

Examens écrits session 2 - semestre 2 - 2020-2021

Langue : Anglais	Niveau : 2 / A2	Durée : 1h30
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Japanese Stores Test Robot Workers

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Adapted from *voanews.com*



In August, a robot will begin placing food and drinks on store shelves¹ in Japan. This is a test, and the robot maker hopes that it will help create a wave of automation in retail² stores. Automation is the process of using robots or computers, instead of people, for some jobs.

The manufacturer of the robot worker is a Tokyo-based company called Telexistence.

Following the test, store operator FamilyMart says it plans to use such robots at 20 stores in and around Tokyo by 2022.

One of FamilyMart's competitors is the retail chain Lawson. That company will be testing its first robot in September, according to Telexistence.

At first, people will operate the robots from a distance. These operations will continue until the machines' artificial intelligence (AI) can learn to copy human-like movements.

¹ shelves: the surface on which you place merchandise in shops.

² retail = a store, a shop for the general public.

Jin Tomioka is the robot maker's chief executive. He noted how the technology lets people sense and experience places other than where they are.

The idea, called telexistence, was first proposed around 40 years ago by the company's co-founder, University of Tokyo professor Susumu Tachi.

Telexistence calls its robot the Model T, after the famous Ford Motor car. The Ford Model T began the era of mass car use around 100 years ago.

The robot looks somewhat like an Australian animal -- a kangaroo. The unusual design is meant to help people feel at ease. Many people feel uneasy around robots that look too human.

It is still rare to see robots in public. They also struggle with simple jobs in unexpected settings.

Solving that problem could help businesses in some countries, especially those in rapidly aging Japan, deal with fewer workers. Businesses hit by the coronavirus may also need to operate with fewer people.

Since the coronavirus crisis began, hotels, restaurants and even oil companies have contacted Telexistence, Tomioka said.

Niki Harada is an official at Japan's Restaurant Workers Union. "It's difficult to tell now what impact robots might have in restaurants - it could mean fewer people, but it could also create new jobs," Harada said.

Although FamilyMart will still need people to control its robots, operators can be anywhere. The operators can also be people who would not normally work in stores, said Tomohiro Kano, a general manager.

Takeo Kanade is an AI and robotics scientist at Carnegie Mellon University in the United States. Kanade joined Telexistence in February as an adviser.

Future telexistence robots could be used in hospitals so doctors could perform operations from a distance, he said.

However, he added, it might take another 20 years before robots can work in people's homes.

"In order for robots to be really usable at home," he said, "we really have to be able to communicate."

COMPREHENSION (15)

A. Answer the following questions and quote the text to justify your answer.

1. Robots are massively replacing workers in Japan. True or false? (1)
2. These robots are completely autonomous. True or false? (1)
3. The pandemic has had an impact on the demand for robots. True or false? (1)
4. Operators can work from home. True or false? (1)

B. Answer the following questions in your own words. Base your answer on the information from the text but do not quote the text.

1. What is "Telexistence" (with a capital T)? And what is « telexistence » (without a capital T)? (3)
2. What's the name of the robot? Why? (2)
3. Why does it look like a kangaroo? (2)
4. Give two reasons why there are fewer workers in some countries. (2)
5. Give two possible uses for robots in the future. (2)

GRAMMAR / VOCABULARY (35)

**Pour chaque exercice, veuillez à bien numéroter vos réponses.
Vos réponses doivent être sous forme de phrases complètes (ne vous contentez pas d'écrire un mot ou une partie de la phrase).**

A. Predictions. Use these words to make predictions about robots in ten years. (9)

Example: robots / help people > Robots will help people.

1. robots / important
2. robots / not / dangerous
3. robots / definitely / not / expensive
4. robots / certainly / do housework
5. robots / do operations?
6. robots / possibly / help the police
7. robots / probably / not teach children
8. robots / probably / not care for old people
9. when / robots / explore Mars?

B. Find and correct mistakes in these sentences. Write full sentences. (5)

1. Robots will to visit other planets. > Robots _____
2. Robots might probably teach children.
3. Robots likely may fight in wars.
4. Robots won't probably be expensive.
5. Robots may becoming our friends.

C. Future intentions. Use the verbs in brackets to complete the sentences. Write full sentences. (3)

1. In the future, I ... earn enough money to buy a robot. (would like)
2. The creator of telepresence ... develop more and more automated solutions for everyday life. (hope)
3. Some people ... use robots to fight crime. (be going)

D. Verb patterns. Put the verb in brackets in the correct form. (5)

1. Many people stopped (work) during the pandemic.
2. Some people keep (repeat) the same mistakes.
3. My dad suggested (buy) a robot vacuum cleaner.
4. Children enjoy (play) with robot pets.
5. I'm really looking forward to (meet) these new robots.

E. Allow. Make sentences using the verb "allow" and the following prompts. (2)

1. The pandemic / robotics companies / develop new models of humanoid robots.
2. Cameras and sensors / robots / recognize human faces and activities.

F. Quantifiers. Choose the correct quantifier. (6)

1. Only *few* / *little* robots look exactly like humans.
2. Retail companies don't need *much* / *many* robots for the moment.
3. Not *much* / *many* people feel comfortable with humanoid robots.
4. There is *much* / *a lot of* / *many* work to do to rebuild the economy.
5. There isn't *much* / *many* doubt that robots are transforming the economy.
6. Very *little* / *few* energy is necessary to operate robots.

G. -ing / -ed adjectives. Choose the correct adjective (5)

1. Working in a factory is really *tiring* / *tired*.
2. The professor talked about robots for two hours, I was so *boring* / *bored*!
3. The idea of humanoid robots is really *frightening* / *frightened* to me.
4. Customers are generally *amazing* / *amazed* when they realise that the shop assistant is a robot.
5. Scientists who create these things are *fascinating* / *fascinated* to me.

EXPRESSION (20)

Choose ONE topic. Write about 120 words.

- **TOPIC A:** Is it a good idea to replace human workers with robots? Do you think your future job could be done by a robot? Why / why not? Will humans still need to work in the future?
- **TOPIC B:** Do you think robots and humans will be friends in the future? How will they interact? Will you let a robot look after your child or take care of your aging parents? Why / why not?

Quel que soit le sujet choisi, utilisez:

- **3 modaux de prédiction**
- **2 verbes exprimant l'intention**
- **Des quantifieurs**
- **Au moins 2 phrases négatives et une interrogative.**