ROBOTICS

PEPPER ...the Emotional Robot

Imagine a robot which can tell how you feel just by listening to the sound of your voice and looking at your body language. It sounds like something from a sci-fi film but this technology is already here! Meet Pepper, the 'social robot' which can understand human emotions!

Pepper was created by a French company called Aldebaran in 2014 and went on sale in Japan in 2015, and in the USA the following year. And even though it costs more than $2,000, the robot is very popular! Pepper is a humanoid robot. This means that it looks a bit like a person. It is 1.2m tall with a head and two arms, and two wheels to move around. Its head has got four microphones and two HD cameras (one in its mouth and one on its forehead), and these allow it to move around and connect with people. Pepper can understand 20 languages and it can know if it's talking to a man, woman or child. Also, of course, the robot can understand how a person is feeling by the tone of their voice and their body language. Then, if you're feeling sad, it tries to make you happy! It can tell you a joke, sing a song and even dance to cheer you up!

Pepper might not sound very useful – after all, it can't cook food or help with the housework. But in many places this robot is making a big difference in people's lives. Two hospitals in Belgium, for example, use Pepper as a receptionist. These upgraded models can do various jobs around the hospitals.

Check these words

body language, emotion, humanoid, forehead, connect, upgraded

1 [10.4.1] What is artificial intelligence? Read the definition to find out.

> artificial intelligence (n) = the ability of computers or machines to have some qualities that the human mind has, such as decision-making and problem-solving, etc

Reading

3 [10.4.2] **Read the text and for questions (1-4) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).**

1 The first Pepper robots were bought in

A 2000.	C 2015.
B 2014.	D 2016.

2 Pepper can see using cameras on its

A head.	C wheels.
B arms.	D hands.

3 In two Belgian hospitals Pepper robots

A find out patients' illnesses.
B help children with schoolwork.
C have replaced human nurses.
D help patients find their way around.

4 Pepper's creators say that it

A can learn on its own.
B can't accept new software.
C doesn't live for a long time.
D will be replaced by a new robot.