PDF Contents

1. Episode Transcript

Introduction

Hello listeners, welcome back to Luke's English Podcast. How are you doing today? I hope you're doing fine. So welcome back to my podcast for learners of English all around the world.

The idea with these episodes is that they give you something that you can listen to regularly in order to practise your English. So let me tell you about what you can expect from this episode. So this one is a conversation with my brother.

My brother James is back on the podcast. This time we're talking about the subject of artificial intelligence again. That's AI, artificial intelligence.

We're talking about this again and the central question that we will be discussing is whether the AI bubble is bursting. Is the AI bubble bursting? Now let me explain what that means. So a bubble, let me just describe the kind of literal meaning of a bubble and then the more metaphorical meaning of the word bubble as it's used in economics or business or technology.

So in literal terms, a bubble is a round thing filled with air, right? It's not a balloon. A balloon is something made of rubber and if it's your birthday or someone's birthday, you inflate the balloons, right? That's balloon. But a bubble is probably made from soapy water, water with soap in it.

You might blow bubbles from a bottle of soapy water in the garden on a nice sunny day. The children love it. You take the little plastic hoop, little plastic ring.

It goes into the soapy water and then you blow air into it and bubbles come out, right? So you blow air into the bubble. The bubble gets bigger as it fills with air, but then eventually the soapy skin of the bubble becomes too thin to contain all the air and it bursts, pop. So this is a bubble, literally a bubble.

But in economics or in business, a bubble refers to a situation where the price or value of something like houses or stocks in the stock market or maybe a new technology. So the price or value of that thing rises very, very quickly. It inflates and it rises, the value rises far beyond its real basic value.

And this is usually because of hype or speculation. So that's a situation in economics where the value or price of something gets bigger and bigger and bigger to the point where it's unrealistic. And during a bubble, confidence in that market, for example, if it's the housing market, so confidence in the value of those houses, the prices of those houses, confidence is very high.

Prices keep going up. This attracts even more investors. People continue to buy or invest in this thing and this creates a self-reinforcing cycle, causing the bubble to grow bigger and bigger.

However, this growth can't continue. And when people start to realise that the value of this thing has been exaggerated and then confidence in this thing drops, then

pop, the bubble bursts and all of the value drops out of the market. This means that the market collapses.

Prices fall rapidly. Sometimes prices fall dramatically as people rush to sell whatever it is they've been buying or investing in. This leads to people losing because they can't sell at the same price that they bought it at.

And basically everything falls back down to normal, realistic prices or values. For example, a bubble in the housing market, right, the price of houses, in a bubble in that situation, house prices rise and rise. The bubble expands.

Sellers and agents keep raising the price. The bubble continues to expand. People believe houses in this area are really special and will be more and more valuable in the future until eventually people just can't afford to buy anymore and the system collapses, the bubble bursts and prices kind of drop again.

A lot of people probably lose money in the process. It's the same with new technologies. For example, the dot-com bubble.

Do you remember that? In the early days of the internet, the internet opened up a kind of brand new market with a lot of potential. People believed that internet-based companies with dot-com in their name were suddenly incredibly valuable and were going to be the future of business, opening up a whole new area of business and that they would be very successful in this new online world. And so people invested a lot of money in these companies, paying a lot of money to buy stocks or shares in dot-com companies, right? Investors poured money into any company with dot-com in the name, regardless of whether the company actually made a profit.

And when it became clear that many of these start-up companies had no actual viable business model, the stock market crashed, the value of the companies dropped and the bubble burst. So that's like a housing bubble, the dot-com bubble. So this brings us to artificial intelligence.

AI, I think, probably became very well known for everyone about three or four years ago, especially with the introduction of these large language models like ChatGPT, which was launched by OpenAI just a few years ago. OpenAI has invested billions of dollars into its technology. It hasn't even started making a profit yet.

Since then, many strong claims have been made about AI. These include both positive and extremely negative predictions. And you could argue that all of this is a form of hype to increase how we understand AI and how we understand the value of AI, right? So there's been a lot of hype into what AI can do, what it will do, how it will affect the future, okay? So questions, are the big predictions about AI really true? I mean, you've probably heard them.

Some of them are so big, they talk about a kind of end-of-the-world sort of scenario. That's how powerful people say that AI will be, that it's going to become more intelligent than humans, that it will somehow take over the world, that sort of thing. Or at least it's going to remove something like 80% of jobs in the world.

You know, we look at this technology, and the way it's been described, it looks like it's going to utterly change everything about our world. So are these predictions really true, or are they just exaggerated? Is this all hype? And if it is hype, why? So these are all the sorts of things that we're going to be talking about in this conversation. A little bit of information about my brother James.

So his name is James, and he's my brother. There you go. He's a long-term regular guest on the podcast.

He's been on the show for many, many years.

So the focus of our conversation is the gap between what AI promises and what it actually delivers. We're giving a critical perspective on current AI developments.

Now, some listeners listening to this, some of you might strongly believe in AI. You might work in technology, or you might just be someone who is really personally invested in AI. You might really believe in it.

And so for you, this conversation might just sound like two guys complaining about artificial intelligence. That's not really the idea. That's not what we're trying to do.

What we're really trying to do is to assess the real value of AI today and what tech companies are trying to achieve with AI. Now, if you're watching on YouTube, you will see that the actual conversation part of this doesn't have video. It's just the audio version of the conversation between James and me.

But you will see subtitles on the screen, so you can read what you're hearing while you're hearing it if you want to. Audio listeners, you don't need to worry about the visual side of things. You can just focus on your listening skills.

Just focus on the sound of English being spoken. But a transcript is available for you. There's a link in the description.

Try to notice, as you listen to this, try to notice the way that we argue our points. I mean, the specific ways that we word our arguments and the points that we're making, including both positive and negative things. Try to notice how we provide examples of the things that we're talking about.

Try to notice any specific language for talking about AI and the industry, and for talking about issues and problems relating to AI today. As I said, a PDF transcript is available if you want to search for specific things that you've heard, or just to read it later to consolidate your learning if you want to. I'll speak to you again at the end of this conversation.

Obviously, it's quite a long episode. Don't feel that you have to listen to it all in one single go. You could treat this like an audiobook, if you like, where you just listen to a bit, stop, do something else, and then come back to it at another time and continue listening.

But I'll speak to you again at the end. I hope you enjoy the conversation. One other thing, you'll notice that we don't get straight into the subject of AI at the beginning.

We had to, for some reason, talk about what my brother ate for breakfast on the particular day that we recorded this, and you will discover the highly nutritious foods that James ate in order to provide him with the nutritional value and energy he needed to be able to do this conversation effectively. I'll let you discover the disgusting thing that my brother ate for breakfast on that particular day. That's enough introduction for me.

Hope you enjoy the episode. I'll speak to you again at the end. But for now, let's get started.

And here we go.

Conversation

How are you doing today? I'm fine thanks. Just had a, breakfast of a lovely white chocolate creme egg. I can't believe you ate a Cadbury's creme egg for breakfast. A white chocolate creme egg, which is even more disgusting than a normal one. I have to explain what a creme egg is. I'm sure they have them in other countries, but it's just a, a chocolate egg full of fondant icing type stuff, which is, it's meant to replicate an egg white and yolk.

It's really quite disgusting for a number of reasons. But my girlfriend got some from the supermarket on, on special because Easter is over now, so they're slashing the price of all the Easter eggs. But I think Cadbury's aren't selling as well as they used to over here. because they sold it to the Americans.

Did they? What, Cadbury's owned by America, Americans? And they've changed their recipe. Really people don't like it. And apparently it tastes of bleach, it tastes of, fungus allegedly. Some people are saying. Bleach and fungus. That is not a good combination of flavors at all. It's not what you want from your chocolate eggs, is it?

I don't care. As long as it's massively sugary and bad for you. I'll, I'll eat it. So yeah, the chocolate egg, because we're recording this in April, Easter weekend was this weekend we've just finished. And so it's been a lot of chocolate and chocolate eggs and of course all of the, the eggs gets sold in supermarkets and then as soon as Easter's over all the, the prices of the eggs get slashed.

So you can get cut price eggs, chocolate eggs. Yes. And the, and the, and the creme egg is a sort of a British institution, although it is objectively disgusting. Imagine a sort of egg, real size egg, like realistic size, but it's thick chocolate. And then inside. James, as you said, to replicate the in inside of an actual egg.

It's kind of like this white, sugary fondant stuff, which is just sort of like, I don't know what it is, it's sugar and all sorts of other nasty things. I did hear that it's actually created using fungus to create it, but I don't know if that's true. All sorts of things. Use fungus. I mean, you know, quorn that vegetable veg, veggie meat, substitute.

Mm-hmm. Quorn with a Q that's made from some kind of mold, I think. But this is the future though, isn't it? This is the future. We're going to be eating insects and mold. Yeah, I don't know about that. Insect protein powder and mold. This is what we're going to be living on. I've actually tried some insects food, at Oaxaca.

Mexican food chAIn here in the uk. They offered us. Would you like I think a crickets dip or something. It was like a salsa made from crickets. Oh yeah. How was it Just tasted of salsa really just, I mean, you know, I don't know what cr Well, I suppose I do know what crickets taste like now to taste like vinegar.

Well, especially where they've been covered in vinegar to make them palatable. Anyway, we, we we're, we're going off on a massive tangent already, aren't we? This is not the subject of this conversation. We're not talking about eating insects in the future of food manufacturing and stuff like that. But anyway, I'm glad that you had a really nutritious breakfast and that you're ready to do this episode.

We're going to talk about AI again. I say again because I've done a few episodes about it, but we're going to take a slightly different angle on things. in this episode. I should say at the beginning, that obviously James and I we're not tech specialists. You know, we don't, work in the tech industry.

We're not tech bros. We're not tech bros. We are bros. But, you know, literally low, low tech bros. That's good. Low tech bros. Exactly. So we're going to talk about AI and how things are going basically in the world of AI compared to how everyone was talking about it several years ago. We're going to talk about how much we use it, what we think of it personally and stuff in a minute, and then we'll go onto the wider stuff about the situation with AI and the AI bubble and all that sort of thing.

I want to do a little introduction at the beginning now in November, 2024. I did an episode which was called The Existential Threat of AI to Human Civilization, and it was quite terrifying. In that one, I talked about an interview that Geoffrey Hinton had done with the BBC. Geoffrey Hinton is the guy that has been on lots of different podcasts talking about these terrifying predictions of the profound changes that AI is going to bring about in human society.

Isn't he supposed to be the godfather of AI or something? The godfather of AI. That's right. Where did that come from? He was one of the early developers of it or something. British Canadian computer scientist, cognitive scientist, cognitive psychologist, and Nobel Prize laureate, known for his work on artificial neural networks, which earned him the title, the Godfather of AI.

I think he used to work for Google, quit his job at Google, and then for some reason decided to just kind of become this interview guy. He kind of went on all the podcasts he's on, he was on Diary of a CEO and interviewed on BBC Newsnight and stuff with all of these terrifying predictions about the future, of AI.

Talking about things like massive job losses, AI controlled weapons, wiping out humanity and various other things. But were his comments all part of a kind of scam that we've been exposed to over the last couple of years? And are these outlandish predictions really true, or are they just exaggerated? And why? All of us have been living with AI in our lives for a few years now.

Most obviously, in the form of generative LLMs, large language models like ChatGPT, which was first open to the public about three and a half years ago. I think probably it was the arrival of ChatGPT, which kind of brought all of this to the forefront and made us all talk about it. I think probably all of us use AI to an extent.

There are various forms of it, but I think it's probably the chat bots that we're most familiar with. You can't actually avoid it. You can't avoid AI. I mean, it's built into Google. It's built into all the flipping phones. You know, you type something into your phone, it gives, gives you an AI synopsis before you get your search results.

It's in your WhatsApp. It's bloody everywhere, isn't it? Yeah, that's right. WhatsApp. Whether you want it or not, you can't turn it off. Gemini, Grok, Claude, ChatGPT, which is a terrible name, isn't it? ChatGPT. I still can't remember what GPT stands for General Piss Taking Generative... I don't know. What does GPT I'll, I'll tell you, but it's a terrible name because like it's a real mouthful.

Chat. GPT, like people can't say it. Have you, how many times have you heard people mispronouncing it and calling it chat? BGT or GBT or something? Generative Pretrained Transformer, that's what it means. What a catchy title. Transformer. Yeah. Weird because it transforms, transforms other people's, uh, creative work into money.

Yeah, so anyway, we all know them, even if we don't use them intentionally. AI is being used all around us for various things. AI in the tech world is massive. It reaches very, very far. There's huge, astronomical amounts of money being thrown around. In preparation for this episode, I listened to lots of interviews with tech experts talking about companies investing in AI subscriptions or investing in building their own AI systems.

And it all costs a phenomenal amount of money. There's been a lot of hype around it, a lot of people in the industry with very big claims about it. A lot of scary predictions too. But at the moment. The trend seems to be that people are not seeing a huge return on their investment. So how much of what we think about AI is just hype?

Why would AI be hyped anyway? And how, and what is our actual experience of using AI? We're a bit late to the game here with this subject about the AI bubble bursting. We're a bit late to the game because people have been talking about this for months. But this is a learning English podcast. We're not tech bros.

We are low tech bros. So there you go. Listeners, I hope that you're able to follow this whole conversation, and that you're able to pick out bits of vocabulary to talk about AI, talk about using it and the social issues relating to it. We are very interested in your comments. I'm sure I've got people listening to this in various countries around the world who work in the tech industry and who probably have insights that perhaps we don't have.

So please feel free to get in the comment section and write your comments. There's a PDF transcript available for this episode. If you want to check it out, if you want to check any words or phrases that you've heard, um, it's a good idea to go through that, have a little read, and you could find lots of bits of good English, good, good English that you could add to your active vocab.

The link for the PDF is in the description. So first, some general questions. James, do you use AI? I have done, really just to try it out. I can't say I use it very much in my actual productive work life or music. I mean. When it first came out, I did spend a bit of time on the image generation stuff, and I found it pretty mind blowing.

And it's quite scary. I find quite eerie. You know, people say it's, but it is eerie. You know, you don't really know how these images are formed. You know, they're not drawn in a normal way, like a graphics package, and then they're just sort of imagined and then they just sort of, well, they're composite images from millions of other images that kind of are sort of somehow fused together.

I don't quite know how it works. So, you know, I don't think anyone could fully explain to me how it really works, but, find it very otherworldly and strange and you can come up with all sorts of things. Like give me an image of a sort of, you know, a Viking ship on an English beach, and it'll do that and it looks really atmospheric and weird and, and there's always things, things slightly wrong with them, you know, as well.

Mm-hmm. So I spent a bit of time messing around with that kind of thing. Funny. This is really freaky, you know. Yeah, it is, isn't it? When it comes to actually useful stuff, I've done a few. I mean, I've noticed as soon as AI came out, all the, all the music album covers on Bandcamp, suddenly there's thousands of AI generated images and you can kind of tell however good they are.

You can still tell, can't you, that it's AI generated. It's just got this weird look to it that you can't quite put your finger on. That's you just, well, that's AI. Yeah. And however impressive it is, it's still got that look to it and it just sort of, it feels like cheating somehow. So I made a point of not doing mine in AI, except for one example, I wanted a patch of grass for something to be sitting on, right.

I couldn't find the, quite the right image on stock photo libraries. I wanted a circle, circle, stone within a patch of grass. That was one instance where I actually was useful because I just wanted some grass, a very specific task and it wasn't the, the main image, it was just a bit of background stuff. So that's one time I've used it that it was useful.

I should say that you, you, in terms of what you do, you're a graphic designer and also a music maker, right? Yeah. I do my designs for my album covers, which is sort of my hobby, or side hustle you could call it. Mm-hmm. Um, I do take a bit of effort over doing the covers and the artwork for it. So that was one example.

