

UNIT 12 – READING 1

ROBOTS



A robot is a machine. But it is not just any machine. It is a special kind of machine. It is a machine that moves. It follows instructions. The instructions come from a computer. Because it is a machine, it does not make mistakes. And it does not get tired. And it never complains. Unless you tell it to!

Robots are all around us. Some robots are used to make things. For example, robots can help make cars. Some robots are used to explore dangerous places. For example, robots can help explore volcanoes. Some robots are used to clean things. These robots can help vacuum your house. Some robots can even recognize words. They can be used to help answer telephone calls. Some robots look like humans. But most robots do not. Most robots just look like machines.

Long ago, people imagined robots. But nobody was able to make a real robot. The first real robot was made in 1961. It was called Unimate. It was used to help make cars. It looked like a giant arm.

In the future, we will have even more robots. They will do things that we can't do. Or they will do things that we don't want to do. Or they will do things that are too dangerous for us. They will help make life better.

A. Choose the correct answers.

1. As used in paragraph 1, we can understand that something special is NOT _____.
a. normal b. expensive c. perfect d. tired
2. According to the author, robots cannot be used to _____.
a. explore volcanoes b. make cars c. clean your house d. do the gardening
3. What is the main purpose of paragraph 2?
a. to show how easy it is to make a robot
b. to tell what a robot is
c. to describe the things a robot can do
d. to explain the difference between a robot and a machine
4. Which of these gives the best use of a robot?
a. to help make a sandwich b. to help tie shoes
c. to help read a book d. to help explore Mars
5. How does the author feel about robots?
a. Robots are useless. b. Robots are helpful.
c. Robots are confusing. d. Robots are dangerous.

B. Answer the questions.

1. What is a robot?

2. Why doesn't a robot make mistakes?

3. Do most robots look like humans?

4. When was the first robot made?

5. What did the first robot look like?

6. Will robots make our lives better or worse?
