term 'recognition' suggests that there's something cognitive going on, where I think a better term would be automatic transcription.

3. drag and drop to complete the dialogue

DREAM - CORRECT - ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - NEGATIVE - DATA ANALYSIS - CHATBOTS - COGNITIVE - QUESTION - WISHFUL THINKING - INTELLIGENT - ANTHROPOMORPHISE - BLINDSIDED - INTERACT - CONSCIOUS - GET TAKEN IN - DECEIVED

Sam: If we treat computers as if they could think, we might get ...., or unpleasantly surprised. .... works by finding patterns in massive amounts of data, so it can seem like we're talking with a human, instead of a machine doing .... As a result, we .... – we're tricked or deceived into thinking we're dealing with a human, or with something ....

Neil: Powerful AI can make machines appear ...., but even tech giants like Google are years away from building computers that can .... or fall in love. Speaking of which, Sam, what was the answer to your .... ?

Sam: I asked what happened in the 2013 movie, Her. Neil thought that the main character falls in love with his computer, which was the .... answer!

Neil: OK. Right, it's time to recap the vocabulary we've learned from this programme about AI, including .... - computer programmes designed to .... with humans over the internet.

Sam: The adjective .... describes anything connected with the mental processes of knowing, learning and understanding.

Neil: .... means thinking that something which is very unlikely to happen might happen one day in the future.

Sam: To .... an object means to treat it as if it were human, even though it's not.

Neil: When you're blindsided, you're surprised in a .... way.

Sam: And finally, to be taken in by someone means to be .... or tricked by them. My computer tells me that our six minutes are up! Join us again soon, for now it's goodbye from us.

Neil: Bye!