

GRAMMAR SPOT

- Which predictions are most sure, a or b? Which are less sure?
 - AI *might* / *may* / *could* change our lives.
 - AI *will* / *is going to* change our lives.
- Which future form in the conversation below expresses ... ?
 - an intention
 - a spontaneous decision
 - an arrangement
 - a prediction

A I'm **speaking** at the conference tomorrow.
 B Are you going with David?
 A Yes. And I'm **going to speak** to him about his negative attitude while we're there.
 B Oh, he **won't listen** to what you say.
 A Well, I'll **speak** to his manager then.

Grammar reference 8.1–8.3 **p149**



Stephen Hawking Cosmologist

“Success in creating AI would be the biggest event in human history. Unfortunately, it⁵ _____ also be the last.”

Hawking worries that the development of artificial ‘superintelligence’⁶ _____ be the end of the human race.



Nigel Shadbolt AI Professor

“The danger is not artificial intelligence, it’s natural stupidity.”

Shadbolt agrees that AI machines⁷ _____ do things we don’t expect, but says they’re⁸ _____ take control unless we’re stupid enough to invite them to.

Kim Simmons AI Consultant

“AI can help us to focus on what humans are uniquely good at.”

AI⁹ _____ mean that more jobs are done by machines, but Simmons says they¹⁰ _____ be able to compete with us in creativity and human-to-human skills.



What do you think will happen?

- Work in groups. Ask questions about the future with *Do you think ... will ...*? Answer with *might*, *could*, *may*, or *will*.
 - intelligent machines / take over many of our jobs?
Do you think intelligent machines will take over many of our jobs?
Yes, I think they will, definitely. I don't think they will.
I'm not sure. They might take over some.
 - we / ever find a cure for cancer?
 - people / live for longer and longer?
 - the world's population / continue to grow?
 - robots / become a danger to humanity?
 - we / be able to prevent climate change?
 - new sources of energy / be found?
 - aliens / make contact with us one day?

Practice

Discussing grammar

- Work with a partner. Decide which is the correct verb form.
 - A *Are you driving* / *Could you drive* to France next week?
 B We're not sure. We *will* / *might* fly this time.
 - A *Won't you* / *Aren't you going to* take a jacket?
 B No, I'm not. The forecast said it's *going to* / *might* be very warm today.
 - A Do you fancy going to the cinema this evening?
 B Sorry, I'll *work* / *'m working* late tonight. How about tomorrow night? I'll *call* / *'m going to call* you.
 - A What *are you doing* / *will you do* Saturday night?
 B I'm not sure yet. I *will* / *may* go round to a friend's house to watch the football, or he *will* / *may* come round to mine.
 - A *Are you not going to have* / *May you not have* any wine?
 B No, I'll *drive* / *'m driving* everyone home.
 - A Are you still having problems with your neighbours?
 B Yes, they've been getting worse. We're *going to* / *will* try and move.
 - A Oh no! 3–0 down at half-time!
 B Come on, you never know. I think we're *going to* / *could* still win.
 - A You're out every night! You *won't pass* / *aren't passing* those exams next month, you know!
 B I know. I *might* / *'ll* work harder nearer the time, I promise.

8.4 Listen and check. Practise the conversations, paying attention to stress and intonation.

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