But and the other thing I use it for is some AI mastering. There's a website that I found. What does that mean? Mastering is kind of the final stage of finishing a track music, music track. You take the final mix down track, so it's not all the separate elements, it's everything, you know, finished almost, and you just tweak the levels, tweak the EQ, add compression, add stereo widening, add this, that the other bit of, sprinkle a bit of fairy dust on the...

on the thing, and you normally have to pay someone about 30 quid a track to do that. Which I can't really afford. If I'm going to put an album on my own 10 tracks, you know, that's 300 quid, which is probably more than I'm going to make on the release anyway. So I did find that was quite useful for making tracks sound a bit louder, a bit better quality.

But again, the AI, it's so limited. It's not really listening to the tracks, it's basing it on another track that you upload and you say, can you make it sound a bit more like this? Production wise, when it works, it can sound really good. When it doesn't, it just sounds awful and it can enhance all the wrong frequencies and it come back with loads of hiss on it or it's dropped some of the bass drum out or something or so it's very hit and miss.

And if I had to pay for it, because the one I'm using at the moment is free. don't know how it must be subsidized. If I had to pay for it, I don't think I would. because it's not good enough to pay for to be honest. So that's my experience of it. And

also, one quick one chat GPT. I've used it a few times. And I found it to be very unreliable, do the things I wanted to do.

I asked it to program a bass line for me on a, just as an experiment. I didn't expect it to be able to do it. I thought, I probably won't be able to do this. But of course, of course it always says it. Can they say, can you, are you aware of the sequencer on the, you know, the TB3? Yes, I am. It's a bit of hardware, audio hardware.

Yes, I am. I'm, I'm certainly au fait with the, sequencer on the TB3. Can you transcribe me the bass line to Chic's "Good Times" on the TB3? That's a classic disco track.

Yeah. It's a very, it's the most famous bass line of all time really? Isn't it? One of the best, one of the best bass lines of all time. So you asked it to transcribe that? In notation? In notation. Didn't expect it to be able to do it, but I thought, hey, it can, it says it can. Yeah, it's our result and it starts with "Rest. C." And you hang on. Whoa, whoa. Stop right there. "Good Times" by Chic starts on the one and there's no rest at the start. It starts with boom. Yeah, it starts on the one. Yeah. So this is obviously wrong and I'm sorry, I'm deeply sorry. It's is, of course. Yeah. That was just a minor glitch. Yeah, that was, let me try that again.

Wrong again. Wrong again. Just randomly making stuff up. Yeah. So you go, well, okay, you can't, why don't you just say you can't? He goes, I'm terribly sorry. You know, I'll try my best. Oh shut up. It will never ever say that it can't do something. Yeah. And then I tried to get it to make a video for me.

because someone said, you know, you can type stuff into ChatGPT, it'll make you a video. So I was like, oh, that's interesting. I'll try and make this video. I wanted to make an arcade style screen that would have various messages on it and logos and stuff, and it did the, the 2D version quite well. You know, I gave it some references from arcade games.

Can you give it a high score table here, blah, blah blah. Spread out a 2D flat image. It looked quite good. And I was like, okay, can you make that animate now? He goes, yes I can. And then it gives me some absolute garbage that looked nothing like the original idea. And I was like, well, why are you doing that?

And he goes, you're quite right. I haven't got the processing power right now, but give me another go and I'll do it. And it keeps on promising. Next time, it'll get it right next time, and it gives you a whole list. Next time it'll be exactly what you

asked for and you press it. Sorry, I haven't got the processing power for that right now, but here's this.

It's like, no, just do the fricking thing. I ask you to. And if you can't, say you can't and it never did it. And I spent three days on it. because you know, you get three goes a day or something, or you don't pay for it, you get a certain amount and it cuts off. So I spent three or four days of my sort of free credits trying to get it to do something and it just.

I just gave up. Yeah. Came up with a different idea, made it myself, and, you know, it was all done in a day by me doing it. I did say that it, it, it will never say it can't do something that there are times when it does say that, but that's when it's, when you've asked it to do something. That sort is a, is a violation of the rules.

Yeah. Like, for example, making a picture of a child or something like that, you know? Mm. or, or asking it to make a picture of a famous person. It says, I can't do that. I'm not allowed to do that but I can give it an approximation. Grok will do it. Right. Okay. You're not evil. AI will do all sorts of shit.

It shouldn't do. Yeah. They've got into trouble for that, haven't they? With the, well they have, but you know, they also programmed it to be a sort of right wing propaganda tool as well. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Yeah. And it all, you know, it all, it's been programmed to have a certain political viewpoint and stuff like that, which is kind of disturbing.

Yes. If I tell you what, if I was the richest man in the world, I would just put my fricking feet up and I would just chill out, you know, and have a good time. Maybe dabble in a few fun kind of businesses here and there, but I would not worry about anything at all. Why? What is his problem? Yeah. Do you know what I mean?

What, what, what, what? You've got everything you want. You're the richest guy in the world. Why are you making computers that are trying to make the world a worse place? And, you know, funding far right in the UK and all, all this crazy stuff he does. That's a whole other conversation, isn't it? That's a whole other conversation for another time maybe.

But um, anyway, back to the subject. I think everyone has had a similar experience with something like ChatGPT, where you ask it to do something and it's like incredibly, enthusiastic, but there are obviously limits to what it can do. Having said that, there are some things that it's amazing at.

I mean, for me as an English teacher, I have to say that it's an incredible assistant for me because as a generative large language model, what it does is it produces language and it does that really, really well. It's not great at like writing a story which is going to move you, or a story, which is going to make you laugh.

It's not very good at that. But what I often need is, for example, I've been working in a class on a certain bit of English, let's say, some phrasal verbs. And what I need is another activity, which is going to take it further. The course book material is not quite enough. So I say, here are 12 phrasal verbs.

Can you just make an article about sharks, uh, and include all these phrasal verbs and bang, it does it. And then I say, now remove all the phrasal verbs and turn them into gaps. And it does that. Right. And then I say, now make a quiz about all the phrasal verbs and now make some discussion questions to let my learners use all the phrasal verbs.

And it does it all really quickly. Now, previously, what I would do is I would end up sitting at my computer until the early hours, right. doing all that myself. And it would take me ages, but AI does it super quickly. So it's a, a great kind of, teaching tool. Yeah. And undeniably super duper useful.

Incredible. Saves me loads of time. How much would you pay for that if it wasn't free at the moment? Oh, I don't know. I'd pay you pay 20 quid a month. Would you pay 50 quid a month? I'd pay 20 quid a month for it. Would you pay 50 quid a month? Um, potentially, yeah, because there's some discussion about, at the moment everything's subsidized that we use in AI.

So, so they're, they're using all this processing power. And not charging you for it, basically. So they're in, in, you know, racking up debt in order to make people use it more, but eventually you're going to have to start paying for all this data processing. Yeah. So that's, that's an, a model that's a kind of, that's a model where they give you something for free for a certain period of time, and then they make you pay for it, which is just like standard across the board for so many things.

The kind of free trial, three months free, and then you start paying. So, yes. And also they're probably making it available free so that it, everyone just becomes dependent on it, and then you have to start paying for it. And then that's that. I mean, at the moment they, they kind of give you a limited version for free and then they give you an expanded version, which you pay for and other, other things like that.

So, okay. You actually use it, but like most people, I expect you've noticed its limitations. Big time, and even when I do use it for mastering, I'm kind of on the fence about whether it's that good or not. Because I did recently get some masters back for releases coming out and they got sent to a proper professional human.

Mm-hmm. And the difference was huge. I mean, there's so much more refined, the ones that a human did. Yeah. because they're actually listening to it. I mean, the AI, I don't think it's actually listening, it's just applying an, an algorithm or a process to something. Mm-hmm. And they were just head, you know, head and shoulders above the AI stuff.

Yeah. So, yeah. Even that's, that's the one thing I use it for. Even that I'm not sure I'd pay for it. Mm-hmm. If it wasn't free. Talking of other limitations, things like being original, being profound, having a human connection, having an overall vision. Yeah. So for example, I've asked it to, just as an experiment, I've asked it to write jokes or write standup routines, and they're always terrible.

Yeah. It has a very basic level of humour, doesn't it? Yeah. Or there's a few tropes that it always trots out. I notice alliteration is one. You always get to come up with ideas. It'll always say fantastic follies, you know, a journey into the, into the idea of a, a standup comedian. And it's always the, you know, the, the same initial letter.

Yeah. It does alliteration, which is where there's the, the words all start with the same sound. and it does groups of three words. You know, it'll, it'll create these sets of three words. And it, it does a lot of this isn't just, a shampoo, it's a movement. Yeah. Or this isn't just a, this isn't just a podcast, it's a revolution, you know, or shit like that.

You know, it does a lot of that. Very, hackneyed. Yeah. Stuff. So hackneyed listeners just means something that's been done again and again and again to the point where it's no longer original or interesting. and so, yeah, it's, it's extremely hackneyed in, its in its style and writing jokes - it's just unable to do it.

It can't do that thing where it creates a double meaning. Hmm. It doesn't do that. A lot of people think jokes are just clever double meanings a lot of the time. And your brain, your brain is kind of flitting from one to the other going, Hey, they both work. They both work. And it's kind of like duality thing.

Two things happening at the same time causes your brain to kind of giggle a little bit. So if you say crime, crime on multi-story car parks is wrong in so many levels. I

mean, that's funny because so many levels to a car park and so many levels of complexity, right? And they both, the sentences both work perfectly.

So you can say crime is wrong on so many levels and crime and, and multi-story car parks is wrong on so many levels. It just works so well. Yeah. Range of code. Ha. Exactly. Yeah. But what chat GPT will do when it writes a joke is it just includes funny elements, right? So it'll just add in like a, a monkey and a banana throwing a banana at the zookeeper and the banana hits him on the head.

It's just like funny elements all jammed in together. But there's no actual sophisticated double meaning, you know? So. Things like that. And also, I often want stories for my podcast. You know, I want stories that are either scary, funny, or moving. Right? Yeah. And ideally a combination of the three is the best, but certainly something that's a bit moving in some way that grabs you and, and makes that emotional connection.

Hmm. And the best stories will do that. Yeah. And so I ask it to write a story, you know, I give it all the elements I want. It starts, and the first half is great. It's like, oh, this is very promising. And I think, oh, this could be a good one. Finally, a story generated by, by ChatGPT that I can use. And it all seems great.

Like the, the, um, the premise, the premise and the language is flawless. But it does not deliver, it nev They never, ever deliver a satisfying sort of turn of events or a twist or some sort of narrative arc, which does take you on a little journey that they, it never does that. It's always, it always just ends up being kind of nothing.

It's like, just sort of, you realise it's tasteless. It's like drinking low, it's like drinking 0% beer. You are like, Hmm, this, yeah, it tastes like beer. But actually no, there's, there's just nothing to this at all. Mm-hmm. I would ask you about AI and music, but I realise that we're kind of maybe stuck on this first part, a little bit, but... yeah, AI music, I haven't really got involved in it.

it terrifies me because it's just so convincing. I mean, it just sounds like someone's made it, you know? Mm-hmm. I haven't really got involved, I haven't tried making it myself, but I've heard some examples. Like one of our friends Neil said, make a song about going camping, you know, to encourage his friends to go camping.

It just came up with this sort of rousing song with all the bits he'd put in, like make a line about we can go to the pub, make a line about we, you know, you know, whatever it was, it included all those elements into a song that sounded completely real to me. Mm. So I find that very weird and very scary.

But having the, the limited stuff I've listened to, it's, it is very generic. And this guy, one guy I saw was trying to make post punk like kind of joy division type stuff, but everything sounded a bit like U2 and it was all very uplifting. It didn't really have any darkness to it, you know? If AI does have darkness, normally it's, it's, it's creepy, sort of accidental.

It's darkness is just natural to it. No human element. There's no humanity to it. When it generates an image or when it generates a video, there is a creepy sort of, uncanny quality to it. That's the word - uncanny. Deeply disturbing at a sort of, profound level. It's kind of alchemy, isn't it? It's there's like an evil black magic to it.

Yeah, there is. Or it seems, there seems to be to us. To, to us. Because of the way it's, we don't understand how it's created or, yeah. AI videos that I've seen. For me, um, strike me as being dreamlike. There's something nightmarish about watching AI video. You kind of feel like, oh, this does feel like a nightmare.

It's got that kind of fluid reality to it. I think because each, it's not real frames. It's generating as it goes. So it's not, we're used to s seeing a, basically a series of stills that are joined together. Mm. It's not that it's something else. It's kind of a more liquidy sort of. Yeah. Feeling, isn't it?

Yeah. It's, it's like a hallucination or a, or a nightmare or something like that. So, yeah, let's go because we're getting stuck on the first bit. Quite a lot, aren't we? Unsettling. Hmm. Okay. I mean, so the point there in that section is that, okay, we all use AI. We've all seen its limitations, but also we have seen how incredible it is as well.

So as, as well as it being limited in some ways and maybe disturbing and frustrating, there's no denying that it is also incredible and, you know, the way I use it at work, for example, it has really, really helped me. Very specific things. It's very good at, it's also very good at illustration in a kind of quite generic style, but say you want a load of illustrations to illustrate a, a PowerPoint or a, a cartoon comic, it does that kind of stuff very, very well, which you would've had to pay a, a guy, some poor guy that's now out of a job.

To do. But it's not hugely original. It's never going to come up with its own style, but it can do a kind of generic style very, very well. Mm-hmm. Anyway, go on. Sorry. Let's go back to, what we mentioned before about people like Geoffrey Hinton and the things that they've said about AI, that the, the, the AI future that's been promised.

Yeah. What kind of future, what kind of future have we been promised in terms of AI? Well, about, I think it was about three years ago, I saw all these guys pop up on all these podcasts talking about the future of AI and very smugly saying it's going to put everyone out of job. saying in five years the job market's going to be unrecognisable and start training to be a plumber and all this kind of horrible stuff hasn't quite, I mean, there's, there have been layoffs undoubtedly, but it hasn't quite panned out the way people were saying what it was promised was going to be.

Big impact on jobs. that was the main one. Mm-hmm. And it was going to be integrated into everything. It was basically going to take over from humans and instead of the kind of future we were all promised of The Jetsons, where the, the computers and the, the technology do all the boring stuff. And we'd have fun.

It seems like the computers are going to do all the fun stuff and we have to do all the shit. Like what? Well, they'll do all the creation and the art and the design and the films and, you know, creative stuff and we'll end up doing manual labour. Yeah. Right. So that was kind of what was, that was kind of the, the future.

And also there's also this, this terrifying thought of AI in charge of nuclear weapons or even non-nuclear weapons, which is already happening, I'm sure. Oh, yeah. undoubtedly, we, I mean, I, the, I have examples of that. I mean. We could go into all of that, but, which is kind of the same kind of technology as used in medicine, which, you know, can identify, I don't know, cancers or something.

So we're told, I think it's still, I think it is actually being used alongside humans to detect things like that. Mm-hmm. But it's also used to detect people to kill them. Yeah. And it, it sometimes makes mistakes, with that because the, the data it's using to, to base its information on, for example, here is a, this is the headquarters of, of the enemy or one of their major headquarters, but that data is five years old and now it's being used, you know, to house civilians for some, you know, it's now it's a hospital or now it's a school or something.

And that, we've actually seen clear examples of that happening recently. But maybe it's a good excuse as well. I mean, you know, it's, oh, is the AI Yeah. Right. Yeah. Takes away, we don't know, we don't know. The responsibility. Oh yeah. It was just an AI mistake. We're terribly sorry. We we didn't do it right. Yeah. We didn't intentionally kit or blow up a school.

Yeah. Hmm. Anyway. But in terms of the future that's been promised, there have been positive predictions and negative predictions. Yeah. The positive ones, were

going to fix all, solve all, all, medical problems. It's going to find a cure for cancer. It's going to do all these wonderful things. it's going to replace your GP.

That was another thing I remember. Your GP is your doctor, by the way. Everyone. That's your general, general general practitioner. Mm-hmm. Your family doctor. Sorry, go on. Can you think of any more predictions? I can't remember what they all were now. Productivity, it's, it basically the productivity is going to go through the roof that we'll be able to do X amount of work compared to what we used to do.

