

# Introducing the Robots

## Definition

A robot is  
'any machine that can move around and do different tasks without human help'.

It does not need to look like a real person. Remote controlled objects are not robots nor are they computers, but both of these are important parts of robotics.

## Word Origin

The word Robot comes from the Czech word 'robota' which means 'forced Labour'. It was used in a play by Karel Capek called Rossum's Universal Robots in 1920.

## Introduction

1954 saw the invention of the first programmable Robot. Before that robots were only seen in films as pure science fiction, but now robots are leaving the cinema screens and coming into everyday life.

There are over a million true robots in the world, most working in factories. The first were used in car manufacturing - they can work for longer, they are cheaper than humans and make fewer mistakes!

Robots can reach the parts that humans cannot. To the outer reaches of space, the depths of the ocean, the centre of a volcano and even beneath the rumble of fallen buildings, robots are saving lives.

In the home, we are just starting to see what robots can do. Kick off your slippers, put your feet up and watch the robots mow the lawn and Hoover the carpets!  
Who knows what they will be able to do in the future?!

## Weblinks

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<http://www.youthonline.ca/fastfacts/robot.shtml>

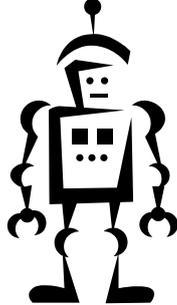
Some basic information

[www.cs.bham.ac.uk/research/robotics/cbbc/history.php](http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk/research/robotics/cbbc/history.php)

A useful site from Birmingham University, a mix of text and images provides an interesting overview to kick off the theme

# Robotic Response

## True or False?



- The word robot was first used in a play in 1920. True/False
- A computer is a robot. True/False
- Most robots are working up in space. True/False
- Robots do jobs without human help. True/False
- The first programmable robot was built in 1954. True/False
- Robots do jobs that humans used to do. True/False
- A robot could save your life one day. True/False
- Humans can go anywhere a robot can go. True/False
- Robots in the future will be able to do more than they can now. True/False
- All robots have a head, arms and legs just like us. True/False
- A human could work for longer than a robot. True/False
- Robots have been characters in many films and books. True/False

How do you think you did?

Use the internet and information books to check your answers.