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Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 4 – 1st April 2024

AI an 'extinction-level threat' says study by experts

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https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240401-ai-extinction-4.html

Contents

Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

THE READING

Artificial intelligence is an existential threat. So says a U.S. report, which painted a worst-case-scenario "extinction-level threat" to humanity. It identified a "growing risk to national security". The report said there was a "clear and urgent need" for the government to intervene "quickly and decisively". It said AI could destabilise global security, "in ways reminiscent of the introduction of nuclear weapons". It called for the regulation of AI companies.

The report was commissioned by the U.S. State Department. Experts spoke at length to AI companies like OpenAI and Google. The experts recommended upper limits on the amount of computing power for an AI model. They also recommended making it illegal to reveal the coding behind AI. The Futurism.com website spoke to researchers who said: "There's a five per cent chance that humans will be driven to extinction."

PHRASE MATCHING

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1.	Artificial intelligence is	a.	urgent need
2.	a worst-case	b.	security
3.	It identified a growing	c.	of AI companies
4.	national	d.	and decisively
5.	there was a clear and	e.	scenario
6.	intervene quickly	f.	global security
7.	AI could destabilise	g.	an existential threat
8.	It called for the regulation	h.	risk

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1.	commissioned by	a.	spoke to researchers
2.	Experts spoke	b.	upper limits
3.	The experts recommended	c.	to extinction
4.	the amount of computing	d.	chance
5.	making it illegal to reveal	e.	power
6.	The Futurism.com website	f.	the U.S. State Department
7.	There's a five per cent	g.	the coding behind
8.	driven	h.	at length

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

Artificial intelligence (1) _____ threat. So says a U.S. report, which painted a (2) _____ "extinction-level threat" to humanity. It (3) _____ risk to national security". The report said there was a "(4) _____ need" for the government to intervene "(5) _____". It said AI could destabilise global security, "in ways reminiscent of the introduction of nuclear weapons". It called (6) _____ of AI companies.

The report (7) _____ the U.S. State Department. Experts (8) _____ to AI companies like OpenAI and Google. The experts recommended (9) _____ the amount of computing power for an AI model. They also recommended making it illegal to (10) _____ behind AI. The Futurism.com (11) _____ researchers who said: "There's a five per cent chance that humans will be (12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

Artificialintelligenceisanexistentialthreat.SosaysaU.S.report,which

paintedaworst-case-scenario"extinction-levelthreat"tohumanity.It

identifieda"growingrisktonationalsecurity".Thereportsaidtherewas

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re'safivepercentchancethathumanswillbedriventoextinction."

EXTINCTION SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about extinction in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

Write about **extinction** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.