

## Will My Next Teacher be a Bot?



Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been the subject of plenty of articles proclaiming the end of the job market as we know it, robotics and software development bearing the brunt of the soothsayers' gloomy outlook on employment.

For many years we have seen education moving away from tradition and towards a more technology based environment. So, is it time for the teacher to pick up a smart device and learn a new skill?

Learning has never been easier, if you want to learn a language just download the excellent free app [Duolingo](#) and within weeks you can be holding basic conversations in your chosen language. The learning process is so engaging and interactive that schools are using the app in classes. This seemingly simple little app is anything but, it uses voice recognition, bots (real time interactive chats), written (keypad/phone) and intuitive translation and gives rewards and encouragement to keep going. So, how many Russian or French language teachers do you think Duolingo will displace? My guess is none, Just yet!!!

But, we can learn almost anything we want these days without going anywhere near a classroom, "I'll google it" is well and truly entrenched in our society now. These days we don't even need to type searches, we just ask Siri. If we don't even want to log-on we simply shout over to Alexa, she (can't believe I call a device "she"! ) is sat in the corner 24/7 just waiting for your command!

Do you need a mechanic to change that awkward to get to bulb in your car? Probably not, chances are you will use "YouTube" and have someone demonstrate how to get to the bulb and change it, without breaking any of those bits of plastic that seem to be there just to stop you.

If you want to rustle up a meal for those friends that are coming over, you will probably go on-line for ideas and download a detailed recipe along with the shopping list.

For decades, we have sat in front of our monitors, on a one to one basis and ploughed through Computer Based Training (CBT). These days it is cloud based, interactive, always up-to-date and ever improving. We train Surgeons, Pilots, F1 drivers and even Astronauts on simulators before letting them loose on the real thing.

So, the future of education will almost certainly be Bots, Apps, AI etc. the teacher will be replaced by a robot. But there will be technicians making sure the tech works and then there are all the people required to keep developing and improving the tech.

There would be no 'teacher's pet', no apple for the teacher, no thank you cards at the end of term. There would be no parents complaining that Matt-i, the maths bot doesn't like my little Johnny!! Would there?

If you think Bots in the classroom are for the future you would be wrong, they are already being used in South Korea! Not just one type either, they have a short one, with a human face, for the younger students and another, slightly more authoritarian one, for the older kids. Take a look at the pics.....



I think if some of my teachers had been Bot's I might have scored higher in some subjects! They look more animated, and interesting, than some of the teachers that taught me!

What about you?

Phil – ATB team