

Robots

Researchers around the world are now looking for ways to design human-like robots with advanced technology, such as audiovisual sensors, speech, and the ability to learn from experience. High-tech robots already help to reduce human labour in manual jobs, such as manufacturing and doing household chores, but may also start to do jobs that require “intelligence”, such as babysitting, teaching children, and helping sick people. From today’s worker robots that build and home robots that clean, we may soon start to see childcare robots, teaching robots, and even doctor robots.

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Many experts speculate that machines in the future may be smarter than humans. IBM’s Watson Health software already helps physicians diagnose diseases and Google’s AlphaGo has defeated the world’s best chess player. In the future, these technologies may help solve very different problems, from curing cancer to climate change.

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However, this raises a question: if robots replace people – working smarter, more efficiently, and more productively – leading to an economy without a labour force of people, who will buy the products that the robots make when everyone is out of work?

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What jobs can robots do now?

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What jobs may robots do in the future?

What jobs do you think robots will never be able to do?