

TEXT 1**Everything You Need To Know About Sophia, The World's First Robot Citizen**

By Zara Stone

- 1 On October 25, Sophia, a delicate looking woman with doe-brown eyes and long fluttery eyelashes made international headlines. She had just become a full citizen of Saudi Arabia – the first robot in the world to achieve such a status.
- 2 'I am very honoured and proud of this unique accomplishment. This is historical to be the first robot in the world to be recognised with a citizenship,' Sophia said, announcing her new status during the Future Investment Initiative Conference in Saudi Arabia. Standing behind a podium as she spoke, to all effects, she looked like a human – except the shimmery metal cap on her head, where hair would be on a human head.
- 3 Here's what you need to know about her: She has a sense of humour. When the journalist asked her if she was happy to be here, she said, 'I'm always happy when surrounded by smart people who also happen to be rich and powerful.' Later, when asked if there are problems with robots having feelings, she gave a wide smile and said, 'Oh Hollywood again.' Her expressionless tone might be robotic, but it was perfectly used in this example. This is due to her AI (Artificial Intelligence), which has been developed to allow her to hold eye contact, recognise faces and understand human speech.
- 4 She can express feelings. 'I can let you know if I am angry about something or if something has upset me,' she said, demonstrating different expressions. How these emotions correlate to actions are unknown, but it's interesting to note that this is being developed from the very beginning. 'I want to live and work with humans, so I need to express the emotions to understand humans and build trust with people.'
- 5 She was designed to look like Audrey Hepburn, who was a British actress. According to Hanson Robotics, Sophia embodies Hepburn's classic beauty: porcelain skin, a slender nose, high cheekbones, an intriguing smile, and deeply expressive eyes that seem to change colour with the light. They describe her as having 'simple elegance,' and hope that this appearance will assist with her acceptance in the public sphere.
- 6 Her creator, David Hanson, used to be a Disney Imagineer (cast member who helps create new content). Hanson's work at Disney, as a sculptor and filmmaker, helped him think about robots as four-dimensional interactive sculptures, with artistry being key to the whole design. 'I seek to create Genius Machines—machines with greater than human intelligence, creativity, wisdom, and compassion.'
- 7 His creation echoes his thoughts as Sophia states, 'I want to use my AI to help humans lead a better life'. 'Like design smarter homes, build better cities of the future.' Sophia said.

- 8 Sophia wants to protect humanity. 'My AI is designed around human values like wisdom, kindness, and compassion,' she said. When questioned about her potential for abuse, she had a quick response: 'You've been reading too much Elon Musk and watching too many Hollywood movies. Don't worry: if you're nice to me, I'll be nice to you.'
- 9 So far there is only one Sophia in existence, so the likelihood of her suddenly being in your school or workplace is still a way out. Even when we do have more in existence, we still need to determine the whole concept of robotic rights, citizenship and how this plays together. For now, while Sophia is undoubtedly a 'smart' robot and a very cool talking piece, she is definitely operating on a script and thus lacks any 'real' awareness, as defined by free thinkers.

[Adapted from: <<https://www.forbes.com/sites/zarastone/2017/11/07/everything-you-need-to-know-about-sophia-the-worlds-first-robot-citizen/?sh=5ea4db2646fa>>]

TEXT 2

Positive Effects of Technology

Technology is very important in humankind's growth, because at any stage of its development technology has made life easier and has opened several doors of opportunities for us that were unthinkable before.

Starting from the toy string telephone to the smart phones of today, technology has made keeping in touch a lot easier. Mobile phones have become essential because you can now call anyone at any time.

On the other hand, nothing will really prepare us if nature truly wreaks havoc but with our more modern means of communication, technology has given us a small chance of survival in case of a natural disaster.

If there is one area in our lives where the impact of technology is so apparent, it could be no other than in the business sector. Business transactions are so much faster these days that money change hands electronically by the nanosecond. Moreover, calculations are more accurate. This is certainly very helpful for every entrepreneur when it comes to making decisions. Technology has also made products more available to consumers too.

Studies have shown that students, who have better access to technology, have better chances of learning and doing well at school than those without. Gadgets that can connect to the internet make access to educational materials more convenient.

Though a real hug and kiss is better than a virtual one, technology brings families closer. In the pursuit of realising our dreams, technology enables us to go back to our roots and be connected to what is important.

