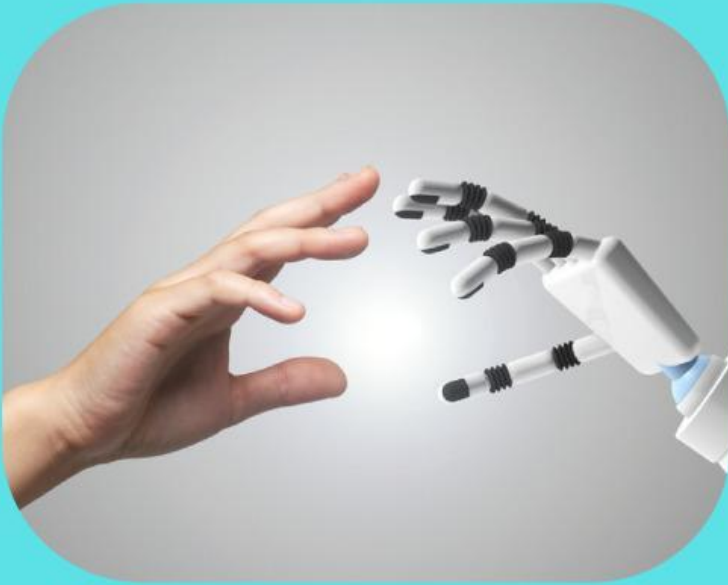


# ROBOT TEACHERS

**Read the text once and complete the following activities.**



If you think of the jobs robots could never do, you would probably put doctors and teachers at the top of the list. It's easy to imagine robot cleaners and factory workers, but some jobs need human connection and creativity. But are we underestimating what robots can do? In some cases, they already perform better than doctors at diagnosing illness.

Also, some patients might feel more comfortable sharing personal information with a machine than a person. Could there be a place for robots in education after all? British education expert Anthony Seldon thinks so. And he even has a date for the robot takeover of the classroom: 2027. He predicts robots will do the main job of transferring information and teachers will be like assistants. Intelligent robots will read students' faces, movements and maybe even brain signals. Then they will adapt the information to each student. It's not a popular opinion and it's unlikely robots will ever have empathy and the ability to really connect with humans like another human can. One thing is certain, though. A robot teacher is better than no teacher at all. In some parts of the world, there aren't enough teachers and 9–16 per cent of children under the age of 14 don't go to school. That problem could be partly solved by robots because they can teach anywhere and won't get stressed, or tired, or move somewhere for an easier, higher-paid job. Those negative aspects of teaching are something everyone agrees on. Teachers all over the world are leaving because it is a difficult job and they feel overworked. Perhaps the question is not 'Will robots replace teachers?' but 'How can robots help teachers?' Office workers can use software to do things like organise and answer emails, arrange meetings and update calendars. Teachers waste a lot of time doing non-teaching work, including more than 11 hours a week marking homework. If robots could cut the time teachers spend marking homework and writing reports, teachers would have more time and energy for the parts of the job humans do best.

**What is the main topic of the text?**

- ☐ The advantages and disadvantages of robots in education.
- ☐ The history of robots in schools.
- ☐ The reasons why students dislike teachers.

**Choose the best title for the text.**

- ☐ Why teachers should use more technology
- ☐ Will robots replace teachers?
- ☐ Why robots are better than humans

**Read the text again and complete the following exercises.**

**True or False?**

1. Most jobs seem as if they can be done by robots or computers. T F
2. Robots are always better at diagnosing illness than doctors. T F
3. Many experts agree robots will replace teachers by 2027. T F
4. One advantage of robot teachers is that they don't need to rest. T F
5. Robot assistants could help teachers by marking homework. T F
6. Some teachers use robots to reduce their time answering emails and marking homework. T F

**Complete the sentences with the correct words from the box.**

|          |       |             |          |         |         |
|----------|-------|-------------|----------|---------|---------|
| teachers | tired | information | homework | empathy | student |
|----------|-------|-------------|----------|---------|---------|

1. Robots could transfer \_\_\_\_\_ to students in the classroom.
2. Intelligent robots could adapt information to each \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Robots will not get stressed or \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Robots may never have the same \_\_\_\_\_ as humans.
5. Teachers spend more than 11 hours a week marking \_\_\_\_\_.

**Choose the correct word.**

1. Robots can help with (diagnosing / leaving) illness.
2. Robots could save teachers (time / information).
3. Teachers often feel (overworked / comfortable).

**Match each person or group (1–4) with the correct idea (A–D).**

1. Anthony Seldon

A. They use software to organise emails and meetings.

2. Some patients

B. They may offer empathy and genuine connection with students.

3. Human teachers

C. They may feel more comfortable sharing personal information with a machine.

4. Office workers

D. He predicts that robots will play a major role in classrooms by 2027.

**Decide who could do each task better: a robot or a human.**

| <u>Task</u>                       | <u>Robot</u> | <u>Human</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Diagnose some illnesses           |              |              |
| Understand students' emotions     |              |              |
| Adapt information to each student |              |              |
| Mark homework                     |              |              |
| Show empathy                      |              |              |

Which task is the most difficult for a robot?

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