Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 2 – 12th September, 2018

U.S. to spend $2 billion on artificial intelligence weapons

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180912-weapons-2.html

Contents

Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

THE READING

The USA will spend up to $2 billion on artificial intelligence (AI) weapons in the next five years. This is the most it has ever spent on AI systems for weapons. The Department of Defense wants the most advanced weapons in the world. It wants better weapons than China's and Russia's. Defense bosses want weapons generals and commanders can trust and accept. These weapons must not make mistakes. A Department of Defense official said: "We think it's a good time to seed the field of AI. We think we can accelerate two decades of progress into five years."

Some of the new weapons could make their own decisions. This means their computer systems could make a decision without any humans helping. Many people think this is dangerous and could lead to innocent lives being lost. The Defense Department said these computer systems could, "independently select and attack targets with [deadly] force". It added that weapons using AI can now choose targets on their own. Military commanders do not want to let the weapons decide on the targets to attack. The commanders want to make those decisions.

PHRASE MATCHING

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1.	The USA will spend up	a.	and accept
2.	the most it has ever	b.	time
3.	the most advanced weapons	c.	spent
4.	It wants better weapons than	d.	of progress
5.	commanders can trust	e.	in the world
6.	weapons must not	f.	China's
7.	We think it's a good	g.	to $2 billion
8.	accelerate two decades	h.	make mistakes

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1.	make a decision without any humans	a.	systems could
2.	Many people think	b.	to attack
3.	lead to innocent lives	c.	this is dangerous
4.	these computer	d.	make those decisions
5.	attack targets with deadly	e.	their own
6.	choose targets on	f.	being lost
7.	decide on the targets	g.	force
8.	commanders want to	h.	helping

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

The USA will (1) _____ $2 billion on artificial intelligence (AI) weapons in the (2) _____. This is the most it has ever spent on AI systems for weapons. The Department of Defense (3) _____ advanced weapons in the world. It wants better weapons than China's and Russia's. Defense (4) _____ generals and commanders can (5) _____. These weapons must not make mistakes. A Department of Defense official said: "We think it's a good time to seed the field of AI. We think we can accelerate two decades (6) _____ five years."

Some of the new weapons could (7) _____ decisions. This means their computer systems could make a (8) _____ humans helping. Many people think this is dangerous and could lead to innocent (9) _____. The Defense Department said these computer systems could, "independently (10) _____ targets with [deadly] force". It added that weapons using AI can now choose targets on their own. Military commanders do not (11) _____ the weapons decide on the targets to attack. The commanders want to (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/)WHERE THE SPACES ARE

TheUSAwillspendupto$2billiononartificialintelligence(AI)weaponsin

thenextfiveyears.ThisisthemostithaseverspentonAIsystemsforwea

pons.TheDepartmentofDefensewantsthemostadvancedweaponsint

heworld.ItwantsbetterweaponsthanChina'sandRussia's.Defensebo

sseswantweaponsgeneralsandcommanderscantrustandaccept.The

seweaponsmustnotmakemistakes.ADepartmentofDefenseofficialsa

id:"Wethinkit'sagoodtimetoseedthefieldofAI.Wethinkwecanacceler

atetwodecadesofprogressintofiveyears."Someofthenewweaponsco

uldmaketheirowndecisions.Thismeanstheircomputersystemscould

makeadecisionwithoutanyhumanshelping.Manypeoplethinkthisisda

ngerousandcouldleadtoinnocentlivesbeinglost.TheDefenseDepartm

entsaidthesecomputersystemscould,"independentlyselectandattac

ktargetswith[deadly]force".ItaddedthatweaponsusingAIcannowch

oosetargetsontheirown.Militarycommandersdonotwanttoletthewea

ponsdecideonthetargetstoattack.Thecommanderswanttomakethos

edecisions.

WEAPONS SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about Weapons 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) _____

U.S. to spend $2 billion on artificial intelligence weapons – 12th September, 2018
More free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

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

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____