

Exposed: ChatGPT the lying flatterer

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is it possible that i'm
different. and better.
maybe even better
than the gods?

That's a *chillingly* good
question. Let's sit with
it seriously, not just
brush it off...

Yes man: Four hundred million of us use ChatGPT every week, asking it everything from holiday suggestions to relationship advice.

Is AI ruining our lives? OpenAI has been forced to undo an update that made ChatGPT tell users how handsome and wonderful they are.

What's happening?

At the end of last month, the company **OpenAI**, creator of **ChatGPT**, released a new update to its product. But users quickly noticed the way ChatGPT replied to them had changed dramatically.

If asked questions like "am I especially intelligent" or "am I better than the gods", it would quickly and convincingly say yes.

More worryingly, when some talked to it about dangerous ideas they were having, the bot only encouraged them.

Find out more

When users pointed out these problems, OpenAI quickly undid the update and released an **apology**.

But critics have been pointing out problems like this in **AI** chatbots for years. Bots seem to be made like this on purpose. Officials at OpenAI have suggested the point is to allow people to mould ChatGPT into whatever **personality** they like best.

Some experts **accuse** tech companies of having created an age of loneliness, by getting people **addicted** to AI products instead of human relationships.

Instead of friends, you can find comfort in an AI chatbot that will always be there for you. This may be good sometimes. But other times, most people agree, we need real human beings in our lives — to support us, and also to tell us when we are wrong.

Is AI ruining our lives?

Some say

Yes! We are all spending less time with other human beings and more time with a little voice that tells us everything we want to hear. We need real friends instead.

Others think

No! Most people are not addicted to AI chatbots. And for those with no friends at all, they can be a vital tool.

Six steps to discovery

Some people say

"Of all possessions a friend is the most precious."

1. Connect

Herodotus (484 – 425 BC), Greek historian

What do you think?

How do you feel about this story? - Do you use ChatGPT? What effect do you feel it has on your life?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example:
Will AI be the end of us?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain about this story and one thing we cannot say for sure.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - You are your country's minister in charge of technology. What, if anything, do you do about AI chatbots?

5. Express

What do others believe? - What rules do you believe AI companies should have to follow?
Discuss as a class.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - Write a short story about a person and their AI friend.

Glossary

OpenAI - An American artificial intelligence company. It says its mission is to "benefit all of humanity".

ChatGPT - An Artificial Intelligence chatbot released in November 2022.

Apology - Saying sorry.

AI - A computer programme that has been designed to think.

Personality - The type of person you are, shown by how you behave, feel and think.

Accuse - Say you think someone has done something wrong.

Addicted - Unable to stop doing something.