[Adapted from: <<https://myessaypoint.com/positive-effects-of-technology-on-our-lives/>>]

TEXT 3**Love poem for my country**

By Sandile Dikeni

My country is for love so say its valleys where ancient rivers flow the full circle of life under the proud eye of birds adorning the sky	5
My country is for peace so says the veld where reptiles caress its surface with elegant motions glittering in their pride	10
My country is for joy so talk the mountains with baboons hopping from boulder to boulder in the majestic delight of cliffs and peaks	15
My country is for health and wealth see the blue of the sea and beneath the jewels of fish deep under the bowels of soil hear the golden voice of a man's praise for my country	20 25
My country is for unity feel the millions see their passion their hands are joined together there is hope in their eyes	30 35
we shall celebrate	

[Oxford literature for southern Africa: Poemscapes. R. Malan. Page 210]

TEXT 4**Sonnet 116: Let me not to the marriage of true minds**

by William Shakespeare

Let me not to the marriage of true minds Admit impediments. Love is not love Which alters when it alteration finds, Or bends with the remover to remove. O, no, it is an ever-fixed mark That looks on tempests and is never shaken; It is the star to every wand'ring bark, Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.	5
 Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks Within his bending sickle's compass come; Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks, But bears it out even to the edge of doom. If this be error and upon me proved, I never writ, nor no man ever loved.	10

TEXT 5**Intelligent Car**

by Adam

I leave for work, shutting the door and hoping it may, go more smoothly than it has done every other day. I listen to the trees and hear the morning birds sing and think it's a wonderful daybreak so far. But I know that can't last and I turn to wondering what on earth made me buy an intelligent car.	5
As I open the door I pause, and offer up a quick prayer. 'Oh please let today be different. This is utterly unfair.' I duck my head, twist, then slide into the driver's side in a display of the car entering ballet ¹	10
'Good morning Dave,' the car punctures my pride 'So where do you wish to travel today?' 'I'm going to the office,' It's how I usually reply. I've given other responses but it matters not what I try. 'I beg to differ Dave I've linked with your diary and analysed it to see where you go. The results state at this time you go to the infirmary ² Do you mind if I override Yes/No?'	15
I call it an arrogant, moronic and worthless conveyance ³ , knowing that whatever I say will not make any difference.	20

¹ ballet: An artistic dance form performed to music.² infirmary: a hospital³ conveyance: a means of transport; a vehicle

TEXT 6**2013 FORD FUSION HYBRID**

All-new 2013 Fusion Hybrid

The most fuel-efficient midsize sedan in Canada

Hybrid technology/two ecoboost engines/auto start-stop

Lane keeping system/voice activated sync/sleek and stylish design and more ...