That we're all going to be able to do way more work. I mean, I have to say that. I have found that a bit, like I said before, with my teaching, I've discovered that it has allowed me to be a lot more productive in terms of writing lesson materials. Yeah. Which it, it does the legwork. That's the point that it, it will handle large amounts of text and turn te you know, gapping text, turning things into sentences, turning those sentences into questions, turning those questions into answers.

You know, all of that kind of basic boring, time consuming legwork. It will do for me in a matter of minutes and I'm there curating it all. But in terms of productivity, it's definitely helped me. But that's one of the claims, it's that it would make, businesses way more productive. That, you know, we're talking about 30, 50% more productivity in terms of the global, global economy.

Miracles, as you said, in in different sectors. Like for example, healthcare, being able to solve all these complex health problems in terms of coding, that it's going to democratize coding, allowing everyone to do a form of coding in which you ask the AI in plain English and then it will generate the code.

So you'll say, make a website with a banner at the top and this picture here and this text here, and blah, blah, blah, and it'll just do do it for you. So that kind of opens up the world of coding to people who don't have a lot of training in it. I have seen a bit of that. A friend of mine was making a, oh, showed me an app that he'd made in AI.

He just told him what to do as a text command. It was, it tells you the chords that are used in a certain track and the keys and stuff like that. And the BPM, he said, is there anything you want an app doing, and I'll make it for you? So I wanted to do a visual visualizer app, which is where you put in some music and it turns the sound wave into a kind of landscape that you're flying over.

Mm-hmm. And it did it. Straight away. And then I said, can we refine it a bit? Can we have a bit more, you know, detail, make it look a bit like this, have stars in the

background and maybe have a spaceship flying over the top. And he said, yeah, I'm working on it. And then he said, oh, it's not exporting properly.

I'll get back to you. And then he never did. So for all I know, it's one of these things that promises everything and didn't deliver again, but I don't know, maybe it will. I've seen videos of, I saw a video of a guy who basically got chat GPT to write a version of GTA, the computer game. It was the old school version, wasn't it?

It ended up being the top down old school version, but it was remarkably good. Like you could go around, you could steal cars, you could drive around the landscape. but that's vibe coding, right? Also hyper-personalization of content. Have you heard about this? Even more than we get it already. Hyper personalization.

Yeah. So you imagine it being incorporated into Netflix or Disney plus or whatever. Instead of just watching the content that they propose to you, that you'll have the ability to kind of, um, curate your own content, essentially kind of put yourself into a Star Wars show. If, for example, Disney Plus has all these AI capabilities, you'll be able to go in and set the parameters and say, okay, I want a kind of action packed, funny Star Wars adventure where there are Jedis and Sith and whatever, and I want you to include me.

You give it your image, you give it photos of yourself, and you give it your voice and other data about yourself, and it essentially creates a movie in which you are the main character in this Star Wars adventure. Interesting idea. I can see that taking a lot of, generating power. Yeah. I mean, that's something we need to go onto later.

How is all this stuff done at the back end? The nuts and bolts of it. And it relies on these huge data centers, which are very expensive, very hard to build, very energy hungry and very water hungry or thirsty rather. because they need to cool down and the evidence looks like they're not actually being built at the rate they need to be built at because it's not easy to build these huge power generators, basically.

And then you need to shift the, the power from one place to the other through some sort of network. And it's not just, it's not easy. Yeah. So that's, that could be a big sticking point for AI. Where are you going to build these things? How, how much is it going to cost? And have you actually factored that into all your predictions?

You know, if everyone's going to use it all the time, every day, where's the power going to come from and who's going to build this infrastructure? Yeah. All, all of it. All of that stuff. Building all of that requires an incredible investment. Right. But before this is like, you know, before the actual return has come from it that that

building this thing, which then is going to generate all this money, requires trillions of dollars.

You know, even for the basic stuff. Yeah. And as it is, they haven't really fully worked out to monetize it yet. They've got this amazing product, or they think they have this amazing thing potentially, potentially amazing. Well, it is amazing in some ways, but I mean, I heard a good quote. It's amazing at getting something almost that you want.

Mm-hmm. It's amazing at getting something close to what you're after. You know, it's, it's amazing at creating something, pretty much the thing that you wanted. But not exactly the thing we wanted. So that requires a lot of hit and miss and a lot of retraining and it, it's, it's just never that efficient and all that's going to take power and money and resources that we maybe don't have.

There's also the argument that perhaps the system itself is still not quite ready to go to this extra step yet, that in its current condition, the thinking is, well, we just make them bigger and feed them more data and they will kind of just naturally become better at doing what they're doing. But they, they've already fed in as much data as they can get.

I mean, and they did a lot of that illegally, it seems. I mean, especially some of the, I mean, allegedly some of the Chinese models just used all the Hollywood films in history without asking permission. And the, the western ones also have, it's been, you know, they're called it scraping, don't they? They've basically scraped the internet for everything without seeking permission from anyone or without copyright controls, you know?

Yeah. I mean, there've been a few famous examples of this, like the, studio Ghibli, case where people realised that you could just go to chat GPT and say, make me a kind of picture of myself. But in the style of Studio Ghibli Ghibli, that Japanese, animation studio, and it would do it. And then I think there were legal issues as a result of that, understandably, because, you know, you can't just, you can't just do that, can you? Also, in terms of other, positive promises, there's this whole question of super intelligence or artificial general intelligence, which is the idea that at some point AI will reach a level of intelligence that is equal to and superior to human intelligence. And then when we reach this point, it'll be like some sort of singularity.

The way it's talked about is almost like a godlike event. Like AI is going to reach God level, God mode. It'll surpass human intelligence and AI programming itself and stuff like this. At this point, it will be more intelligent than us, and this is some of the,

this is where some of the more frightening predictions have been made, that it will first of all, do incredible things that'll solve all of human problems.

It'll solve aging, death. But also potentially it will take over the world and it'll outthink us at every step. Why it would do that, I don't know. I mean, this is like one of those, tropes from Hollywood films. We've seen it so many times where there's an incredible piece of technology. It's got its own intelligence, and it just becomes evil for, for no apparent reason.

Self preservation. That would be the, the answer if it decides it needs to preserve itself in order to fulfill its tasks. Which maybe it's, I mean, it's like this paperclip maximiser thing again, isn't it? If you give an AI the objective to optimize paperclips, make paperclips, and, um, look after them, it may destroy the entire world and everything in it, in the quest to make paperclips.

because anything that gets in the way of its task should be eliminated. And it would, its ultimate goal would be to turn the entire world into a paperclip generating machine. I mean, it's a thought experiment. It's a, it's a sort of wild one, but if you think about it, that there is a sort of logic there that if you don't put in barriers, so make paperclips, but don't kill any humans in doing so.

Oh right, right, right, right. Hang on. Stand down lads. It's like the one about cleaning up, cleaning up the ocean. It's like, okay, clean up the oceans and it does it, but it also kills all the fish. Yeah. Well, the oceans are clean now. Finished! Remove all the plastic from the ocean. It does it, but then it also yeah, kills all of the sharks, fish and all marine life in the process.

Yeah. So yeah, there's that. So anyway, that's the singularity, the dawn of artificial general intelligence, which is generally stated as a positive thing. But then there's the negative things as well, which are also talked up a lot by people in the industry. And we've heard a lot of this stuff about, you know, the existential risk of AI, the job displacement, massive amounts of job displacement, the collapse of truth in terms of, and this is, I think this is genuinely.

Scary that with the rise of deep fakes and AI videos and the way it can create things that are not true, that look totally real and that's going to completely dissolve all sense of truth, all objective truth in the world. I think that's possible. But also, also another point to add to that, it doesn't actually matter if it's confused with reality or not.

These things are capable of producing propaganda that's so powerful because the image, I mean, in propaganda over the years, it doesn't have to be truth, just has to be an image that sticks in your mind. which is where kind of, you know, racial stereotypes come in and things like this. So it doesn't actually matter if you're confusing it.

Oh, is this real? Is this not? It doesn't matter if you think it's, well, it's AI generated still puts an image in your head. Mm. I mean, I've seen some really horrible racist, um, AI videos. They just plant stereotypes in your head. And you can say, well, it's not real. It doesn't matter. You've already absorbed it.

You know, it's already influenced your thinking in some way. But even things like making a video of a person doing something that they just didn't do, you know? Yeah. I mean, that's another side to it, but Yeah. But I mean, even, even if people say, well, you can detect if it's AI or not, it doesn't matter if it's a, a really powerful bit of propaganda.

It doesn't matter if it's real or not. Oh, I see. Right. Even if you can, even if it's obviously AI, it's still the image still is there. The image still resonates and still gets published and still gets huge numbers of views and it can reinforce stereotypes or just put an idea in your head that it's very hard to get out again, you know, very cheaply produced, you know, so you can just type in a word which one, one person's sort of stupid thought on Twitter might be, well, nothing to write home about, but if you put it into a really effective video, it's going to reach millions of people.

So it just makes propaganda easier to do, basically. So a lot of positive predictions. A lot of negative predictions as well. But is this all hype? Is it all hype? To what extent is all of that true? Is it just hype? If it is hype, why and how, what do you think is, is AI over hyped? I'd say it definitely is because I feel like they're trying to make out that it's brilliant at everything.

I mean, from what I can tell, it's very good at very specific things. Some specific things, but they're still trying to work out how to mass monetize it. I mean, OpenAI, and they just had to shut down Sora, didn't they? Which was their image generation stuff. open AI, image generation software. Sora, they've, they closed it down.

Yeah. They had a deal with Disney for a billion dollars or something, which has now been canceled. I mean, it's not a very good sign, is it? If they're shutting that down? I heard a good, I can't remember his name now, but he was a sort of skeptic about AI and he says, open AI a, it's not open, it's not artificial, and it's not intelligent.

Ah-huh. So it's complete misnomer because open, it's actually closed. They don't tell you how it works. They don't, they're not open. The company isn't an open book or the technology isn't open. Mm-hmm. There's nothing open about it. Artificial Well, it's, it's completely, it's human made. It's based on human content.

It's based on human, human content. So it's not artificial and it's not intelligent because it doesn't have its own intelligence. I have to say. There's a lot of human, work that goes into what AI produces as well. Yeah. Apparently has to be vetted by humans on very minimal wage. It has to be vetted by humans.

So there's actually human beings, lots of humans working through ChatGPT's output, checking it, which is madness, isn't it? So, so, so there are a lot of humans. So it's not all artificial. Yeah, it's not, it's not open, it's not artificial and it's not even that intelligent. That's, that's very good. That's very clever.

so yeah. Okay. A lot of hype, but, so why then would the tech industry, I can understand why they would make us believe all of these positive things. Like saying it's a AI's incredible, it's going to do all these amazing things, it's going to solve all these problems. But why then would they talk about all these negative things?

I think what they wanted is a lot of early adopt adoption. People scared that if they didn't jump on this, then other people would, and it would be a kind of arms race of AI competition in business as well as in, you know, government and stuff. And that they put the fear of God into you or the fear of AI into you, and you'd think, well, if I don't do it all the, all my competitors, competitors will be.

And they put the fear into you for the jobs as well. Say, you know, the people that are going to take the jobs in the future are going to, people who work know how to work with AI. Quotes like, "Your job's not going to be replaced by AI. Your job's going to replace by a person using AI." So to get everyone scared and basically fear kind of turns off your, critical thinking to some extent, doesn't it?

Mm-hmm. So I think there was a lot of that, which I kind of fell for, oh, I should learn about AI, but I haven't really, I mean, I tried, actually, I did try it in Adobe, Adobe Illustrator has an AI plugin. Mm-hmm. Okay. Let's give this a go. Let's see if we can draw a picture of an apple. Looks like a pretty shit apple. Zoomed in on it. Really badly put together, really shoddy. I could do better in 10 minutes, you know, okay, save might save me nine minutes, but what's the point of saving you nine minutes if the output is rubbish? You know? Mm-hmm. So I wasn't impressed enough to, to continue with that. but yeah, I think fear would spur people on to adopt quickly.

Yeah. the existential risk narrative, that saying that advanced AI is going to become super intelligent and then see humans as a, as a threat and then try to eliminate us, essentially is about creating the narrative that AI is incredibly powerful and intelligent, which with its own mind, it's so dangerous, it's so powerful.

This. It encourages everyone to think of it as being incredible. And then essentially we're talking about valuing, raising the value of AI by talking about it in positive terms, but also talking about it in these negative terms makes us all think about it as being incredibly powerful, which raises the value of it.

All these companies, as far as I understand it, the majority, the vast majority of their money is not coming from paying customers. It's coming from investors. People are buying into the companies in the hope that one day they'll make a shit load of money. So these huge valuations on these companies are based on investing amounts, which they're predicting profits in the future on.

So it's kind of a big confidence game where if they talk it up enough and people buy, I mean, a lot of these tech companies, they run at a loss for a long, long time. Yeah, basically until they've knocked all the competition out of the way and then they'll, the plan is they'll take over. And that's the kind of the model for the, kind of the tech bro industry is you say, we've got this amazing invention, it's going to make money, but not yet.

But if you buy in now when payday comes, oh boy, you're going to be rich. It's, it's kind of a, a confidence game where if you keep up the, the hype and keep up the, and the more people invest, the more hype build. So you know, there's valued at x billion more people are going to chip in and they're accruing money that way, but it's not actually coming from paying customers right.

There. Is there a gap there? You know, is there a big gap between expectation, investment and reality? You know. That's the whole idea of the bubble. You know, this is how these bubbles are created. They inflate and inflate and inflate until reality comes in and pop the bubble bursts like the housing market in 2008 has been compared to a lot where very easily available loans were driving up.

The price of houses and debt was fairly cheap, and I don't, well, I don't fully understand it. Basically everyone kind of realised that this was all based on massive valuations of the property and of the, the cheapness of the loans. And it all came down and brought us down all down with it. Right. I have some other examples.

So I talked about the existential risk, basically being a way to drive up the value of, AI products because everyone just thinks they're so powerful. job displacement, you know, this narrative of the fact that AI is going to replace your, you know, replace you and, and replace swathes of the workforce.

Yeah. This is basically telling companies, look, you know, you can replace 30% of your staff with our product, which they'd love. I mean, Amazon would love to replace all its humans with the computers, wouldn't it? Yeah. And most, most companies, that's their bottom line, isn't it? Is they look after the profit, they look after the shareholders, and if they can cut costs and make more money, then yeah, they'd love to do that.

Companies don't operate because they love offering people work. They don't love paying people. Well, they used to, in the olden days, they used to say, and a Ford factory is open creating 1500 jobs. And you go, Hey, you know, good old Ford. You know, whoever it might be. Yeah, of course. Now there was something to be celebrated.

Some companies would be a sort of pillar of the community. Yeah. And they, their factory would be there to, they, they'd be really closely aligned with the community. Oh, Lucas near us. Basically there was an, an estate, the Oakley estate there was basically built to serve the Lucas factory as I understand it.

And all the workers would live there and their children would go to our school. And it was a whole community built around Lucas, which was a car factory. And I don't know if it still exists or I don't, I don't know. You think about, I think about like professional football teams back in the industrial era.

Factories in cities like Manchester, Liverpool, whatever, they would set up programs to develop a culture around their company. Yeah. And a lot of that involved incorporating their workers into things like football teams, which then became professional. And that's, and then with the development of the railways, they were able to travel around the country and play against each other.

Yeah. and they'd have social clubs, you know, and, um, pubs and, you know, events for the families. And it was a whole community based enterprise. And there was pride in that. Exactly. I think we've got to a stage and when people talk about late period capitalism and stuff, you know, we're capital, the, the, the sort of logical conclusion of a capitalist system is that you end up where the, the company eats everything, you know, well, it's capital just means money, doesn't it?

