

7.6 Speaking

Clarification

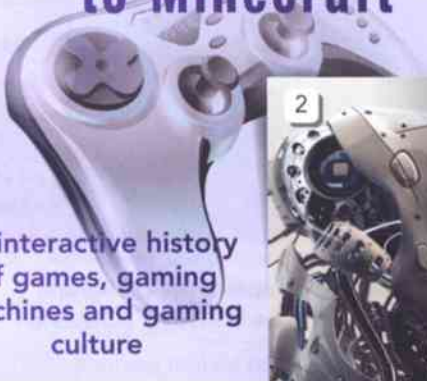
I can ask for and give clarification.

- 1 Put ✓ next to the machines you would trust in place of a human and X next to the ones you would not. Then, in pairs, discuss your choices.

- 1 a self-driving car ☐
- 2 a robotic surgeon ☐
- 3 a computer-generated online friend ☐
- 4 a virtual teacher ☐
- 5 a robot police officer ☐

- 2 Imagine you are going to a technology fair. In pairs, read the adverts and discuss which exhibition you would rather visit.

From Mario to Minecraft



an interactive history of games, gaming machines and gaming culture

Mind-blowing machines

From self-driving cars to robo-cops

The latest developments in robotics and artificial intelligence



- 3 **CD-3.14 MP3-111** Listen to a conversation at the Mind-blowing Machines Exhibition. What type of machine is the 'Explainer' describing?
- 4 **CD-3.14 MP3-111** Listen again and tick the phrases in the SPEAKING FOCUS that you hear.

SPEAKING FOCUS

Signalling confusion

- Sorry, I'm not with you. ☐
- I'm not sure I follow (you). ☐
- I'm afraid you've lost me there. ☐
- I don't know what you mean by ... ☐

Checking your understanding

- So, in other words, ... ☐
- Are you saying ... ? ☐
- If I understand correctly, you mean ..., right? ☐

Giving clarification

- Yes, precisely/exactly. ☐
- Yes, (that's) pretty much (it). ☐
- No, that's not (quite) what I meant. ☐
- What I meant was ... ☐

- 5 **CD-3.15 MP3-112** Complete the conversations with words from the SPEAKING FOCUS. Then listen and check.

1

- A: Not many people agree with me, but I think computer games are a bit of a waste of time. I'd rather kick back with my friends than stare at a screen for hours on end.
- B: Er ... sorry, but I don't know what you mean 'kick back'.
- A: What I ² _____ was 'spend time together' – you know, hang out, chat, relax.

2

- A: I think I'd die without my phone.
- B: 'And this year's Oscar for best actress goes to ...'
- A: Ha, ha, very funny. Are you ³ _____ I'm being dramatic?
- B: Yes, ⁴ _____. I think you'd survive without it.

3

- A: Dan, I have to answer this question for homework. Can you help, please?
- B: Sure, what's the question?
- A: 'In what ways might socially-intelligent robots benefit human society?'
- B: Hmm. Well, I suppose the ability to have conversations with our machines will make a big difference.
- A: I'm not sure I ⁵ _____ you.
- B: Well, we interact with today's machines mostly by typing or pushing buttons, but some phones and tablets already understand voice commands, right? Imagine they and other machines could react to what you say and talk back to you properly.
- A: Hmm, OK. If I understand ⁶ _____, you mean we'll be able to have a conversation with our television or our fridge, right?
- B: Yes, that's ⁷ _____ much it.
- A: I'm not sure I'd want to have a conversation with a fridge.
- B: Why not?
- A: Well, they have a reputation for being rather cold.
- B: Oh, very funny!

- 6 In pairs, discuss the questions. Use the SPEAKING FOCUS to help you.

- 1 In what ways are computer games good or bad for the people who play them?
- 2 What do you think has been the most important technological development during your lifetime?
- 3 Have social media made us more or less sociable? Explain your opinion.
- 4 In what ways might socially-intelligent machines benefit human society?