Academic English UK
www.academic-englishuk.com

Why AI isn't going to become conscious

EXAMPLE

[listening comprehension questions]

https://www.ted.com/talks/anil_seth_why_ai_isn_t_going_to_become_conscious

Author: Anil Seth
Date: April 2026
Time: 14.57
Location: TED TALKS
Level: ***** [B1/B2/C1]
Link: https://www.ted.com/talks/anil_seth_why_ai_isn_t_going_to_become_conscious

Check these words and phrases before listening:

Key vocabulary

1) Mary Shelley's Frankenstein
2) [redacted]
3) Ava in Alex Garland's Ex Machina
4) [redacted]
5) Narcissus
6) Silicon
7) Claude / ChatGPT
8) [redacted]
9) Algorithm
10) [redacted]
11) Consciousness
12) [redacted]
13) Superseded
14) Oblivion
15) [redacted]
16) Myth
17) Simulate
18) [redacted]
19) Flesh-and-blood
20) Cortex
21) [redacted]
22) Neuron
23) Metabolism
24) [redacted]
25) Consequential
26) [redacted]
27) Hubris
28) [redacted]

TED Talks Test Questions

EXAMPLE

Aim: *to develop the students' ability to listen to a 10 min+ lecture, to take notes and then use those notes to answer some comprehension questions.*

Lesson Time: *Approximately 1:30-2:00 hours*

1.Lead in

- Ask Students to discuss the 'title' and predict the content of the lecture.
- Ask students to write down key terms / language from their discussions.
- Feed in / check key vocabulary.

Three types of lesson

Lesson#1: [challenging]
1. Students listen once & take notes.
2. Give the students 5 minutes to tidy their notes.
3. Students listen again and add to their notes (use a different colour pen).
4. Distribute questions. Set 20-25 minutes to answer.
5. Feedback: distribute or project answers.

Lesson #2: [medium]
1. Students listen once & take notes.
2. Distribute questions: Set 15 minutes for students to answer the questions from their notes.
3. Students listen again and answer the missed questions as they listen.
4. Give the students an extra 10 minutes to consolidate answers.
5. Feedback: distribute or project answers.

Lesson #3: [easier]

1. Distribute questions. Students have 10 minutes to read through the questions.
2. Students listen and answer the questions.
3. Give the students 5 minutes to tidy their answers.
4. Students listen again. They check their answers & answer any missed questions.
5. Give the students 5-10 minutes to tidy their answers.
6. Feedback: distribute or project answers.

Why AI isn't going to become conscious

Take your notes here:

Why AI isn't going to become conscious

Take your notes here:

Why AI isn't going to become conscious

EXAMPLE

Answer the following questions:

1. According to the talk, what is the main difference between intelligence and consciousness?

2. Why do humans [redacted] AI will automatically become conscious?

3. What comparison does the [redacted] and [redacted]?

4. Explain the [redacted] the speaker mentions.

5. Why [redacted] hardware [redacted] same with the mind and the brain?

6. How does the speaker [redacted] argument?

7. What biological [redacted] experience?

8. What is [redacted] that only *seem* [redacted]?

9. How can conscious-[redacted] vulnerable?

10. What does the [redacted] ways"?

Total Score __ / 10

Academic English UK
www.academic-englishuk.com

Critical Thinking Questions B1-B2 Level

EXAMPLE

1. Will AI ever be conscious? Why? Why not?

2. The speaker says that a [redacted] What is he trying to explain about AI by using this example?

3. Why does the speaker think we [redacted] have feelings, [redacted] same about AI that studies science data?

4. The talk says the [redacted] real [redacted] computer chips?

5. What does the [redacted] because they *seem* like they have feelings?

Notes

Academic English UK
www.academic-englishuk.com

Critical Thinking Questions C1-C2 Level

EXAMPLE

1. Question: The speaker states that language models only "simulate" consciousness and that humans are "built to be seduced" by their own reflections. In what ways do modern AI interfaces encourage us to project humanity onto them, and how might this change human-to-human relationships?

2. Question: Consider the [redacted]. How have technological metaphors throughout history (plumbing, [redacted], computers) [redacted]?

3. Question: The talk suggests [redacted] create technological wonder and keep share prices high. Do you think the current public anxiety about AI [redacted] strategy [redacted]?

4. Question: If an AI achieves a level of [redacted], [redacted] and ones", do we have a [redacted] with kindness? Why or why not?

5. Question: The speaker argues that real [redacted] cells (artificial life) that can replicate metabolism, would that entity have a better chance of being [redacted]

Notes

Why AI isn't going to become conscious ANSWERS

EXAMPLE

1. Question: According to the talk, what is the main difference between intelligence and consciousness?

- **Answer:** Intelligence is about "doing" and solving problems, such as puzzles or tricky situations. On the other hand, consciousness is about "feeling and being," which includes sensory experiences and emotional awareness.

ALL ANSWERS IN PAID VERSION…