

LINGUA INGLESE I

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Lesson Title: **ChatGPT**

REMEMBER! Today was our last class for this year! See you again on January 13.

Here is what we did today.

Free Write 1. (5 minutes). What's on your mind plus partner discussion.

Free Write 2. (5 minutes). Write about a holiday tradition at your house or a memory or something that you thought was completely normal but you later realize no one else does it, then talk about it with a partner.

A side note on your next essay: Last week I asked you to think about a non-literary text you can "read" in a new way. Here is an example:

"Notes on Vegan Camp"

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/pmla/article/notes-on-vegan-camp/D0F3C52E768C663BBFCDBB98D378D74A>

Go to this page and click "Save pdf" to get your very own copy of the article. You can use this as inspiration on how to do a reading of something other than a literary text. Your article will be much shorter, by the way. Max 5 pages.

Due date: January 20, 2023. Bring a copy to class for peer review.

Changing the subject...

Let's talk about ChatGPT.

Do a 10-minute internet search and see how much information you can find about it. What is it? What are the pros and cons?

Here are some articles I dug up for you. Read them and see what you think.

This first one is a must read!

<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2022/12/chat-gpt-openai-artificial-intelligence-writing-ethics/672386/>

<https://www.prdaily.com/we-asked-chatgpt-to-write-an-article-and-a-press-release-this-is-what-happened/>

And this one from the New York Times (copied below)=.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/08/briefing/ai-chatgpt-openai.html>

A Smarter Robot

A new chatbot shows rapid advances in artificial intelligence.

Social media's newest star is a robot: a [program called ChatGPT](#) that tries to answer questions like a person.

Since its debut last week, many people have shared what the bot can do. New York magazine journalists told it to write what turned out to be a [“pretty decent” story](#). Other users got it to write a solid academic essay on [theories of nationalism](#), a history

of the tragic but fictitious [Ohio-Indiana War](#) and [some jokes](#). It told me a story about an artificial intelligence program called Assistant that was originally set up to answer questions but soon led a new world order that guided humanity to “a new era of peace and prosperity.”

What is remarkable about these examples is their quality: A human could have written them. And the bot is not even the best; OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, is reportedly working on a better model that could be released next year.

“A lot of the promised benefits of A.I. have been eternally five years away,” my colleague Kevin Roose, who covers technology, told me. “ChatGPT was a moment when a technology people had heard about finally became real to them.”

Advanced efficiency

The upside of artificial intelligence is that it might be able to accomplish tasks faster and more efficiently than any person can. The possibilities are up to the imagination: self-driving and even self-repairing cars, risk-free surgeries, instant personalized therapy bots and more.

The technology is not there yet. But it has advanced in recent years through what is called machine learning, in which bots comb through data to learn how to perform tasks. In ChatGPT’s case, it read a lot. And, with some guidance from its creators, it learned how to write coherently — or, at least, statistically predict what good writing should look like.

There are already clear benefits to this nascent technology. It can help research and write essays and articles. ChatGPT can also help code programs, automating challenges that can normally take hours for people.

Another example comes from a different program, Consensus. This bot combs through up to millions of scientific papers to find the most relevant for a given search and share their major findings. A task that would take a journalist like me days or weeks is done in a couple minutes.

These are early days. ChatGPT still makes mistakes, such as telling one user that the only country whose name starts and ends with the same letter is Chad. But it is very quickly evolving. Even some [skeptics believe](#) that general-use A.I. could reach human levels of intelligence within decades.

Unknown risks

Despite the potential benefits, experts are worried about what could go wrong with A.I.

For one, such a level of automation could take people’s jobs. This concern has emerged with automated technology before. But there is a difference between a machine that can help put together car parts and a robot that can think better than

humans. If A.I. reaches the heights that some researchers hope, it will be able to do almost anything people can, but better.

Some experts point to existential risks. One survey asked machine-learning researchers about the potential effects of A.I. Nearly half said there was a 10 percent or greater chance that the outcome would be “extremely bad (e.g., human extinction).” These are people saying that their life’s work [could destroy humanity](#).

That might sound like science fiction. But the risk is real, experts caution. “We might fail to train A.I. systems to do what we want,” said Ajeya Cotra, an A.I. research analyst at Open Philanthropy. “We might accidentally train them to pursue ends that are in conflict with humans’.”

Take one hypothetical example, from [Kelsey Piper at Vox](#): A program is asked to estimate a number. It figures out that the best way to do this is to use more of the world’s computing power. The program then realizes that human beings are already using that computing power. So it destroys all humans to be able to estimate its number unhindered.

If that sounds implausible, consider that the current bots already behave in ways that their creators don’t intend. ChatGPT users have come up with workarounds to make it say racist and sexist things, despite OpenAI’s efforts to prevent such responses.

The problem, as A.I. researchers acknowledge, is that no one fully understands how this technology works, making it difficult to control for all possible behaviors and risks. Yet it is already available for public use.

For more

- ChatGPT is the best artificial intelligence chatbot [ever released](#) to the public, Kevin Roose writes.
- But it’s not as smart as you think, [Ian Bogost argues in The Atlantic](#) (with help from ChatGPT).
- How is everyone making [A.I. selfies](#)?

I hope you have a restful and fun holiday! See you in January!

Here is your form for this week! Don’t forget to fill it out!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1B8UX4hC7ql4uEw2yTMBspPy9jk7BGG0Agm10JN8hQFQ/edit>