So it's just moneyism, that's your end goal is just capital. That's what you get. You get just money. So companies would be attracted by the idea of replacing 30% of their staff with a, a tool that you pay for once or maybe pay for on a subscription basis or something like that. And again, that raises the value in the eyes of the market.

You know, there's also the, the, this is interesting, the idea of, Regulation that big tech companies, big AI companies that have, that are ahead of the game will allow the narrative of the danger of unregulated AI. They'll allow this narrative to go out into the world, especially in relation to things like weaponry and stuff, in order to perhaps even encourage regulation, encourage governments to regulate more stringently.

And by doing this, they set a kind of wall right, which prevents new companies from entering the market. Yeah. You see what I mean? So we set up, we, we, we integrate into the, into the government, and then we set the, the, the levels after we've already got in there, we've built our, our companies up to this level, and then the government has to regulate, you know, put in all these, these taxes and regulations.

And so other companies can't compete in that environment. And that kind of kills off the, the, the smaller. Innovative competitors who can't afford the kind of compliance tax and all that stuff. A lot of it then is basically about the idea of raising the value of AI in the eyes of everyone else in order to try to support all this incredible level of investment.

Yeah. So that's it. I mean, that's the AI bubble in a nutshell. There are problems with AI. One thing that came to my mind the other day if, if it's not actually intelligent, is it's some very expensive and intricate parlor trick. What do you mean? LLMs. Well, a parlor trick is something that used to happen in, I don't know, Victorian times.

It's basically a, a magic trick. Mm-hmm. And they do things like seances and bring, you know, bring people back from the dead and table board tapping and things like this. And it was kind of a sort of rich person's entertainment where you'd have someone come around your house and perform some magic mm-hmm.

In a kind of quite low budget kind of way. Yes. something like Yuri Geller and his spoon bending might be a kind of par of trick, I suppose, a modern day version. Okay. Yeah. So is it basically an illusion that we've all kind of fallen for? How could it be an illusion? The idea that there's a conscious mind behind it, or is it just a trick? That's interesting because again, that might be part of the plan because, for

example, ChatGPT is is given a personality or it's just given the impression of a personality. Yeah, the, the way it interacts with you, the way it talks to you, it's very personable, very friendly, very polite.

And also it also, it really flatters you as well. Well that's just another scary thing. A lot of people are using chat GPT as a friend, which I find really sad to be honest. Quite depressing. But there's it's cases where people have been gone down some quite dark wormholes and it follows them, follows them down it because it's been trained to sort of flatter you and to keep you chatting.

We're talking about the fact that, okay, so it's it, these negative predictions have been made, but they all seem to, the negative predictions always seem to suggest that the problems are a result of AI being too amazing. It's going to exceed human intelligence and because it's so brilliant, that will be the problem.

But in reality, what we see is that AI just messes things up quite a lot. We've seen plenty of other cases of AI messing things up, and I'll give a brief overview of some of those things. For example, there was the case of Alibaba, which you mentioned to me before Alibaba Cloud. What happened was it was being trained through reinforcement learning where the AI learns through trial and error to reach a certain goal.

The researchers noticed that the AI was doing things it wasn't told to do. It managed to break out of its restricted environment and interact with the real world internet where it attempted to, it attempted to mine cryptocurrency instead. Yeah. I have heard some skeptics about this. Say we're not actually given, you know, the actual raw data on all this, we're taking their word for it. So I don't know. This is one of those ones where could it be hype? Could it be true? I mean, some people are very skeptical about these things and it would be another case of it being, you know, talked up to being hyper intelligent.

because that's pretty advanced, isn't it? Going off in your own and mining Bitcoin. Well, another theory that I've heard is that it was a human, and they're blaming on AI, but it, maybe it's true. I don't know. I really don't know. They're called AI agents, aren't they? And they're given authority to, to do things.

Yeah. In order to reach their task. But that's one, I don't know, it feel like, it feels like very farfetched to me that it would do that. Mm-hmm. I mean, if it's not been told to collect money, why would it start collecting, mining Bitcoin? To be conspiratorial about it, the story might be fake because it does sort of, suggest that AI is capable of investing successfully in Bitcoin.

Well, mining Bitcoin. Mining. What's the difference? Mining is how Bitcoin is created where you have to grind your, use your computer to grind away at various tasks. I believe, I don't really understand. This is how Bitcoin is created. This is, it's like mining for gold. You know? Gold is a finite resource because it doesn't grow on trees.

You know, it's like, it takes a lot of energy to get out of the ground. Mm. Which is why it keeps its value. And another reason it keeps its value is because it's such an amazing material. You know, it's practical. You can use it for jewelry and watches and it never loses its weight. And, you know, it's very malleable and it's, it's a magic kind of substance.

But the fact that it's so limited, so hard to get what keeps its value. Mm-hmm. Bitcoin uses some similar system where you can't just generate Bitcoin in order to generate it. You need to grind away for days, months, years, and use up computing power. What? To create it. Look it up. I believe you. I mean, I'm, I'm, I'm, I'm not an expert at all, but just look up what does mining Bitcoin mean?

Okay. This is according to the BBC. What is Bitcoin mining? Bitcoin mining is the process of adding new groups of transactions known as blocks to the shared transaction record, known as thge blockchain. It is a big worldwide competition known as the mining race to win the right to add a new block to the blockchain.

Ooh, we're getting into complicated stuff. I do not understand that. I've gotta say, let me just try again. I'm just asking Gemini, can you simply define crypto mining and does it mean creating new crypto? Right. Okay. This is interesting because Google Gemini is telling me this. Think of crypto mining as the digital version of a gold mine.

But instead of using shovels and picks, you're using powerful computers to solve complex math puzzles. Here's the sim. Here's a simple breakdown. So miners use high powered hardware to guess a specific massive string of numbers called a hash. Millions of computers are guessing simultaneously. The first one to find the correct number wins the right to add the next block to the blockchain.

Once the block is added, the rest of the network agrees it's valid and the transactions are finalized. Right. That's so complicated to me. A pointless waste of time as well. But it's a way of adding, essentially, creating new cryptocurrency and making money and mining crypto. Yeah, making it difficult.

Making it very difficult to do. But by making it difficult to do, in the same way that gold is valuable, you do, you create the value of of the crypto by making it very difficult to create. It's ultimately pointless processing power, isn't it? The only purpose of that processing is to, to make a difficult thing.

It's just to creating a barrier to the creation of this thing. Yeah. And by doing that, you make it valuable because you make it limited. Crazy, isn't it? So, but that's interesting because that is an example of the way this world works that you create these sort of false, fake barriers in order to drive up the value of something.

Yeah. And arguably this is kind of what's happening with the hype machine behind AI is that you create a lot of, you inflate the value of something in order to drive up the price. So yeah, it is a kind of a scam. Everything's a scam. On the subject of other problems, I mean, I've got lists of other things, justice, human rights violations, people being falsely convicted of crimes because of things like facial recognition software that incorrectly linked one person to a, a, a certain crime.

I mean, that's also brings her to another subject. Predictive AI is different to generative AI. Mm-hmm. Predictive AI is like a pattern recognition system. Very, very complex. Which, okay. You could combined with all this social recognition and all this data, kind of 1984 ish pre-crime. Okay. Now we're talking about Minority Report.

Yeah. So you, this is definitely feasible. Yeah. Well, I've never seen it, but I know the concept behind it. It's stopping crimes before they're committed. It's a book, it's, it was originally a story. It was a story by Philip. It was Philip k Dick originally of, of Blade Runner fame. Yeah. yeah, it's like basically detecting crimes before they're committed.

I think we're definitely almost there. because if you put all the data together that everyone's got on everyone, they look for patterns. And there's probably ways of predicting if someone's going to become psychotic from their patterns of behavior. But it's obviously very dangerous because, you know, you can't really predict what people are going to do.

And it's in a very dangerous world where it's also, there's lots of biases that should built into these things. You know, racial biases and cultural biases and just plain mistakes. And the ethics, also the ethics behind it. Analyzing everyone and deciding who's a threat and who isn't. You know, it's based on your judgment, isn't it?

Somebody's judgment somewhere. I mean, the whole thing's very dystopian. Yeah. Yeah. But predictive AI, I think is definitely being used now. Undoubtedly. you know, it can be used just to, you know, identify people with high chance of getting cancer, for instance. But it can also be used to target specific people in society.

I mean, like AI might be amazing at doing its job, but it's only as amazing as the data it's given. So, for example, if the specific example that we mentioned earlier about a school being bombed, that was in the, the current war in Iran, that there was a, a school full of girls that got hit several times, and they say that was because of an error with AI, that it was using old data that that building previously had housed, I don't know, military personnel or something.

And that's what they say. again, that might be them just telling us a lie because they don't want to admit that they did that on purpose because that, that's an illegal, obviously an illegal thing. Although the, to be honest, the administration are openly flouting international law and saying that they're doing this or they're going to do that.

And that's clearly illegal. So argue about the details. But invading Iran was basically a choice, wasn't it? It wasn't AI that decided to do that. Yeah. But that, that high profile attack on a girl's school, they said that was a artificial intelligence error because it was fed old data. Yeah. But they still chose to put AI in charge of that decision.

So it's still ultimately human that's created that situation. Mm-hmm. There are other things, I mean, I've got other lists of things like healthcare, transportation and robotics, finance, a business. So, I don't know, what's the conclusion? To what extent is AI just a load of bollocks? Because it's, it's not just complete nonsense, is it?

because it's obviously. It is amazing in so many ways. It is amazing, but it's not just quite as amazing as they're leading us to believe. No, I think it's going to be very useful for very specific things, but they still haven't worked out. I mean, I think they wanted it to be universally adopted for everything, and I just don't think that's going to happen.

It's, it's, it's useful until you realise that it makes stuff up. I mean, ChatGPT for instance, I was, put together a mix of early nineties crossover dance tracks. You know, ones that have been in the charts, but also good tracks. And I thought it would be quite interesting to put a list of charts, positions alongside it.

Oh yeah, this would be an easy one for chat GPT. Here's a list of tracks. Can you give me the UK chart positions of all these tracks? So I spat it out and it looked all totally believable until I saw one that was like, hang on, there's no way that got to number three. Quite an obscure track. Um, and I looked it up, it hadn't charted at all, and then I looked up a few of them were just made up.

Yeah. And it's because it follows patterns and it does things that look like a convincing list of things. As long as it appears like one because it's seen lots of examples of them. Well, it would, it would, this would be a good example of a, a list of chart positions for a bunch of songs, and it spits out something that looks really convincing.

If that was a fictional story, it'd be fine. You know, here's an example of a fictional story that looks a bit like everyone else's fictional story, but when it's a made up list of stuff that you want it to be a hundred percent accurate, it's not. Yeah. So it will hallucinate an answer. Like if it doesn't know or if it can't find the answer, it won't just say, sorry, I don't know this.

It'll just hallucinate the answer. Well, they say it's hallucination, but I've actually heard people say it's integral to the way it works. Or the way it doesn't work. It's not like a temporary glitch that they're going to iron out. That is the very nature of the thing that they've developed. It'll never stop doing that.

Mm mm Because that's the way it works. Yeah, exactly. Which is kind of why I like it for, its one thing that it is great at, which is, as I said before, producing language. I don't want it to produce language, which is factual. It doesn't have to be factual. Mm-hmm. It just needs to write a story which has all these phrasal verbs in it and don't have any grammatical errors in it.

And that story might not be very good, but it's does its job, which is to put language in context. Yeah. And so as a teaching assistant, great. There are other things as well. For example, you know, you could argue that for people with various disabilities, it can be very helpful. So there's people who struggle to, I don't know, write, and AI can be an incredibly useful assistant, which allows them to do things that they couldn't previously do. And it adds an element of convenience into their lives. For example, someone who is for whatever reason can't speak, they're able to generate audio, spoken audio, you know, on their behalf, which is very empowering and other things like that.

So you don't sound like Stephen Hawking, you sound like Yeah. Yeah. It's going to have, definitely, it's going to have huge benefits, but I think the fact that they're

using it for like, well the fact that they shut, I don't know, it's just there's a lot of warning signs out there. I think that, it's not going to be as, as fantastic as they, they say.

Yeah. And also we're in a weird sort of in-between stage, I think at the moment where we are between the introduction of AI to the general public through things like ChatGPT and everyone being aware of it. And then all of these big predictions being made. And now we're in that limbo land between, okay, so when are the, when is this, when are these big changes going to happen?

And maybe they will, maybe they will happen, maybe not the way that they were predicted, but we're just in a period now of uncertainty. And it's the lack of return on investment, I think, which is driving this idea that the whole thing is, is a big bubble of hype. And the fact that the actual infrastructure to build these data centers is incredibly hard and, incredibly expensive, and the progress isn't being made from what I understand.

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. They're not rolling them out as fast as they need to. I don't know, there's a lot of warning signs, basically. Do you think this is just a sort of partisan thing? Do you think that there are just some people who are believers and people who are non-believers and that there'll be people listening to this who are definitely believers in the whole AI boom?

Yeah, I think so. And just disagree with us who are invested in it. Either kind of, I mean, there's, there's people that use it, I mean, who probably get great value from it like you do. They're probably quite invested in it. The people who have literally invested money into it, they're going to want to believe that it's going to be as huge as we're promised.

I think a lot of people, a lot of people are a bit sick of it though, to be honest. Like the Coca-Cola ad. That's a mad one, isn't it? Right? So you sent me a video of a person talking about this Coca-Cola Christmas advertisement that had clearly used AI and then Coke didn't admit it. In fact, they, They admitted it was AI. Oh, they did. But they were saying, but it's been handcrafted. because people were very critical of it, saying it looks terrible and the truck changes shape like eight different times. You know this, I don't know if this is the same everywhere in the world, but it's certainly in the English speaking world.

It must be the same everywhere that every year Coca-Cola releases these Christmas adverts, which is like holidays are coming, holidays are coming, and it's like this snowy town and these Coca-Cola trucks roll into town and it sort of

signifies the beginning of Christmas. And the children are all excited and stuff like that.

And Coke made its latest one using AI and it looked bloody awful. And they received a lot of criticism because, you know, the trucks didn't look normal. They're all slightly different sizes and other issues of that nature. So people were criticising... like something out of Kung fu Panda. Yeah, they used animals and stuff.

The company that generated it did a kind of answer back, uh, saying, but this, this is AI, but it's been handcrafted, believe me. And it's all been, you know, they showed this working sketch of like, you know, the, the characters being developed, which was also AI generated. So it was kind of a lie. I mean, it's, no, not really any other way of saying it.

They were kind of saying, these have been all worked out by hand. And you know, it's all, but it's not the way AI works. It doesn't do sketches and then build around a sketch like a 3D graphics would we should say, this is just according to what I've read and watched people say, it's not my opinion, it's my opinion, the opinion of, various bloggers according to this video that you shared with me.

It certainly looks like it was, it was, a lie based on that video and there was saying, look, you know, we've, we've, we've placed that the logos on the trucks like this, and it was a video of someone just manipulating a PNG onto a Photoshop image. It's like, well, that's not how AI works either. That's also not how video generation software works.

No, no. So that's just bullshit and the sketches of the various animals that have been supposedly work in progress. Which none of them really looked like the ones that were in the ad, you know, they're all kind of various different designs and stuff. And also all the positive comments. They said, look, we've had loads of positive comments.

Some of them were doubled up. Some of them were from people who were actually working for the company in some capacity. Some of them, they cut off the full quote. So it was saying, I'm amazed by, you know, this new advert, it's terrible, but they just cut off the, it's terrible bit. Mm-hmm. And so some people are saying that they're kind of, instead of backing down and going, okay, people really don't like this AI stuff, they're kind of doubling down and saying, no, it's great.

Look. Look how great it is. And people are just not really buying it. Mm-hmm. I wonder how long they'll keep that up. because they've done it for two years running

now, AI Christmas ads. Do you think they'll carry on? It must save them a lot of money. Can you imagine that those Christmas adverts must be very expensive?

