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Should we fear AI?
我们应该害怕人工智能吗？

词汇：technology 科技

There is no doubt that **artificial intelligence** – or AI – has become an important part of our lives. It is no longer just a thing of **science fiction**: it's an incredible technological **breakthrough** that has changed the way we live. But there are fears that AI has become too intelligent and could be a threat to **humanity**.

This claim might sound extreme, but a letter signed by more than 1,000 technology experts, including Tesla boss Elon Musk, called on the world to **press pause** on the development of more **advanced** AI because of the risks. Estonian billionaire Jaan Tallinn, for example, who helped develop **communication app** Skype, thinks we should be cautious. And The Future of Life Institute, a not-for-profit organisation, says that there should be a temporary pause in advanced AI development, saying that "AI systems with **human-competitive** intelligence can pose **profound** risks to society and humanity."

This pessimistic outlook is supported by a report by investment bank Goldman Sachs that says AI could **replace** the equivalent of 300 million full-time jobs. But it may also mean new jobs and a **productivity** boom. We may argue that AI such as **chatbots** can help us. **State-of-the-art** ChatGPT, for example, has been helping some students write assignments. AI is allowing computers to think or act in a more human way. And **machine learning** means computers can learn what to do without being given explicit instructions. The technology is **impressive**, but as it starts to think for itself, will it **outsmart** us?

Some people are more optimistic. AI **advocates** say the tech is already delivering real social and economic benefits for people. Meanwhile, the founder of Microsoft, Bill Gates, has called on governments to work with industry to "limit the risks" of AI. But he says the technology could save lives, particularly in poorer countries. He says, "Just as the world needs its **brightest** people focused on its biggest problems, we will need to focus the world's best AIs on its biggest problems." If this happens, maybe humanity will have a future.

词汇表

artificial intelligence	人工智能，简称"AI"
science fiction	科幻小说、电影等作品
breakthrough	重大进展，突破
humanity	人类
press pause	按下暂停键，叫停
advanced	先进的
communication app	通讯应用程序
human-competitive	拥有与人类竞争能力的
profound	重大的，深刻的
replace	取代，代替
productivity	生产率
chatbot	聊天机器人
state-of-the-art	最先进的，应用最新技术的
machine learning	机器学习
impressive	给人留下深刻印象的
outsmart	在智力上胜过，比...更聪明
advocate	支持者，提倡者
brightest	最聪明的

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What have over a 1,000 technology experts demanded in a letter they signed?

2. Who said the equivalent of 300 million full-time jobs would be replaced by AI?

3. What AI technology has been helping some students to write their assignments?

4. True or false? *AI advocates say that AI will outsmart us.*

5. Who has Bill Gates asked to work together to "limit the risk" of AI development?

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. Our funding has run out, so we need to _____ on the project.

pause press	press pause	press paused	pausing press

2. The online _____ dealt with my query when the bank was shut.

advocate	science fiction	chatbot	humanity

3. I bought a _____ smartphone but it's too complicated for me to use!

state-in-the-art	state-at-the-art	art-in-the-state	state-of-the-art

4. He was the _____ boy in the school and always got top grades in his exams.

brightest	outsmart	impressive	profound

5. The airline claims to be using one of the most _____ aircraft which emits less greenhouse gas than older aircrafts.

profound	breakthrough	advanced	productivity

答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What have over a 1,000 technology experts demanded in a letter they signed?

A letter signed by more than 1,000 technology experts have called on the world to press pause on the development of more advanced AI because of the risks.

2. Who said the equivalent of 300 million full-time jobs would be replaced by AI?

A report by investment bank Goldman Sachs said AI could replace the equivalent of 300 million full-time jobs.

3. What AI technology has been helping some students to write their assignments?

ChatGPT has been helping some students write assignments.

4. True or false? *Advocates of AI say that AI will outsmart us.*

False. AI advocates say the tech is already delivering real social and economic benefits for people.

5. Who has Bill Gates asked to work together to "limit the risk" of AI development?

Bill Gates has asked governments to work with industry to "limit the risks" of AI.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. Our funding has run out, so we need to **press pause** on the project.

2. The online **chatbot** dealt with my query when the bank was shut.

3. I bought a **state-of-the-art** smartphone but it's too complicated for me to use!

4. He was the **brightest** boy in the school and always got top grades in his exams.

5. The airline claims to be using one of the most **advanced** aircraft which emits less greenhouse gas than older aircrafts.