
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English worksheet

Would you like a robot companion?



Listen to the full episode here: <https://bbc.in/46lBKQe>

1. Look at the cover image and title of the episode. What do you think this episode is about? What do you know about this topic already? What vocabulary do you associate with this topic?

2. Now listen to the first two minutes of the episode.

- What do the presenters say the episode is about?
- What is this week's question? What do you think the answer is?

3. Now listen to the whole episode. As you listen, write down the six items of vocabulary. What do they mean?

a) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

b) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

c) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

d) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

e) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

f) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English worksheet

Would you like a robot companion?



4. What did you learn that was surprising or new in this episode?

5. Answer the quiz questions. Listen again or use the transcript to help you.

1. When did Australian engineer Grace Brown build her home companion robot Abi?
 - a) during her PhD studies at university
 - b) during the Covid pandemic
 - c) during her summer holidays
2. Which word means 'having the appearance and behaviour of a human'?
 - a) robotics
 - b) cyborg
 - c) humanoid
3. How would you feel if you were 'taken aback'?
 - a) sad
 - b) surprised
 - c) angry
4. "I can't control this supermarket shopping trolley – it goes wherever it wants. It seems to have ____!"
 - a) a goal in mind
 - b) a frame of mind
 - c) a mind of its own
5. What unusual ability does home companion robot Abi have?
 - a) she can do a backflip
 - b) she can speak over 100 languages
 - c) she can blow bubbles from her hand
6. Which adjective means 'bold, confident and cheeky'?
 - a) sassy
 - b) classy
 - c) bossy

BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English worksheet

Would you like a robot companion?



6. Write your own sentences using the vocabulary.

7. Answer the following questions.

- What are three things you have learnt from this episode?
- How does this topic make you feel?
- Give three examples relevant to your life using the vocabulary.

BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English worksheet

Would you like a robot companion?



Answers

3.

- a. humanoid – having the appearance and behaviour of a human
- b. sassy – bold, confident and cheeky
- c. be taken aback – be surprised or shocked by something
- d. has a mind of its own – seems to be controlling the way it behaves or moves independently, without human control
- e. a splash of colour – a bit of colour added to brighten up something which is dull or unexciting
- f. expressive – showing what someone thinks or feels

5. 1b, 2c, 3b, 4c, 5c, 6a

BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English worksheet

Would you like a robot companion?



Teacher's notes

This worksheet is standardised so that you can amend and use it as appropriate with your classes.

Some topics may be difficult for learners, especially those which could be upsetting or cause offence. Please be mindful of this when using this worksheet, and adapt it as necessary.

Extension activities

- Role-play an interview with an 'interviewer' and an 'expert' on this topic.
- Write a short story or article using the vocabulary from this episode.
- Read original articles on this topic.
- For homework: If it is available in your country, download and listen to the original podcast these extracts were taken from.