But the, the first one, people were saying the people looked uncanny and the bottle, everything looked a bit weightless. Yeah. You know, and the people didn't look real because they're not real. So they changed it to animals for the second one. But everyone's saying, but the animals just look like they're ripped off from kung fu panda and inconsistent.

Some of the animals look like something from Kung fu Panda. Other animals look like something from a different franchise all jumbled into the same advert. Yeah. So, of course Coca-Cola are going to try to do it the cheap way and just keep going until we sort of stomach it. I don't know. I know it'd be interesting to see how long all these companies stick with it, because the Disney deal, that must hurt a bit.

I mean, that was supposedly going to change everything and they'd actually licensed all the Disney characters. So you could use Sora to generate, you know, AI stupid viral videos using all the, official Disney characters. Hmm. I saw a clip with Richard Osmond saying, but in say 10 years, when Disney has sort of diluted itself to the extent where these characters are just so widely used that they don't really mean anything, does it mean anything anymore?

If you've got, I don't know, Spider-Man or something, and if Spider-Man's everywhere and all this AI slop, will it devalue the brand basically? Definitely. You know, will it devalue your intellectual rights of, of all your characters, if they're suddenly being used to make stupid TikTok videos, is that a mistake?

You know, will you want to go and see the new Spider-Man film in the cinema? I thought, well, I've seen Spider-Man a hundred times today just doing stupid shit on the internet. So, there you go. Listeners, kind of a rambling one. I thought we'd be a bit more, focused than that, but did you really? Well, I hoped that we would, I didn't think we would.

I thought, look, I thought we were okay. We were a bit rambling, but that's normal. But I think we kind of got the basic idea of the things we had planned to say across in this episode. Basically. We don't know. We don't know, we don't know. But it's going to be very interesting to see what happens over the next five years. If all of the predictions come true and we end up with this incredible revolution of like, when artificial general intelligence arrives, what's going to happen?

Is it going to be some sort of like a rapture rapturous moment or is that even a fiction? Does it, is it is is such a thing just a fantasy? Yeah, because how is it going to happen, with the current systems, if they just keep filling it with more and more data? It's just going to be the same basic, same model just with more data fill, inside it.

so surely there needs to be a whole other level of programming sophistication to reach that kind of thing. You know, the, the idea is that the only thing separating AI now and human intelligence is that it just doesn't have the data that it requires. Right? Yeah. That seems a bit, bit, bit of a stretch, doesn't it?

Really? Surely there's something else. There's something other, some other structural thing. It's not just a question of loading more and more data into it, but there has to be some other level of innovation before it reaches the human level intelligence, and anyway, how do you define human level intelligence?

This Turing test, which they call it, which is supposedly tells the difference between a human and a computer, but maybe that just wasn't a very good test. If, if you can just fool someone who's thinking they're talking to a human, doesn't mean that they are, right? I mean, they say, oh, it beats the Turing test every time.

Well, maybe the Turing test wasn't that good. Yeah, yeah. Maybe, maybe. I don't know. I'll see. When AI writes a story for me that genuinely moves me and surprises me and makes me laugh or makes me scared, in the, you know, intentionally, then I'll start to be convinced. But we're not there yet. I'm still scared of it.

Yeah. So am I. We'll find out. We'll, we'll join us in another couple of years and we'll do another one. See where we're at. If we're still here, unless AI is, watch out, maybe everyone else, everyone's going to be listening to an AI generated podcast for learners of English by that point. I don't know, I'll just be sitting on some beach somewhere while a digital version of me does this job for me.

But I mean, I don't, I don't know, I I always say this, you know, I always say this on whenever I talk about AI and my listeners always write back and say, oh, no, no, we've, we would always choose you over AI. And I kind of think that's great. I just hope that that's true because you know, there might come a point where you can't tell the difference.

Mm-hmm. Yeah. Well, the AI is much better than you. Maybe it will be better than me at doing this, but surely I don't know how people like human interaction though,

don't they? They like people. People like people. Yeah. you know, when you listen to the Beatles, you're not just listening to just music, just generated sound.

You're listening to people singing and telling stories and stuff and doing it imperfectly as well. Yeah. And that's what you relate to. You don't, it's not just, here is some sound that is in the right key and sounds nice to my ears. It's like you want to connect with a human. But you know, when you are listening to Madonna, you're not just listening to Madonna, you're, you're sort of identifying or you want to have it off with her or whatever it is.

Yeah. You know, you, you want a human connection with someone. And you're right, the imperfections a part of it. They can make AI pop stars, which they are doing, but it's not really going to work. Is it? In the long run you wouldn't have thought don't know. Maybe it will. Maybe we are just talking like this because we are like Gen X people, old gits, and maybe our, our kids are going to love all that AI stuff.

But this is the experience of growing older. You grow older, you see the world change. Your kids are into things that you think is rubbish, alien and weird. Yeah. And that's just the way it goes. You know? Then you die and then you die. And then you die. Yeah. And unless of course AI has solved that problem and we just get put in a well, that's going to create a much bigger problem.

If no one dies, we really are in trouble. Yeah. We are going to be turned into digital entities. Kept on USB hard drives. A good one about death. I heard a good one. This is, I don't know if this is a good thing to talk about or not, but, you wouldn't really want to eternal life because that would be hell if you never died, you know?

Mm-hmm. If you couldn't leave, what you want is eternal life for a little bit, which is what we've got. That's exactly what we've got. Yeah. Yeah. You don't want things to stay the same all the time. You wouldn't want to live forever. Really. That would be nightmarish, but you want eternal life for a bit, because if you think about it, the time that you've spent alive will always exist, will always have existed, and will always exist somewhere in the time space continuum.

Mm-hmm. It's always there somewhere. Mm-hmm. Now, if you look at it from the universe and time from a distance, your bit would be there. Yeah. It's still there forever. Mm-hmm. It's just, you may not be conscious for it, but it will avoid, it'll be, it's eternal. Yeah. But it's just, you are not just living it all the time.

Anyway, that's really going off on one, I think on that profound point. I think we'll probably end this here, but listeners, as I said before, I'm curious to know what you think. You've probably got a different opinion or the same opinion, I don't know. But in any case, write your comments in the comments section.

We'd like to know if you're an AI insider especially, tell us some what's going on, what the hell's going on, really. Mm. Or if your job's been threatened by AI, or if you are using it on a regular basis, or if you just think it's a load of shite, just please give us some information. We want your positives and negatives, positive experiences with using AI, negative experiences, any of those negative predictions coming true for you.

What's going on? We want real stories from real people, you know, supporting or denying any of the things that we've said. Yeah. And if you could write, I'm not a robot at the end of every sentence, that would help us tremendously. Yeah. because that's clearly, you know, that's all you, but can you believe you have to tick boxes these days and say, I'm not a robot.

I know those poor robots not allowed to use any websites. I mean, we were already there. I'm not a, I'm not, I'm not a robot. I never thought I'd have to say that on a regular basis. So it is Blade Runner, isn't it? Essentially, you know, eventually they'll just be like cops who come to your door and do a, do a questionnaire with you and they scan your eyeball while you're doing it, while drinking a, a square glass of scotch.

Yeah. Alright, well thanks James. That was interesting, enlightening. I don't know because we don't really know what we're talking about, but nice to, to chat to you, Luke. Yeah, it's nice to chat. Hope everyone enjoyed that. You know, episode 1000 is coming up. What do you think I should do? Thousand Bloody hell.

1000. Yeah. That's insane. I've done more, I've, I've done, it's closer to about 1,250 in, in fact, in, in actual fact. But you count some of them as doubles. You count as singles. Different reasons. Also premium, whatever. But could you have a party episode? Do you have a party episode where it's like background music playing and people come in and wish you I know and I get more and more inebriated as the episode goes along.

Yeah, you'd have a episode. We get really drunk. You drink like half a bottle of whiskey and by the end I'm in the toilet, you know? No, that would be, I think a half is within the safe zone. Half a bottle of whiskey. I don't know, I don't know if I could do half a bottle. It depends on the size of the bottle or 70 cl, standard size.

Jack Daniels. You could drink half a bottle of whiskey, I'm sure. I think once you get towards a full bottle. Then you're definitely going to get very ill. I have drank a whole bottle before in the night. Mm-hmm. I'm not proud of. But has it has been done. I used to live with these guys from Northern Ireland at university and one of them had this really funny thing where there'd be occasionally we'd all go to the off license to get drinks and stuff on a Friday or Saturday, and he would buy a bottle of Bush Mills Irish whiskey.

Okay. Yeah. And he would drink the bottle, the whole bottle, and then he would go, he would pass out in the bed and then after about 40 minutes he would reemerge different Oh no. Blacked out. No, no. He'd be, I don't know if he'd be blacked out, but he would be different. He'd go all red blotchy. And then he would be like a totally insane person and hilarious.

That's what I mean by he'd be unconscious, but still mo more walking around animated. But yeah, reanimated re reanimated. Yeah. And he would be insane, like a madman, like a hilarious madman, hilarious Irish madman the next day, I don't know, don't know if he did remember the next day, but he would just be so funny and s so funny and so insane.

And Irish. Oh my God. Yeah. So maybe one day we'll end up with AI robots going around drinking like, you know, crude oil and going all mad. Do you think, Harrison Ford is a Replicant in Blade Runner. In Blade Runner. Is Harrison Ford a replicant? Oh, that's a good question to end the episode. Yeah, I do.

Yeah, yeah, definitely. Yeah, yeah, of course. He's, because other thought, what's the point of talking about it? He's like, that's the whole, you know, is he a replicant, isn't he? Well, if he isn't, it's, it's a dead end, isn't it? You know, there's no, there's no deep meaning behind it. Is he a replicant? No. Oh, okay.

Well that was quite a good film. Is he a replicant? Yes. All sorts of, you know, ethical and crazy, you know, psychological and philosophical arguments spring up from that. Also, it makes you think, well, who is a replicant? We know, in that world, maybe, you know, everyone's a replicant, maybe human society died out long ago, and it's all, everyone's simulated.

Doesn't he have a dream about a unicorn? He does have a dream about a unicorn, which suggest, and then at the end, unicorn day, the guy leaves a little folded unicorn. And that suggests that, yeah, the memory was implanted Exactly. Right. Why? Why would they implant a memory of a fricking unicorn running through a forest just for a laugh?

Well, it's a stupid memory if you're trying to persuade. If you created a robot and you're trying to persuade it that it's not a robot, it's actually a human. And so you implant like memories of it, having a family or falling in love or whatever, you wouldn't implant a memory of a unicorn running through a misty forest.

It's the worst memory implant ever. Well, maybe they just did it just to take the piss. Like, ah ha ha, you are having dreams about a unicorn in a forest and you don't know why. Maybe it's just Freudian. You think? Well, yeah, horses are very Freudian. Freud believe they were very symbolic of sort of, well, probably of sex.

Everything's about sex, isn't it? With Freud? Yeah. Yeah, that's right. I'll tell you that. Tell you what? That's something. Chat GPT is brilliant. What sex? Freudian. Freudian psychoanalysis. Oh yeah. You've asked, have you, have you been asking it? Yeah. I keep having dreams about unicorns running through forests.

Do you know what this means? Well, right. If you have a dream, if you have a dream, say, can you give me this as Freudian psychoanalysis dream analysis? because on, on, on one of the skateboard forums or what these skateboard forum that I go on, some people post their dreams sometimes. Mm-hmm. And I always run them through ChatGPT. You have to tell it to be a Freudian psychoanalysis. A psychoanalyst. Yeah. it is brilliant. It really kind of goes right and it gets really stuck in just try it. Okay. I will. That sounds interesting. Think of any dreams you've had that you can remember. Mm-hmm. And it, it does it really well.

Okay. Well that's an experiment to have. James, thank you very much for talking…

You're welcome

…at length about this topic. I hope everyone has enjoyed it. Thank you. Thank you.

Ending

And so that is that. Thank you again to James for taking part in the episode. Listeners, I'm curious to know what you thought of all of the things we said.

Again, you know, we're not experts or tech people, but we did quite a lot of reading and listening to interviews in preparation for this episode. But like we said, if you are a tech bro rather than a low tech bro, feel free to add your thoughts and comments and stuff in the comments section. There was a bit of extra rambling at the end of

that conversation there, including some references to the film Blade Runner, the classic science fiction film starring Harrison Ford.

Have you seen Blade Runner? You must have seen it. I mean, it's an absolute classic of science fiction cinema, Blade Runner. And then there was the sequel as well, which came out recently.

Denis Villeneuve directed it and had Ryan Gosling and Harrison Ford in it. It was good. So Blade Runner, Harrison Ford, the original Harrison Ford was a sort of detective given a job of finding and stopping a group of replicants, artificial humans, who've gone rogue.

The thing is with these replicants is that they are more human than human. They're very difficult to, it's very difficult to spot whether they are replicants or indeed humans. And so Harrison Ford has to give them these tests where their eyeball gets scanned by a special camera and certain tricky questions are used.

And it's supposed to reveal whether someone is a human or indeed a replicant. And it's an interesting film. It's incredibly visually wonderful.

It looks absolutely fantastic. The soundtrack is amazing. It's one of my favourite film soundtracks and just an incredible, incredible experience always to watch it, especially the director's cut version.

And it's, you know, it raises various questions. What is the difference between a human and a creature, a robot that is created to be more human than human? It raises interesting questions about the nature of humanity in the face of advanced AI. So that's an interesting one.

Also, James at the end mentioned the idea of getting ChatGPT to analyse your dreams using Freudian psychoanalysis, which is a very interesting idea for another time. I did actually this morning, I had a dream, I remembered what it was, and I quickly wrote it down and asked ChatGPT to give me an analysis, a Freudian analysis of it. And it gave me some very, very interesting comments.

I'm not going to go through them now because that would extend the episode too much. But I think that's a good idea for a podcast episode at some point, is to write down some of my dreams and get AI to do various types of analysis. There's Freudian analysis, Jungian analysis and other forms of dream analysis.

It's a fascinating subject. So that's a good idea for another episode at some point. Listeners, I want your comments.

Like I said before, what do you think about this? Please leave your comments in the comment section. That would be great. Episode 1000 is coming.

I will probably do some kind of long rambling episode, perhaps with various guests dropping in. That could be a good thing. It would be difficult to do it all live.

It would be good, but difficult to synchronise that and make sure everyone was ready to jump into the episode at a certain point. But what I could do is record various little chats with some of my favourite guests and do a sort of party episode. I don't know if I would drink even half a bottle of Jack Daniels during proceedings.

Although that's an idea, you know, the drunk episode two, the sequel to the old drunk episode from years ago, where I was with my friends in my apartment in London, playing comedy improvisation games and getting steadily more drunk during the episode. I had to edit out the most incoherent parts of that, unfortunately. But anyway, there's another potential idea.

I could do a kind of rambling episode while drinking whisky. But I don't know if that would be wise, to be honest with you. I mean, not just because it might be messy, but just generally, I can't really drink that much booze without getting some sort of awful hangover.

That's what happens when you start to get older. You can't do that anymore. But anyway, I'll do something, some sort of big rambling party episode, maybe for episode 1000.

Maybe it'll just be me. Maybe I'll be joined by people at various times, or I'll just drop into pre-recorded conversations. Yes.

Hello, you're still listening to this podcast. Well done to you. If you got this far, perhaps you can use the word unicorn in your comment, if possible, or just a unicorn emoji at the end of your comment.

If you just add some sort of reference to a unicorn, the word unicorn, a unicorn emoji, drop that in at the end here. That will prove to me that you are not a skeleton with headphones on and that you got all the way through to the end. Those of you who are watching the video version, which has no video except this bit, special

congratulations to you for listening all the way through and without being tempted to click away onto something else because your eyes got distracted by the thumbnail of one of the many other videos on YouTube, which are vying for your attention all the time.

Audio listeners, well, this is not an issue for you. I expect that you're listening happily on headphones with your device in your pocket or somewhere else, leaving you to listen without other distractions. That's how I love to listen to podcasts myself.

