World champ Go master quits as A.I. is too good

3rd December, 2019

Creative Commons 2.0 via matthew venn on flickr.com

A world champion has retired because he has decided humans cannot beat computers at his game. The grand champion is Lee Se-Dol from South Korea. He was world champion at the ancient, strategy board game Go. Some people compare Go to chess. Mr Lee is the only person in the world to ever beat Google's AlphaGo computer algorithm. This is a special A.I. computer program created by Google to play Go. Mr Lee, an 18-time world champion, told reporters earlier this week that: "Even if I become the number one, there is an entity that cannot be defeated. With the debut of A.I. in Go games, I've realized that I'm not at the top even if I become the number one."

The game of Go originated in China around 3,000 years ago. Today, it is played mostly in China, Japan and South Korea. It is believed to be the oldest board game in the world. In 2016, the International Go Federation said it had 75 member nations, and that over 46 million people worldwide knew how to play Go. Mr Lee started playing at the age of five. He turned professional seven years later, when he was 12. He played five games against Google's AlphaGo and lost four of them. He said his one victory was because of a "bug" in the program. The bug did not know what to do when Mr Lee made a "tricky" move. Today's Go programs are much more powerful than the one that beat Mr Lee.

Sources: *japantoday.com / theguardian.com / koreantimes.com*

Writing

Board games are better than computer games. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

world / champion / ancient / strategy / board game / computer / number one / top / game / China / nations / professional / victory / bug / program / tricky / powerful

True / False

a) A former Go world champion from South Korea has quit the game. T / F

b) The article said Go was the same as chess. T / F

c) The ex-champion won the world title 18 times. T / F

d) The ex-champion said A.I. means he can never be top. T / F

e) The game of Go began in Japan 3,000 years ago. T / F

f) A world Go organization has 75 countries as its members. T / F

g) The ex-champion was a professional when he was 12 years old. T / F

h) The ex-champion said he beat the Go program once through skill. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**retired**	a.	liken
2.	**beat**	b.	difficult
3.	**created**	c.	mainly
4.	**compare**	d.	defeat
5.	**realized**	e.	countries
6.	**originated**	f.	win
7.	**mostly**	g.	quit
8.	**nations**	h.	understood
9.	**victory**	i.	made
10.	**tricky**	j.	began

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you know about the game Go?

b) Are you good at playing board games?

c) In what way are board games better than computer games?

d) Should Mr Lee have quit?

e) What would you like to be world champion at?

f) Is it fair to play a game against a computer?

g) How dangerous do you think AI is?

h) How do you feel when you lose at a game?

Phrase Match

1. he has decided humans
2. Some people compare
3. computer
4. an 18-
5. even if I become
6. The game of Go originated
7. the oldest board
8. it had 75 member
9. his one victory was because of a
10. Today's Go programs are much

a. nations
b. in China
c. the number one
d. game in the world
e. "bug" in the program
f. cannot beat computers
g. algorithm
h. more powerful
i. time world champion
j. Go to chess

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think about what you read?
b) What are the good things about playing against a computer?
c) What is your favourite board game?
d) What is the most popular game in your country?
e) What can we learn from games like Go?
f) Will computers ever beat us at games like football and tennis?
g) Would you rather play against a person or computer?
h) What questions would you like to ask Mr Lee?

Spelling

1. A world champion has <u>teedirr</u>
2. the <u>eacntni</u>, strategy board game Go
3. Some people <u>orpacme</u> Go to chess
4. computer <u>hlmgiatro</u>
5. an entity that cannot be <u>eaeddfet</u>
6. the <u>dteub</u> of A.I. in Go games
7. The game of Go <u>gotieadrni</u> in China
8. the International Go <u>eioFrtnead</u>
9. 75 member <u>sationn</u>
10. He turned <u>anssrfopeoli</u> seven years later
11. because of a "bug" in the <u>aorprgm</u>
12. much more <u>lwufpero</u>

Role Play

Role A – Go
You think Go is the best game. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their games. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): Monopoly, Angry Birds or Tic-Tac-Toe.

Role B – Monopoly
You think Monopoly is the best game. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their games. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): Go, Angry Birds or Tic-Tac-Toe.

Role C – Angry Birds
You think Angry Birds is the best game. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their games. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): Tic-Tac-Toe: Monopoly, Go or DDDDDD.

Role D – Tic-Tac-Toe
You think Tic-Tac-Toe is the best game. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their games. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): Monopoly, Angry Birds or Go.

Speaking – Games

Rank these with your partner. Put the best games at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Tag
- Angry Birds
- Snap
- Tic-Tac-Toe

- Go
- Monopoly
- Roulette
- Pictionary

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. a	5. h
6. j	7. c	8. e	9. f	10. b