

Unit 8 – Team challenge

Team B – AI: the next big thing?

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Host: Welcome to our programme “Tomorrow begins today”. In the near future, robots will be able to do many things that humans can do. Our guests today are discussing the consequences of artificial intelligence on our societies. Professor Woo, you are a specialist in robotics and Lynn Dodson, you are an economist. Thank you for being with us today.

Professor Woo and Lynn Dodson: Thank you.

Host: New robots can already do the housework, clean the kitchen for example. Today robots can also make decisions. So, in the future, they could do a big part of humans’ work. What do you think of this evolution?

Professor Woo: Robots will be very helpful. For instance, engineers have designed robots to conduct humanitarian missions: they can build houses, they can even rescue people. And robots assist doctors in doing some very complicated operations. Consequently, people may live much longer thanks to robots.

Lynn Dodson: I think this evolution can be dangerous. If robots can make decisions or learn new things, they will replace humans. And a lot of people will lose their jobs. There will be more poverty. Economic consequences can be disastrous. And one day, robots might even control humans.

Professor Woo: I don’t agree at all. New jobs will appear, in robotics or coding... You have to embrace the future.