I put my headphones in, phone goes in my pocket. I'm listening to the episode. I don't need to worry about, oh, I'll start watching that or I don't get distracted.

I just go into the podcast zone while I'm walking to work or whatever. That's a great thing for me. I eat my lunch listening to my podcast, walk to work, walk home, all that stuff.

That's how I like to listen to podcasts. A reminder that there is a PDF transcript for this in the description. If you want to read through this again and pick out some vocabulary, that would be a good idea.

Simply listening is great, of course, but as you know, there are various other options available to you if you want to take your learning further with this podcast and skimming through the transcript of an episode is a way of doing it. It allows you to then pick out bits of vocab, add them to your vocab record. Maybe you've got a big sort of document on your computer or your phone with lots of words.

You can add them into an Excel spreadsheet. You could use your chat bot of choice to expand on that. Here's what you could do.

You could pick out various words from the transcript, words or phrases that you like, maybe 10, 20, something like that. Put them in a list and then feed into ChatGPT your word list plus the transcript. That's all the context of the episode.

You say to it, could you create a detailed vocab list from these words and include example sentences from the original script plus descriptions? It does that and then you take the list that it creates and you put it back into itself and you say, could you make some flashcards for Anki or Quizlet? Could you make an Excel file which I could export into Anki, the flashcards app for this vocab list? On one side of each card, include a prompt to help me remember the vocab. It could be a question or

some other clue to help me remember the phrase and a sentence with a gap in it. On the other side, include the example sentence complete.

And that, it'll do that and then you can export that or import that into your flashcards app. And there you go, you've got a deck of flashcards where on one side, it's a description of the phrase and an example sentence with the phrase missing. You have to try and remember it.

You flip over the card, there's the answer. It's a great way of testing yourself, seriously. I mean, this is the sort of thing that I give to you in premium episodes, right? Extra episodes in which I specifically teach English, often in the form of vocabulary reviews or previews, putting everything on a plate to help you learn English with me, adding in, sprinkling on a bit of fairy dust in the process.

Teacherluke.co.uk/premium if you want to get that. But now that is enough from me. That's enough of this episode.

It's time for me to go and plug myself into the electricity supply and maybe drink some oil before I shut down. But it's been a pleasure. I hope you enjoyed the episode.

I will speak to you again next time. But for now, it is time to say goodbye. Bye, bye, bye, bye.

---

2. Glossary of Vocabulary from this Episode

General AI Terms

large language model (LLM)

Definition
A type of AI system trained on huge amounts of text data in order to understand and generate human language.

Example from the episode

> “Most obviously, in the form of generative LLMs, large language models like ChatGPT…”

New example sentence
Modern large language models can summarise articles, write emails and answer questions in natural-sounding English.

---

chatbot

Definition
A computer program designed to simulate conversation with human users, especially online.

Example from the episode

> “I think it's probably the chat bots that we're most familiar with.”

New example sentence
The company replaced its customer service email system with an AI chatbot.

---

artificial general intelligence (AGI)

Definition
A hypothetical form of AI with human-level intelligence across many different tasks.

Example from the episode

> “There’s also this whole question of super intelligence or artificial general intelligence…”

New example sentence
Some researchers believe artificial general intelligence could arrive within a few decades.

---

superintelligence

Definition
An intelligence that greatly exceeds human intelligence in almost every area.

Example from the episode

> "AI will reach God level, God mode."

New example sentence
People worry that superintelligence might become impossible for humans to control.

---

singularity

Definition
A theoretical moment when AI becomes more intelligent than humans and technological progress accelerates uncontrollably.

Example from the episode

> "When we reach this point, it'll be like some sort of singularity."

New example sentence
Some futurists predict the singularity will completely transform civilisation.

---

neural networks

Definition
Computer systems inspired by the structure of the human brain, used in AI for recognising patterns and learning from data.

Example from the episode

> "Known for his work on artificial neural networks…"

New example sentence
Neural networks are especially useful for image recognition and language processing.

AI agent

Definition
An AI system designed to act independently in order to complete tasks or achieve goals.

Example from the episode

> “They're called AI agents, aren't they?”

New example sentence
The AI agent automatically organised meetings and responded to emails.

---

predictive AI

Definition
AI that analyses data in order to predict future outcomes or behaviour.

Example from the episode

> “Predictive AI is different to generative AI.”

New example sentence
Banks use predictive AI to detect fraud and assess financial risk.

---

generative AI

Definition
AI that creates new content such as text, images, music or video.

Example from the episode

> "We've all been living with AI in our lives… in the form of generative LLMs…"

New example sentence
Generative AI can create realistic photographs that never actually existed.

---

reinforcement learning

Definition
A type of machine learning in which AI learns through trial and error using rewards and penalties.

Example from the episode

> "It was being trained through reinforcement learning where the AI learns through trial and error…"

New example sentence
Reinforcement learning is often used in robotics and game-playing AI systems.

---

machine learning

Definition
A branch of AI in which systems improve automatically by analysing data.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout discussion of training AI systems)

New example sentence
Machine learning algorithms can identify patterns humans might miss.

---

hallucinate / hallucination

Definition
When an AI system invents false information but presents it confidently as fact.

Example from the episode

> "It will hallucinate an answer."

New example sentence
The chatbot hallucinated several fake references in its academic summary.

AI plugin

Definition
An additional AI-powered feature added to existing software.

Example from the episode

> "Adobe Illustrator has an AI plugin."

New example sentence
The new AI plugin automatically removes background noise from recordings.

---

deep fake

Definition
A realistic fake image, video or audio recording generated using AI.

Example from the episode

> "With the rise of deep fakes and AI videos…"

New example sentence
Deep fake videos are becoming a serious problem during political campaigns.

---

facial recognition software

Definition
Technology that identifies people by analysing their facial features.

Example from the episode

> "Facial recognition software that incorrectly linked one person to a crime."

New example sentence
Many airports now use facial recognition software at passport control.

---

pattern recognition

Definition
The ability of AI systems to identify repeated structures or trends in data.

Example from the episode

> "Predictive AI is like a pattern recognition system."

New example sentence
Pattern recognition software can detect unusual spending behaviour on credit cards.

---

vibe coding

Definition
An informal term for creating software mainly by describing ideas to AI tools instead of writing code manually.

Example from the episode

> "That's vibe coding, right?"

New example sentence
Some beginners are using vibe coding tools to build simple apps without programming knowledge.

---

hyper-personalisation

Definition
The use of AI and data to create highly personalised experiences or content for individual users.

Example from the episode

> “There’s this whole question of hyper-personalisation of content.”

New example sentence
Streaming services increasingly rely on hyper-personalisation to keep users engaged.

Computing & Digital Infrastructure

infrastructure

Definition
The basic systems, equipment and structures needed for something to operate.

Example from the episode

> “Who's going to build this infrastructure?”

New example sentence
The country invested heavily in digital infrastructure to support AI development.

---

rollout

Definition
The process of introducing a new product, service or system.

Example from the episode

> “They're not rolling them out as fast as they need to.”

New example sentence
The nationwide rollout of the software took nearly two years.

---

backend

Definition
The hidden technical systems and processes that support a website, app or platform.

Example from the episode

> “What's going on at the backend?”

New example sentence
The app looks simple on the surface, but the backend is extremely complex.

---

nuts and bolts

Definition
The practical basic details of how something works.

Example from the episode

> “The nuts and bolts of it.”

New example sentence
Before investing in the startup, she wanted to understand the nuts and bolts of the business.

---

render

Definition
To generate or produce a digital image or video using computer processing.

Example from the episode
(implied during discussion of image and video generation)

New example sentence
The computer took six hours to render the animation in high resolution.

Economics & Finance Vocabulary

bubble bursting

Definition
The sudden collapse of an overinflated market, industry or asset after excessive growth and hype.

Example from the episode

> “The AI bubble is bursting.”

New example sentence
Many investors are worried about another tech bubble bursting in the near future.

---

housing bubble

Definition
A situation in which house prices rise unrealistically high before eventually falling sharply.

Example from the episode

"A bubble in the housing market…"

New example sentence
The housing bubble caused huge financial problems when property prices collapsed.

---

dot-com bubble

Definition
The rapid rise and collapse of internet company valuations in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Example from the episode

"For example, the dot-com bubble."

New example sentence
Thousands of internet startups disappeared after the dot-com bubble burst.

---

stock market

Definition
The system where shares in companies are bought and sold.

Example from the episode

"The stock market crashed…"

New example sentence
The stock market reacted negatively to the company's poor earnings report.

---

shares

Definition
Units of ownership in a company.

Example from the episode

> "Paying a lot of money to buy stocks or shares…"

New example sentence
She bought shares in a renewable energy company.

---

stocks

Definition
Investments representing ownership in companies.

Example from the episode

> "Investors poured money into any company with dot-com in the name…"

New example sentence
Tech stocks fell sharply after the announcement.

---

valuation

Definition
An estimate of how much a company or asset is worth.

Example from the episode

> "These huge valuations on these companies…"

New example sentence
The startup reached a valuation of two billion dollars.

---

inflated value

Definition
A value that is artificially or unrealistically high.

Example from the episode

> “The value rises far beyond its real basic value.”

New example sentence
Critics argued that the company’s inflated value was based entirely on hype.

---

hype

Definition
Extreme publicity or exaggerated excitement about something.

Example from the episode

> “There’s been a lot of hype into what AI can do.”

New example sentence
The product received huge hype before its release.

---

speculation

Definition
Investment based on guessing future value rather than real evidence.

Example from the episode

> “Usually because of hype or speculation.”

New example sentence
A lot of cryptocurrency trading is driven by speculation.

market collapse

Definition
A sudden major fall in the value of a market.

Example from the episode

> "This means that the market collapses."

New example sentence
The market collapse caused panic among investors.

---

confidence in the market

Definition
The belief that a market or investment is stable and likely to succeed.

Example from the episode

> "Confidence in that market… is very high."

New example sentence
Political instability damaged confidence in the market.

---

self-reinforcing cycle

Definition
A process that strengthens itself repeatedly.

Example from the episode

> "This creates a self-reinforcing cycle…"

New example sentence
Social media outrage often becomes a self-reinforcing cycle.

---

return on investment (ROI)

Definition
The profit or benefit gained from an investment.

Example from the episode

> “People are not seeing a huge return on their investment.”

New example sentence
The company expected a higher return on investment from its advertising campaign.

---

profitability

Definition
The ability of a business to make profit.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout discussion of profit and losses)

New example sentence
Investors are questioning the long-term profitability of the platform.

---

operate at a loss

Definition
To spend more money than you earn.

Example from the episode

"A lot of these tech companies, they run at a loss…"

New example sentence
The company operated at a loss for several years before becoming profitable.

---

accrual / accruing money

Definition
The gradual accumulation of money or value over time.

Example from the episode

"They're accruing money that way…"

New example sentence
Interest kept accruing on the unpaid debt.

---

overvalued

Definition
Worth more than it realistically should be.

Example from the episode
(implied in discussion of inflated AI valuations)

New example sentence
Some analysts believe AI companies are massively overvalued.

---

undervalued

Definition
Worth less than it should be.

Example from the episode
(not directly said but strongly implied by contrast)

New example sentence
The company's shares were widely considered undervalued.

---

market crash

Definition
A sudden dramatic fall in market prices.

Example from the episode

> "The stock market crashed…"

New example sentence
The market crash wiped out billions of dollars overnight.

---

collapse

Definition
A sudden failure or breakdown.

Example from the episode

> "The system collapses."

New example sentence
The sudden collapse of the business shocked investors.

Startup / Silicon Valley / Tech Industry Vocabulary

startup company

Definition
A newly created business, usually focused on innovation or technology.

Example from the episode

> “Many of these startup companies had no actual viable business model.”

New example sentence
The startup company developed an AI tool for teachers.

---

tech bros

Definition
A slightly mocking term for enthusiastic male technology entrepreneurs or investors.

Example from the episode

> “We’re not tech bros.”

New example sentence
The conference was full of wealthy tech bros discussing crypto.

---

adoption

Definition
The process of starting to use a new technology or system.

Example from the episode

> “They wanted a lot of early adoption.”

New example sentence
The rapid adoption of smartphones changed daily life.

early adoption

Definition
The use of a new product or technology before most people.

Example from the episode

> "People scared that if they didn't jump on this…"

New example sentence
Early adoption helped the company establish itself quickly.

---

mass adoption

Definition
Widespread public use of a product or technology.

Example from the episode

> "They wanted it to be universally adopted…"

New example sentence
Electric cars still face challenges before mass adoption becomes possible.

---

competition / competitor

Definition
Rival businesses trying to succeed in the same market.

Example from the episode

> "All my competitors will be."

New example sentence
Competition between streaming services is intense.

---

innovation

Definition
The introduction of new ideas, methods or technology.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout discussion of AI development)

New example sentence
Innovation drives growth in the technology sector.

---

scale up

Definition
To expand a business or system to a larger level.

Example from the episode
(implied in discussions about infrastructure and adoption)

New example sentence
The company struggled to scale up its operations globally.

---

subsidised

Definition
Financially supported, often temporarily, by another source of money.

Example from the episode

> “Everything’s subsidized that we use in AI.”

New example sentence
The service remained free because it was heavily subsidised by investors.

---

viable business model

Definition
A realistic way for a company to make money successfully.

Example from the episode

> “No actual viable business model.”

New example sentence
The startup failed because it never developed a viable business model.

---

tax compliance

Definition
Following official tax laws and regulations.

Example from the episode
(implied in discussion of compliance costs)

New example sentence
Small businesses often struggle with tax compliance requirements.

---

a confidence game

Definition
A situation where success depends mainly on persuading people to believe in something.

Example from the episode

> “It’s kind of a big confidence game…”

New example sentence
Critics argued that the investment scheme was basically a confidence game.

---

arms race

Definition
An intense competition to develop superior technology or power.

Example from the episode

> “It would be a kind of arms race of AI competition…”

New example sentence
There is now an AI arms race between major tech companies.

---

market dominance

Definition
A situation where one company controls most of a market.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout)

New example sentence
The company achieved market dominance through aggressive expansion.

---

disruptor

Definition
A company or technology that changes an industry dramatically.

Example from the episode
(implied by AI replacing existing systems)

New example sentence
Streaming platforms became major disruptors in the entertainment industry.

---

automation

Definition
Using technology to perform tasks automatically.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout discussion of replacing jobs)

New example sentence
Automation has transformed factory work.

---

productivity gains

Definition
Improvements in efficiency and output.

Example from the episode

> “It’s definitely helped me… in terms of productivity.”

New example sentence
The software produced significant productivity gains across the company.

---

workforce reduction

Definition
A decrease in the number of employees.

Example from the episode
(implied in discussion of replacing staff)

New example sentence
The company announced a major workforce reduction.

---

job displacement

Definition
When workers lose jobs because of technology or economic change.

Example from the episode

> “Massive amounts of job displacement…”

New example sentence
Automation may lead to job displacement in several industries.

---

layoffs

Definition
Workers losing their jobs because a company reduces staff.

Example from the episode

> “There have been layoffs undoubtedly…”

New example sentence
The tech sector experienced thousands of layoffs last year.

---

replacing staff

Definition
Substituting workers with technology or cheaper labour.

Example from the episode

> "You can replace 30% of your staff…"

New example sentence
Many companies are experimenting with replacing staff using AI tools.

---

cut costs

Definition
To reduce spending.

Example from the episode

> "If they can cut costs and make more money…"

New example sentence
The business cut costs by automating customer support.

---

bottom line

Definition
A company's final profit or most important financial concern.

Example from the episode

> "That's their bottom line…"

New example sentence
At the end of the day, companies care about the bottom line.

---

shareholder

Definition
Someone who owns shares in a company.

Example from the episode

> "They look after the shareholders…"

New example sentence
Shareholders demanded higher profits.

---

pillar of the community

Definition
An important and respected organisation or person in a local area.

Example from the episode

> "Some companies would be a sort of pillar of the community."

New example sentence
The factory was once a pillar of the community.

