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## **Level 5**

### **Famous scientist says A.I. could destroy us**

**9th December, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141209-stephen-hawking-5.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141209-stephen-hawking-5.html>

Professor Stephen Hawking, a renowned scientist, has warned that robots with artificial intelligence could one day mean the death of us all. He recently told the BBC in an interview that: "The development of full artificial intelligence (AI) could spell the end of the human race." The famous cosmologist was talking about an update to the app he uses to allow him to communicate. Hawking suffers from motor neuron disease (also known as ALS) and needs special technology to talk. The update to the app will predict words he might want to use based on what he previously talked about.

Hawking said that AI has helped many people. He said it is still in its early stages of development, but will be more sophisticated and could threaten our existence. He said: "It would take off on its own, and re-design itself at an ever increasing rate. Humans, who are limited by slow biological evolution, couldn't compete." Professor Hawking gave a similar warning in April 2014, saying: "One can imagine such technology outsmarting financial markets, out-inventing human researchers, out-manipulating human leaders, and developing weapons we cannot even understand."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-30290540>  
<http://www.capitalotc.com/stephen-hawking-warns-about-artificial-intelligence/26311/>  
<http://voxxi.com/2014/12/stephen-hawking-message-about-ai/>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen\\_Hawking](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Hawking)

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141209-stephen-hawking-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. a renowned                  | a. (also known as ALS)   |
| 2. the death                   | b. BBC in an interview   |
| 3. He recently told the        | c. he might want to use  |
| 4. AI could spell the          | d. scientist             |
| 5. the app he uses to allow    | e. talked about          |
| 6. motor neuron disease        | f. end of the human race |
| 7. the app will predict words  | g. of us all             |
| 8. based on what he previously | h. him to communicate    |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Hawking said that AI has         | a. evolution             |
| 2. He said it is still in its early | b. existence             |
| 3. threaten our                     | c. increasing rate       |
| 4. It would take                    | d. markets               |
| 5. re-design itself at an ever      | e. helped many people    |
| 6. biological                       | f. off on its own        |
| 7. outsmarting financial            | g. leaders               |
| 8. out-manipulating human           | h. stages of development |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141209-stephen-hawking-5.html>

Professor Stephen Hawking, (1) \_\_\_\_\_, has warned that robots with artificial intelligence (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the death of us all. He recently told the BBC (3) \_\_\_\_\_: "The development of full artificial intelligence (AI) could (4) \_\_\_\_\_ human race." The famous cosmologist was talking about an update to the app he uses to allow him to communicate. Hawking suffers from motor neuron disease (also known as ALS) (5) \_\_\_\_\_ technology to talk. The update to the app will predict words he might want to use based on what he (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Hawking said that AI has helped many people. (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in its early stages of development, but will be (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and could threaten our existence. He said: "It would take off on its own, and re-design (9) \_\_\_\_\_ increasing rate. Humans, who are limited by (10) \_\_\_\_\_, couldn't compete." Professor Hawking gave a similar warning in April 2014, saying: "One can imagine such technology outsmarting financial markets, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ researchers, out-manipulating human leaders, and (12) \_\_\_\_\_ cannot even understand."

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141209-stephen-hawking-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about artificial intelligence 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) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

*Famous scientist says A.I. could destroy us – 9th December, 2014*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

