

词汇: *lifestyle* 生活方式

Artificial intelligence becoming self-aware and exterminating the human race is a common theme in science fiction. But the levels of high intelligence that AI could reach is a real concern among some scientists. But with more talk of AI and smart devices in the home, what are the positives of bringing these things into your life?

Hans Rosling, a professor of international health, once spoke about the **impact** and changes that the washing machine made. The once **arduous** task of cleaning clothes by hand was taken on by a machine and **freed up** more time for other activities. There are so many smart devices that you can fill your home with. Imagine waking up to find a **piping hot**, freshly brewed cup of coffee, **spotless** floors that have been recently **vacuumed** and the house set to the perfect **temperature**. With smart devices, these things can happen while you sleep. The potential to **pre-program** and **automate** parts of your life means that you can focus on other tasks in your life.

But there is a difference between smart devices and AI. Smart devices are the things that get on with the tasks, while AI can ‘think’ or interact, and can be used to control the smart devices. There are many **voice-activated** AI systems which can control the smart devices around your home. You can ask these devices to start making coffee, **dim** the lights when they’re too bright or even make sure the house is **secure**. You can inquire as to the weather outside, ask them to **blare out** music or search the internet for you when you have a burning question about history or the latest cooking recipes. Some of these devices even have a sense of humour, and upon asking them certain questions, they will retort. In short, in some ways, they can act as company.

But how far will it go? Well, we already have **self-driving** cars and **sentient** tech that can automatically order the delivery of certain products to **restock** our fridge when we’re **running low**, but often in films and games we see **humanoid** robots taking over all of the domestic duties. It seems for now, that those things only live in our imaginations, but we could be seeing them sooner than we think.

词汇表

impact	影响
arduous	费力的
free up	腾出（时间）
 piping hot	滚烫的，热气腾腾的
spotless	一尘不染的
vacuum	用吸尘器清扫
temperature	温度
pre-program	预设
automate	使自动化
voice-activated	声控的
dim	调暗
secure	安全的
blare out	大声播放
self-driving	自动驾驶
sentient	有感应力的，智能的
restock	给（冰箱）补充食物
run low	快用完
humanoid	人形机器人

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What concerns do some scientists have about AI?
2. What was the benefit of having a washing machine, according to Hans Rosling?
3. True or False? *Smart devices cannot operate while you are asleep.*
4. What is the difference between smart devices and AI?
5. What sort of things can you ask AI to do?

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. He always _____ his music through the day! I can't concentrate.

humanoid	automate	sentient	blares out
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2. The lights are so bright. Can you _____ them, please?

piping	humanoid	dim	spotless
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3. Don't worry, I don't need to control the wheel. This car is _____.

piping	self-driving	blares out	automate
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4. Be careful how you drink that cup of coffee. It's _____ hot.

piping	secure	humanoid	dim
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5. We need to _____ the shelves as they are nearly empty.

sentient	restock	spotless	piping
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What concerns do some scientists have about AI?

The levels of high intelligence that AI could reach is actually a real concern among some scientists.

2. What was the benefit of having a washing machine, according to Hans Rosling?

The once arduous task of cleaning clothes by hand was taken on by a machine and freed up more time for other activities.

3. True or False? *Smart devices cannot operate while you are asleep.*

False. Smart devices can operate while you are asleep.

4. What is the difference between smart devices and AI?

Smart devices are the things that get on with tasks and be pre-programmed, while AI implies a level of thinking or interaction.

5. What sort of things can you ask AI to do?

You can ask these devices to start making coffee, dim the lights when they're too bright or even make sure you house is secure.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. He always **blares out** his music through the day! I can't concentrate.

2. The lights are so bright. Can you **dim** them, please?

3. Don't worry, I don't need to control the wheel. This car is **self-driving**.

4. Be careful how you drink that cup of coffee. It's **piping** hot.

5. We need to **restock** the shelves as they are nearly empty.