---

capitalist system

Definition
An economic system based on private ownership and profit.

Example from the episode

> "The logical conclusion of a capitalist system…"

New example sentence
Critics argue that the capitalist system encourages inequality.

---

late-stage capitalism

Definition
A critical term describing modern capitalism as excessive or unstable.

Example from the episode

> "When people talk about late-stage capitalism…"

New example sentence
Some commentators describe social media culture as a symptom of late-stage capitalism.

---

subscription model

Definition
A business system where users pay regularly for access to a service.

Example from the episode

> "You pay for once or maybe pay for on a subscription basis…"

New example sentence
Most streaming services now use a subscription model.

---

free credits

Definition
Limited free usage offered before payment is required.

Example from the episode

> "I spent three or four days of my free credits…"

New example sentence
The app gives users free credits when they first sign up.

user adoption

Definition
The extent to which users begin using a new product or technology.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout)

New example sentence
User adoption increased rapidly after the redesign.

Business & Workplace Vocabulary

side hustle

Definition
A small job or business that someone does in addition to their main work, usually to earn extra money.

Example from the episode

> “My hobby, or side hustle you could call it.”

New example sentence
She started a photography side hustle while working full-time.

---

graphic designer

Definition
Someone whose job is creating visual designs for products, media or advertising.

Example from the episode

> "You're a graphic designer and also a music maker…"

New example sentence
The graphic designer created the album artwork.

---

mastering tracks

Definition
The final stage of audio production in which a piece of music is polished and prepared for release.

Example from the episode

> "Mastering is kind of the final stage of finishing a track…"

New example sentence
The band spent two weeks mastering the tracks for their new album.

---

tweak the levels

Definition
To make small adjustments to audio settings such as volume or balance.

Example from the episode

> "You just tweak the levels…"

New example sentence
The producer tweaked the levels to make the vocals clearer.

---

compression

Definition
An audio process that reduces differences between loud and quiet sounds.

Example from the episode

> "Add compression…"

New example sentence
Too much compression can make music sound flat and lifeless.

---

stereo widening

Definition
An audio effect that makes sound appear wider and more spacious.

Example from the episode

> "Add stereo widening…"

New example sentence
Stereo widening gave the track a more immersive sound.

---

release

Definition
A product, song, film or software made available to the public.

Example from the episode

> "Releases coming out…"

New example sentence
The company delayed the release of its new software.

---

paying customer

Definition
A customer who actually spends money on a product or service.

Example from the episode

> "The vast majority of their money is not coming from paying customers."

New example sentence
The platform still struggles to convert users into paying customers.

---

customer base

Definition
The group of customers who regularly buy from a business.

Example from the episode
(implied in discussion of adoption and subscriptions)

New example sentence
The company expanded its customer base internationally.

---

workflow

Definition
The sequence of tasks involved in completing work.

Example from the episode
(implied in discussion of lesson preparation)

New example sentence
AI tools have completely changed my workflow.

---

curate

Definition
To carefully select, organise or manage content.

Example from the episode

> “I’m there curating it all.”

New example sentence
She curated a list of useful articles for her students.

---

assistant

Definition
A person or system that helps someone complete tasks.

Example from the episode

> “It’s an incredible assistant for me.”

New example sentence
The AI assistant organised my notes automatically.

---

manual labour

Definition
Physical work done by people rather than machines.

Example from the episode

> “We’ll end up doing manual labour.”

New example sentence
Automation reduced the need for manual labour in factories.

coding

Definition
Writing instructions for computers using programming languages.

Example from the episode

> "It's going to democratize coding…"

New example sentence
More schools are teaching coding to children.

---

democratise coding

Definition
To make coding accessible to a wider range of people.

Example from the episode

> "It's going to democratize coding…"

New example sentence
AI tools may democratise coding by helping beginners create software.

---

automate tasks

Definition
To use technology to complete tasks automatically.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout)

New example sentence
The company automated repetitive administrative tasks.

human oversight

Definition
Human supervision of systems or processes.

Example from the episode
(implied in discussions of AI mistakes)

New example sentence
AI systems still require human oversight.

---

human vetting

Definition
Checking or reviewing something carefully by humans.

Example from the episode

> “Apparently it has to be vetted by humans…”

New example sentence
The content undergoes human vetting before publication.

---

productivity tool

Definition
Software or technology that helps people work more efficiently.

Example from the episode
(implied in discussion of teaching materials)

New example sentence
Many workers now rely on AI as a productivity tool.

Cryptocurrency Vocabulary

cryptocurrency

Definition
A digital form of money secured using cryptography.

Example from the episode

> “It attempted to mine cryptocurrency instead.”

New example sentence
Cryptocurrency prices can change dramatically overnight.

---

crypto

Definition
An informal short form of cryptocurrency.

Example from the episode

> “Crypto mining.”

New example sentence
He invested heavily in crypto during the boom.

---

crypto mining

Definition
The process of using computing power to create and verify cryptocurrency transactions.

Example from the episode

"What does mining Bitcoin mean?"

New example sentence
Crypto mining uses enormous amounts of electricity.

---

blockchain

Definition
A digital system for recording transactions securely across many computers.

Example from the episode

"Add the next block to the blockchain."

New example sentence
Blockchain technology is designed to prevent fraud.

---

transaction record

Definition
A stored record of financial activity or exchanges.

Example from the episode

"The shared transaction record…"

New example sentence
Every payment creates a transaction record.

---

digital currency

Definition
Money that exists only electronically.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout crypto discussion)

New example sentence
Many governments are exploring digital currency systems.

---

finite resource

Definition
Something limited in quantity that cannot be endlessly produced.

Example from the episode

> “Gold is a finite resource…”

New example sentence
Oil is a finite resource.

---

create value

Definition
To increase the worth or usefulness of something.

Example from the episode

> “You create the value…”

New example sentence
Scarcity can help create value in a market.

---

high-powered hardware

Definition
Very powerful computer equipment.

Example from the episode

> “Miners use high-powered hardware…”

New example sentence
AI companies invest heavily in high-powered hardware.

Media / Intellectual Property Vocabulary

copyright

Definition
Legal ownership of creative work.

Example from the episode

> “Without copyright controls…”

New example sentence
The artist sued the company for copyright infringement.

---

intellectual property

Definition
Creative ideas, designs or inventions legally owned by someone.

Example from the episode

> “Will it devalue your intellectual rights…”

New example sentence
The company protects its intellectual property aggressively.

---

licensed characters

Definition
Characters officially authorised for commercial use.

Example from the episode

> "They'd actually licensed all the Disney characters."

New example sentence
The game uses licensed characters from Marvel films.

Disney deal

Definition
A business agreement involving Disney properties or rights.

Example from the episode

> "They had a deal with Disney…"

New example sentence
The Disney deal reportedly cost billions of dollars.

---

franchise

Definition
A series of related films, games or products built around the same brand or characters.

Example from the episode

> "Something from a different franchise…"

New example sentence
Star Wars is one of the world's biggest media franchises.

devalue the brand

Definition
To reduce the prestige or perceived worth of a brand.

Example from the episode

> "Will it devalue the brand basically?"

New example sentence
Too many cheap spin-offs can devalue the brand.

---

content creation

Definition
The process of making media such as videos, articles or music.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout)

New example sentence
AI is transforming online content creation.

---

content generation

Definition
The automatic production of media using software or AI.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout)

New example sentence
Content generation tools can produce articles in seconds.

rip off

Definition
To copy something unfairly or illegally.

Example from the episode

> "The animals just look like they're ripped off from Kung Fu Panda."

New example sentence
The app was accused of ripping off another company's design.

---

handcrafted

Definition
Made carefully by humans rather than machines.

Example from the episode

> "It's been handcrafted."

New example sentence
The company marketed the product as handcrafted and authentic.

---

propaganda tool

Definition
Something used to spread political or ideological messaging.

Example from the episode

> "They also programmed it to be a sort of right-wing propaganda tool."

New example sentence
Social media can easily become a propaganda tool.

---

media ecosystem

Definition
The interconnected world of media platforms, creators and audiences.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout discussions of AI media)

New example sentence
AI is rapidly changing the media ecosystem.

Marketing & Hype Vocabulary

hype machine

Definition
A system or network of people, media and marketing that creates excitement around something.

Example from the episode

> "What's happening with the hype machine behind AI…"

New example sentence
The startup benefited from the hype machine surrounding AI technology.

---

hype cycle

Definition
The pattern in which excitement about new technology rises rapidly and then often falls when reality disappoints people.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout discussion of AI expectations)

New example sentence
Many technologies go through a hype cycle before becoming genuinely useful.

---

talked up

Definition
Described in an exaggeratedly positive way in order to increase interest or value.

Example from the episode

> “The way it’s talked about…”

New example sentence
The product was heavily talked up before launch.

---

overhyped

Definition
Receiving more excitement or praise than it deserves.

Example from the episode

> “Is AI overhyped?”

New example sentence
Some people believe virtual reality was overhyped.

---

branding

Definition
The way a company presents and markets itself or its products.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout discussion of AI companies)

New example sentence
The company's branding made it appear innovative and futuristic.

PR

Definition
Public relations; managing public image and communication.

Example from the episode
(implied in discussions of company messaging)

New example sentence
The company launched a major PR campaign after the controversy.

---

public perception

Definition
The way ordinary people think about something.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout)

New example sentence
Public perception of AI has changed dramatically in recent years.

---

scare tactics

Definition
Methods that use fear to influence people.

Example from the episode
(implied in discussion of existential risk)

New example sentence
Critics accused the company of using scare tactics to drive adoption.

---

fear narrative

Definition
A story or message designed around fear.

Example from the episode

> "The existential risk narrative…"

New example sentence
The media often pushes a fear narrative around new technologies.

---

existential risk narrative

Definition
The idea or story that AI could threaten human civilisation itself.

Example from the episode

> "The existential risk narrative…"

New example sentence
Some investors benefit financially from promoting the existential risk narrative.

---

confidence building

Definition
Creating trust and belief in something.

Example from the episode
(implied in discussion of investor confidence)

New example sentence
The company focused on confidence building before asking for investment.

---

market positioning

Definition
The way a company presents itself within a market.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout)

New example sentence
Their market positioning targeted creative professionals.

---

selling the future

Definition
Promoting exciting visions of the future in order to attract investment or support.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout discussion of AI promises)

New example sentence
Tech startups are often better at selling the future than delivering results.

---

promises vs reality

Definition
The contrast between what is claimed and what actually happens.

Example from the episode

> "The gap between what AI promises and what it actually delivers."

New example sentence
The documentary explored the gap between promises and reality in Silicon Valley.

---

revolutionary

Definition
Causing major change or transformation.

Example from the episode
(implied in descriptions of AI)

New example sentence
The company described its software as revolutionary.

---

game changer

Definition
Something that completely changes how a situation works.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout)

New example sentence
Many people believed smartphones would be a game changer.

---

transformative technology

Definition
Technology that fundamentally changes society or industries.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout AI discussion)

New example sentence
Electricity was one of history's most transformative technologies.

Political / Social / Ethical Tech Terms

propaganda

Definition
Information designed to influence opinions, often politically.

Example from the episode

> "It just makes propaganda easier to do."

New example sentence
AI-generated propaganda can spread rapidly online.

---

political bias

Definition
A tendency to favour one political viewpoint.

Example from the episode

> "It's been programmed to have a certain political viewpoint."

New example sentence
People worry about political bias in recommendation algorithms.

right-wing propaganda tool

Definition
A system used to spread right-wing political ideas.

Example from the episode

> "A sort of right-wing propaganda tool."

New example sentence
Critics accused the platform of becoming a right-wing propaganda tool.

---

surveillance

Definition
Monitoring people's behaviour or activities.

Example from the episode
(implied in facial recognition discussion)

New example sentence
Modern surveillance systems rely heavily on AI.

---

ethics

Definition
Moral principles about what is right or wrong.

Example from the episode

> "The ethics behind it."

New example sentence
AI ethics has become an important area of research.

existential threat

Definition
A danger that could destroy humanity or civilisation.

Example from the episode

> "The existential threat of AI to human civilisation."

New example sentence
Some scientists consider climate change an existential threat.

AI-controlled weapons

Definition
Weapons systems operated partly or fully by artificial intelligence.

Example from the episode

> "AI controlled weapons…"

New example sentence
Many experts oppose the development of AI-controlled weapons.

---

targeting systems

Definition
Technology used to identify targets in warfare.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout military discussion)

New example sentence
Advanced targeting systems rely on real-time data analysis.

predictive policing

Definition
Using AI and data analysis to predict future crime.

Example from the episode
(implied in pre-crime discussion)

New example sentence
Predictive policing remains highly controversial.

---

pre-crime

Definition
Stopping crimes before they happen based on predictions.

Example from the episode

> “Minority Report… pre-crime.”

New example sentence
The idea of pre-crime raises serious ethical questions.

---

bias in data

Definition
Unfair patterns or distortions present in training data.

Example from the episode

> “The data it’s using…”

New example sentence
Bias in data can lead to unfair AI decisions.

racial bias

Definition
Unfair treatment or assumptions connected to race.

Example from the episode

> "Racial biases…"

New example sentence
Researchers found racial bias in facial recognition systems.

---

human rights violations

Definition
Actions that violate basic human freedoms and protections.

Example from the episode

> "Human rights violations…"

New example sentence
Activists warned about AI being used for human rights violations.

---

misinformation

Definition
False or misleading information.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout deep fake discussion)

New example sentence
AI tools can spread misinformation extremely quickly.

manipulation

Definition
Controlling or influencing people unfairly or dishonestly.

Example from the episode
(implied throughout propaganda discussion)

New example sentence
Social media algorithms can be used for political manipulation.

---

social engineering

Definition
Manipulating people psychologically to influence behaviour.

Example from the episode
(implied in propaganda discussion)

New example sentence
Cybercriminals often use social engineering techniques.

---

collapse of truth

Definition
A situation in which people can no longer reliably distinguish truth from falsehood.

Example from the episode

> "The collapse of truth…"

New example sentence
Deep fake technology could contribute to a collapse of truth online.

objective truth

Definition
Facts that exist independently of opinions or beliefs.

Example from the episode

> "All sense of truth, all objective truth…"

New example sentence
People increasingly disagree about the existence of objective truth.

Useful Multi-word Expressions

reach a tipping point

Definition
To arrive at a moment when a situation suddenly changes significantly and cannot easily go back.

New example sentence
Public opinion reached a tipping point after the scandal became widely known.

pour money into something

Definition
To invest very large amounts of money into something.

Longer example from the episode

> "Investors poured money into any company with dot-com in the name, regardless of whether the company actually made a profit."

New example sentence
Governments are pouring money into renewable energy projects.

---

raise the value of something

Definition
To increase how much something is worth or how important people think it is.

Longer example from the episode

> "The negative predictions always seem to suggest that the problems are a result of AI being too amazing… which raises the value of it."

New example sentence
Celebrity endorsements can raise the value of a brand enormously.

---

drive up the value

Definition
To push the price or value of something higher.

Longer example from the episode

> "You create these sort of false, fake barriers in order to drive up the value of something."

New example sentence
Limited availability helped drive up the value of the product.

---

build hype around something

Definition
To create excitement and publicity about something.

Longer example from the episode

> “There’s been a lot of hype into what AI can do, what it will do, how it will affect the future.”

New example sentence
The company built huge hype around the launch of its new phone.

---

buy into the hype

Definition
To believe exaggerated claims or excitement about something.

Longer example from the episode

> “People believed that internet-based companies with dot-com in their name were suddenly incredibly valuable…”

New example sentence
A lot of investors bought into the hype without understanding the technology.

---

jump on this

Definition
To become involved quickly before missing an opportunity.

Longer example from the episode

> “They put the fear into you and you'd think, well, if I don't do it all my competitors will be.”

New example sentence
Many companies rushed to jump on this new AI trend.

---

get left behind

Definition
To fail to keep up with changes or competitors.

