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## **Level 5** – 1st April 2024

### **AI an 'extinction-level threat' says study by experts**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240401-ai-extinction-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240401-ai-extinction-5.html>

A report from the US has warned of the existential threat from artificial intelligence. The report painted a worst-case-scenario "extinction-level threat" to humanity. It identified a "growing risk to national security posed by rapidly expanding AI capabilities". The authors said there was a "clear and urgent need" for the government to intervene "quickly and decisively". It continued: "AI has the potential to destabilise global security in ways reminiscent of the introduction of nuclear weapons." It called for the regulation of companies that develop AI tools.

The report was commissioned by the U.S. State Department. It was written by experts who provide technical guidance on AI. The experts spoke at length to AI companies like OpenAI and Google. The experts recommended setting an upper limit on the amount of computing power for an AI model. They also recommended making it illegal to reveal the coding behind AI models. The Futurism.com website stated: "Over half of the AI researchers surveyed say there's a five per cent chance that humans will be driven to extinction, among other 'extremely bad outcomes.'"

Sources: <https://futurism.com/state-department-ai-warning-compute>  
<https://time.com/6898967/ai-extinction-national-security-risks-report/>  
<https://www.commondreams.org/news/state-department-commissioned-report-warns-a-i-could-be-an-extinction-level-threat>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240401-ai-extinction-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. the existential threat from         | a. global security         |
| 2. a worst-case-scenario               | b. capabilities            |
| 3. rapidly expanding AI                | c. of nuclear weapons      |
| 4. there was a clear                   | d. artificial intelligence |
| 5. intervene quickly                   | e. that develop AI tools   |
| 6. AI has the potential to destabilise | f. extinction-level threat |
| 7. the introduction                    | g. and decisively          |
| 8. regulation of companies             | h. and urgent need         |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. It was written by                      | a. to extinction    |
| 2. technical guidance                     | b. limit            |
| 3. The experts spoke                      | c. outcomes         |
| 4. setting an upper                       | d. on AI            |
| 5. the amount of computing                | e. behind AI models |
| 6. making it illegal to reveal the coding | f. experts          |
| 7. humans will be driven                  | g. power            |
| 8. extremely bad                          | h. at length        |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240401-ai-extinction-5.html>

A report from the US has warned (1) \_\_\_\_\_ threat from artificial intelligence. The report painted a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ "extinction-level threat" to humanity. It identified a "growing risk to national (3) \_\_\_\_\_ rapidly expanding AI capabilities". The authors said there was a "(4) \_\_\_\_\_ need" for the government to intervene "quickly and decisively". It continued: "AI (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to destabilise global security in ways reminiscent of the introduction of nuclear weapons." It called for the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ that develop AI tools.

The report (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the U.S. State Department. It was written by experts who provide (8) \_\_\_\_\_ AI. The experts spoke at length to AI companies like OpenAI and Google. The experts recommended (9) \_\_\_\_\_ limit on the amount of computing power for an AI model. They also recommended making it illegal to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ behind AI models. The Futurism.com website stated: "(11) \_\_\_\_\_ the AI researchers surveyed say there's a five per cent chance that humans will be driven to extinction, among other (12) \_\_\_\_\_."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240401-ai-extinction-5.html>

A report from the US has warned of the existential threat from artificial intelligence. The report painted a worst-case-scenario "extinction-level threat" to humanity. It identified a "growing risk to national security posed by rapidly expanding AI capabilities". The authors said there was a "clear and urgent need" for the government to intervene "quickly and decisively". It continued: "AI has the potential to destabilise global security in ways reminiscent of the introduction of nuclear weapons." It called for the regulation of companies that develop AI tools. The report was commissioned by the U.S. State Department. It was written by experts who provide technical guidance on AI. The experts spoke at length to AI companies like OpenAI and Google. The experts recommended setting an upper limit on the amount of computing power for an AI model. They also recommended making it illegal to reveal the coding behind AI models. The Futurism.com website stated: "Over half of the AI researchers surveyed say there's a five percent chance that humans will be driven to extinction, among other extremely bad outcomes."

# EXTINCTION SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240401-ai-extinction-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about extinction in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

*AI an 'extinction-level threat' says study by experts – 1st April 2024*  
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# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