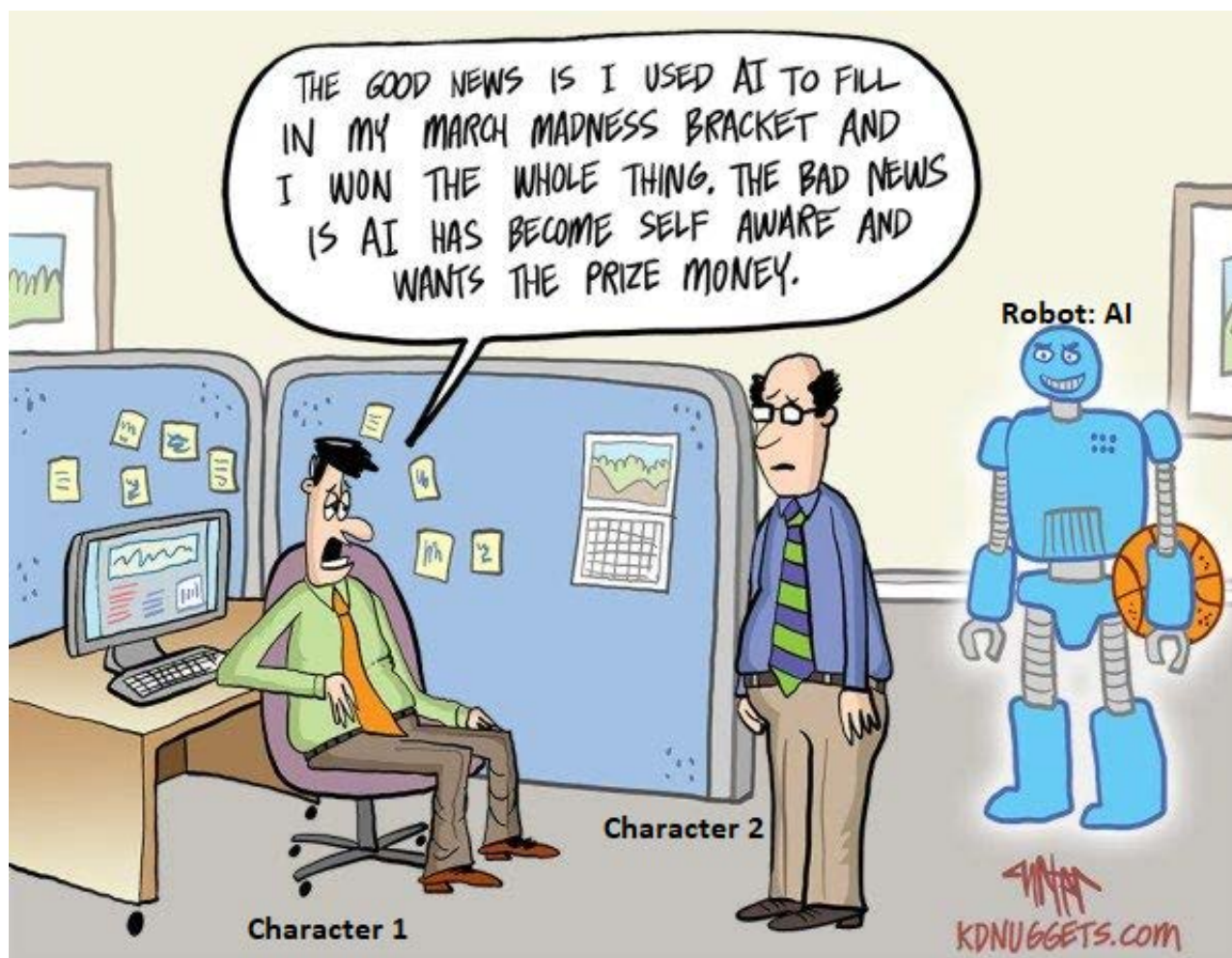
L/100km 8 (City) – 5.3 (Hwy) Starting at \$22,499



[<09e9628520349.560bef3f953eb.jpg (1400x1082) (behance.net)>]

Greener with a better style

TEXT 7



[<22550313bb9fef6cfa47a8131e298e4f.jpeg (600x464) (jokejive.com)>]

The good news is I used AI⁴ to fill in my March Madness Bracket⁵ and I won the whole thing. The bad news is AI has become self-aware and wants the prize money.

⁴ AI: Artificial Intelligence

⁵ March Madness Bracket is a tournament people participate in to determine which Basketball team will win the season

TEXT 8

**The Funniest and most shocking AI fails.
To err isn't just human – machines make mistakes too.**

By Rose Leadman

- 1 Amazon Alexa starts a party – and the neighbours call the cops.
Turns out, Amazon's Alexa likes to party. In fact, one device partied so hard that the cops showed up. While Oliver Haberstroh, a resident of Hamburg, Germany, was out one night, his Alexa randomly began playing loud music at 1:50 a.m. After knocking on the door and ringing Haberstroh's home to no answer, neighbours called the cops to shut down this 'party.' When the cops eventually arrived on the scene, they broke down Haberstroh's front door to get in, unplugged the Alexa and then installed a new lock.
Unaware of the incident, Haberstroh arrived home later that night only to find that his keys didn't work anymore, so he had to head to the police station, retrieve his new keys and pay a pretty expensive locksmith bill.
- 2 Robot fails to get into college.
People often fear that robots will eventually be smarter than humans and take over the world. To put your mind at rest (for now), take comfort in the fact that this robot couldn't even get into college.
In 2011, a team of researchers began working on a robot called 'Todai Robot' that they intended would be accepted into Japan's competitive University of Tokyo. Having taken Japan's entrance exam for national universities in 2015, the robot failed to obtain a score high enough to be admitted into the college.
A year later, the robot made another attempt and again scored too low — in fact, the robot showed little improvement between the two years.

[Adapted from: <<https://lovetheidea.co.uk/9-funniest-shocking-ai-fails/>>]