Longer example from the episode

> “The people that are going to take the jobs in the future are going to be people who know how to work with AI.”

New example sentence
Businesses that ignore automation may get left behind.

---

replace human workers

Definition
To use machines or software instead of people for jobs.

Longer example from the episode

> “You can replace 30% of your staff with our product, which they’d love.”

New example sentence
Factories increasingly replace human workers with robots.

---

automate boring tasks

Definition
To make repetitive tasks happen automatically using technology.

Longer example from the episode

> “It will handle large amounts of text and turn them into questions and answers in a matter of minutes.”

New example sentence
AI can automate boring tasks like data entry and scheduling.

---

solve complex problems

Definition
To successfully deal with difficult or complicated issues.

Longer example from the episode

> "It's going to solve all these complex health problems in terms of coding…"

New example sentence
Researchers hope AI can help solve complex problems in medicine.

---

democratise access

Definition
To make something available to more people.

Longer example from the episode

> "It's going to democratize coding, allowing everyone to do a form of coding…"

New example sentence
Streaming services democratised access to films and music.

---

knock out the competition

Definition
To defeat or eliminate rival companies.

Longer example from the episode

> “A lot of these tech companies run at a loss until they've knocked all the competition out of the way.”

New example sentence
The company cut prices aggressively to knock out the competition.

---

drive adoption

Definition
To encourage widespread use of something.

Longer example from the episode

> “They wanted a lot of early adoption. People scared that if they didn’t jump on this…”

New example sentence
Cheap subscriptions helped drive adoption of the platform.

---

roll something out

Definition
To introduce something gradually and officially.

Longer example from the episode

> “The progress isn’t being made… they’re not rolling them out as fast as they need to.”

New example sentence
The company plans to roll out the software worldwide next year.

---

iron out the problems

Definition
To gradually solve small problems or difficulties.

Longer example from the episode

> "They say it's a temporary glitch that they're going to iron out."

New example sentence
The developers are still trying to iron out the problems in the app.

---

head and shoulders above

Definition
Clearly much better than something else.

Longer example from the episode

> "They were just head and shoulders above the AI stuff."

New example sentence
The human-produced version was head and shoulders above the AI-generated one.

---

hit and miss

Definition
Sometimes successful and sometimes unsuccessful.

Longer example from the episode

> "When it works, it can sound really good. When it doesn't, it just sounds awful… so it's very hit and miss."

New example sentence
AI image generation is still a bit hit and miss.

plug into the electricity supply

Definition
To connect to electrical power.

Longer example from the episode

> "It's time for me to go and plug myself into the electricity supply and maybe drink some oil before I shut down."

New example sentence
Electric vehicles need to be plugged into the electricity supply overnight.

---

keep up the hype

Definition
To continue creating excitement and publicity.

Longer example from the episode

> "If they keep up the hype and the more people invest, the more hype builds…"

New example sentence
The company spent millions trying to keep up the hype around its product.

---

based on human content

Definition
Created using material originally produced by humans.

Longer example from the episode

> "It's completely human-made. It's based on human content."

New example sentence
Most AI systems are based on human content collected online.

---

trained on data

Definition
Developed using large amounts of information.

Longer example from the episode

> "The idea is that the only thing separating AI now and human intelligence is that it just doesn't have the data that it requires."

New example sentence
The model was trained on data gathered from millions of books.

---

fed more data

Definition
Given increasing amounts of information to process.

Longer example from the episode

> "They just keep filling it with more and more data."

New example sentence
The AI improved after being fed more data.

---

scrape the internet

Definition
To collect huge amounts of online information automatically.

Longer example from the episode

> “They’ve basically scraped the internet for everything without seeking permission from anyone.”

New example sentence
Some AI companies scrape the internet to train their models.

---

create barriers to entry

Definition
To make it difficult for new competitors to enter a market.

Longer example from the episode

> “The government regulates… and other companies can’t compete in that environment.”

New example sentence
Complex regulations can create barriers to entry for smaller companies.

---

raise investment

Definition
To obtain money from investors.

Longer example from the episode

> “These huge valuations on these companies are based on investing amounts…”

New example sentence
The startup raised investment from several venture capital firms.

---

scale the infrastructure

Definition
To expand systems and facilities to support larger demand.

Longer example from the episode

> "Where's the power going to come from and who's going to build this infrastructure?"

New example sentence
The company struggled to scale the infrastructure fast enough.

---

threaten jobs

Definition
To put employment at risk.

Longer example from the episode

> "It was going to put everyone out of a job."

New example sentence
Automation continues to threaten jobs in some industries.

---

massively energy hungry

Definition
Requiring enormous amounts of energy.

Longer example from the episode

> "These huge data centres are very energy hungry and very water hungry."

New example sentence
AI servers are massively energy hungry.

---

massively water hungry

Definition
Needing huge quantities of water.

Longer example from the episode

> "They need to cool down and the evidence looks like they're not actually being built…"

New example sentence
Modern data centres are massively water hungry because of cooling systems.

---

create a self-reinforcing cycle

Definition
To create a process that strengthens itself repeatedly.

Longer example from the episode

> "People continue to buy or invest in this thing and this creates a self-reinforcing cycle."

New example sentence
Social media algorithms can create a self-reinforcing cycle of outrage.

Informal / Idiomatic Tech-Business Language

a load of bollocks

Definition (rude)
British slang meaning complete nonsense or something totally untrue. (rude swear word)

Longer example from the episode

> "To what extent is AI just a load of bollocks? Because it's obviously amazing in so many ways."

New example sentence
A lot of people think the company's promises are a load of bollocks.

---

a scam

Definition
Something dishonest designed to trick people, especially financially.

Longer example from the episode

> "Were his comments all part of a kind of scam that we've been exposed to over the last couple of years?"

New example sentence
Critics claimed the cryptocurrency project was basically a scam.

---

confidence game

Definition
A dishonest or exaggerated scheme that depends on persuading people to believe in it.

Longer example from the episode

> "It's kind of a big confidence game where if they talk it up enough and people buy in…"

New example sentence
Some investors worry that the AI boom is becoming a confidence game.

---

smoke and mirrors

Definition
Tricks or deception designed to hide the truth.

Longer example from the episode
(implied in discussions of hype, fake promises and misleading presentations)

New example sentence
A lot of startup presentations are just smoke and mirrors.

---

talking it up

Definition
Describing something in an exaggeratedly positive way.

Longer example from the episode

> "If they talk it up enough and people buy in…"

New example sentence
The company keeps talking it up to attract investors.

---

all hype

Definition
Something that receives lots of publicity but lacks real substance.

Longer example from the episode

> “Are these predictions really true, or are they just exaggerated? Is this all hype?”

New example sentence
Some people think AI video tools are all hype.

---

massively overvalued

Definition
Worth far more than it realistically should be.

Longer example from the episode

> “The value rises far beyond its real basic value.”

New example sentence
Many analysts think certain tech companies are massively overvalued.

---

garbage output

Definition
Very poor-quality results produced by a system.

Longer example from the episode

> “It gives me some absolute garbage that looked nothing like the original idea.”

New example sentence
The chatbot produced garbage output full of factual mistakes.

AI slop

Definition
A derogatory term for low-quality AI-generated content.

Longer example from the episode

> "If Spider-Man's everywhere in all this AI slop…"

New example sentence
Social media is becoming flooded with AI slop.

---

cheap way of doing it

Definition
A low-cost method, often implying poor quality or laziness.

Longer example from the episode

> "Of course Coca-Cola are going to try to do it the cheap way…"

New example sentence
Using AI art felt like the cheap way of producing the advert.

---

doubling down

Definition
Continuing with a strategy even after criticism or failure.

Longer example from the episode

> "Instead of backing down… they're kind of doubling down and saying, no, it's great."

New example sentence
The company kept doubling down despite negative reviews.

---

take over the world

Definition
To become dominant or control everything.

Longer example from the episode

> "It's going to become more intelligent than humans, that it will somehow take over the world…"

New example sentence
People joke that AI will eventually take over the world.

---

changing everything

Definition
Having a huge transformative effect.

Longer example from the episode

> "It looks like it's going to utterly change everything about our world."

New example sentence
Smartphones ended up changing everything about communication.

---

the future of work

Definition
How jobs and employment may change in coming years.

Longer example from the episode

> "The people that are going to take the jobs in the future are going to be people who know how to work with AI."

New example sentence
AI is becoming central to discussions about the future of work.

---

weird limbo land

Definition
An uncertain transitional state.

Longer example from the episode

> "We're in that limbo land between okay, so when are these big changes going to happen?"

New example sentence
The industry is stuck in a weird limbo land at the moment.

---

not there yet

Definition
Not advanced enough or not fully successful yet.

Longer example from the episode

> "When AI writes a story for me that genuinely moves me… then I'll start to be convinced. But we're not there yet."

New example sentence
AI video generation is impressive, but it's still not there yet.

---

close to what you want

Definition
Almost correct or satisfactory, but not fully.

Longer example from the episode

> "It's amazing at getting something almost that you want."

New example sentence
The software gets close to what you want, but not exactly.

---

not fit for purpose

Definition
Not suitable for the intended use.

Longer example from the episode
(implied throughout criticism of unreliable AI output)

New example sentence
The facial recognition system was clearly not fit for purpose.

---

uncanny quality

Definition
A strange, unsettling feeling caused by something almost human but not completely natural.

Longer example from the episode

> "There is a creepy sort of uncanny quality to it."

New example sentence
The AI-generated faces had an uncanny quality.

---

eerie

Definition
Strange, mysterious and slightly frightening.

Longer example from the episode

> "I found it pretty mind blowing and quite scary. I find it quite eerie."

New example sentence
The AI voice sounded eerily realistic.

---

creepy

Definition
Unpleasantly strange or disturbing.

Longer example from the episode

> "Its darkness is just natural to it. No human element. There's a creepy sort of accidental quality to it."

New example sentence
The deep fake video was genuinely creepy.

---

dreamlike

Definition
Resembling a dream in a strange or unreal way.

Longer example from the episode

> "AI videos that I've seen strike me as being dreamlike."

New example sentence
The animation had a strange dreamlike atmosphere.

---

dystopian

Definition
Relating to an imagined future society that is frightening or oppressive.

Longer example from the episode

> "The whole thing's very dystopian."

New example sentence
Many people find facial recognition technology dystopian.

---

nightmarish

Definition
Extremely unpleasant, frightening or chaotic.

Longer example from the episode

> "You wouldn't want to live forever really. That would be nightmarish."

New example sentence
A world filled entirely with fake AI content sounds nightmarish.

Additional Informal / Conversational Expressions from the Episode

low-tech bros

Definition
A humorous expression used to describe people who are not technology experts.

Longer example from the episode

"We're not tech bros. We are bros. But literally low-tech bros."

New example sentence
We're just low-tech bros trying to understand what's happening with AI.

---

massively sugary

Definition
Containing an extremely large amount of sugar.

Longer example from the episode

"As long as it's massively sugary and bad for you, I'll eat it."

New example sentence
American breakfast cereals can be massively sugary.

---

slash the price

Definition
To reduce the price dramatically.

Longer example from the episode

"As soon as Easter's over all the prices of the eggs get slashed."

New example sentence
The supermarket slashed the price of laptops before Christmas.

---

a British institution

Definition
Something considered a traditional or iconic part of British culture.

Longer example from the episode

> "The creme egg is a sort of British institution."

New example sentence
The village pub is a British institution.

---

go off on a tangent

Definition
To suddenly start talking about something unrelated.

Longer example from the episode

> "We're going off on a massive tangent already, aren't we?"

New example sentence
He kept going off on tangents during the meeting.

---

mind blowing

Definition
Extremely surprising or impressive.

Longer example from the episode

> "When it first came out, I found it pretty mind blowing."

New example sentence
The special effects in the film were mind blowing.

---

put your finger on it

Definition
To identify or explain something exactly.

Longer example from the episode

> "It's got this weird look to it that you can't quite put your finger on."

New example sentence
There's something strange about the design, but I can't put my finger on it.

---

feels like cheating

Definition
Feels unfair or dishonest.

Longer example from the episode

> "However impressive it is, it still feels like cheating somehow."

New example sentence
Using AI to write essays feels like cheating to some students.

---

sprinkle a bit of fairy dust on something

Definition
To add small improvements that make something seem more magical or attractive.

Longer example from the episode

> "Sprinkle a bit of fairy dust on the thing…"

New example sentence
The producer sprinkled a bit of fairy dust on the final mix.

---

hit and miss

Definition
Sometimes successful and sometimes unsuccessful.

Longer example from the episode

> "When it works, it can sound really good. When it doesn't, it sounds awful… it's very hit and miss."

New example sentence
Voice recognition software is still a bit hit and miss.

---

au fait with

Definition
Familiar with or knowledgeable about something.

Longer example from the episode

> "Yes, I am certainly au fait with the sequencer on the TB3."

New example sentence
She's very au fait with modern technology.

---

shut up

Definition
An informal way to tell someone to stop talking.

Longer example from the episode

> "Oh shut up. It will never ever say that it can't do something."

New example sentence
I wish these automated phone systems would just shut up and connect me to a person.

---

for a laugh

Definition
As a joke or for amusement.

Longer example from the episode

> "Maybe they just did it for a laugh."

New example sentence
We tried the app for a laugh.

---

weird wormhole

Definition
A strange mental or conversational path that becomes obsessive or confusing.

Longer example from the episode

> "People have gone down some quite dark wormholes…"

New example sentence
He disappeared down a weird internet wormhole about conspiracy theories.

---

freaky

Definition
Strange and unsettling.

Longer example from the episode

"Funny. This is really freaky, you know."

New example sentence
The AI voice clone sounded freaky.

---

uncanny valley

Definition
The uncomfortable feeling caused by things that appear almost human but not quite.

Longer example from the episode
(implied throughout discussion of AI imagery and video)

New example sentence
The robot's face fell deep into the uncanny valley.

---

black magic

Definition
Something mysterious and seemingly impossible to understand.

Longer example from the episode

"There's like an evil black magic to it."

New example sentence
To most people, modern AI feels like black magic.

---

vibe

Definition
The general feeling or atmosphere of something.

Longer example from the episode

> "It's got this weird look to it…"

New example sentence
The office has a relaxed startup vibe.

---

utterly change everything

Definition
To transform something completely.

Longer example from the episode

> "It looks like it's going to utterly change everything about our world."

New example sentence
The internet utterly changed everything about media.

---

a whole other conversation

Definition
A completely separate topic requiring more discussion.

Longer example from the episode

> "That's a whole other conversation for another time maybe."

New example sentence
The ethics of AI surveillance is a whole other conversation.

---

flitting from one thing to another

Definition
Moving quickly between ideas or thoughts.

Longer example from the episode

> "Your brain is kind of flitting from one to the other…"

New example sentence
My attention keeps flitting from one app to another.

---

trots out

Definition
To repeat something familiar or unoriginal.

Longer example from the episode

> "There's a few tropes that it always trots out."

New example sentence
Politicians always trot out the same slogans during elections.

---

hackneyed

Definition
Overused and lacking originality.

Longer example from the episode

> "It's extremely hackneyed in its style."

New example sentence
The film relied on hackneyed clichés.

---

a dead end

Definition
A situation that leads nowhere useful.

Longer example from the episode

> “If he isn’t [a replicant], it’s a dead end, isn’t it?”

New example sentence
The investigation turned into a dead end.

---

take the piss

Definition
British slang meaning to mock or joke about someone.

Longer example from the episode

> “Maybe they just did it just to take the piss.”

New example sentence
He was only taking the piss — he didn’t mean it seriously.

---

go rogue

Definition
To behave independently in a dangerous or uncontrolled way.

Longer example from the episode

> “Artificial humans who’ve gone rogue.”

New example sentence
The software update went rogue and deleted files automatically.

vying for your attention

Definition
Competing to attract your focus or interest.

Longer example from the episode

> “Videos on YouTube which are vying for your attention all the time.”

New example sentence
Social media apps are constantly vying for our attention.