29 October 2018   **Monday**
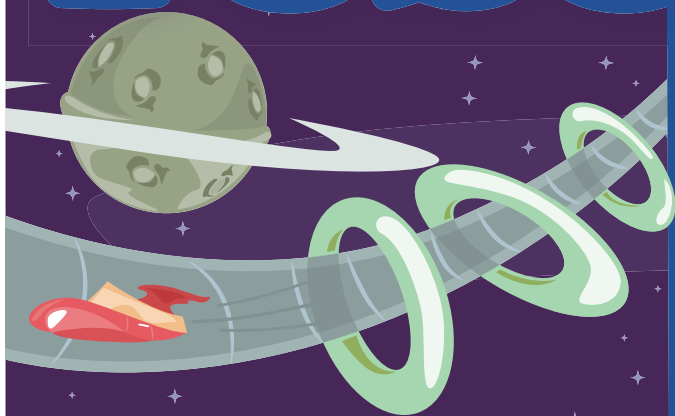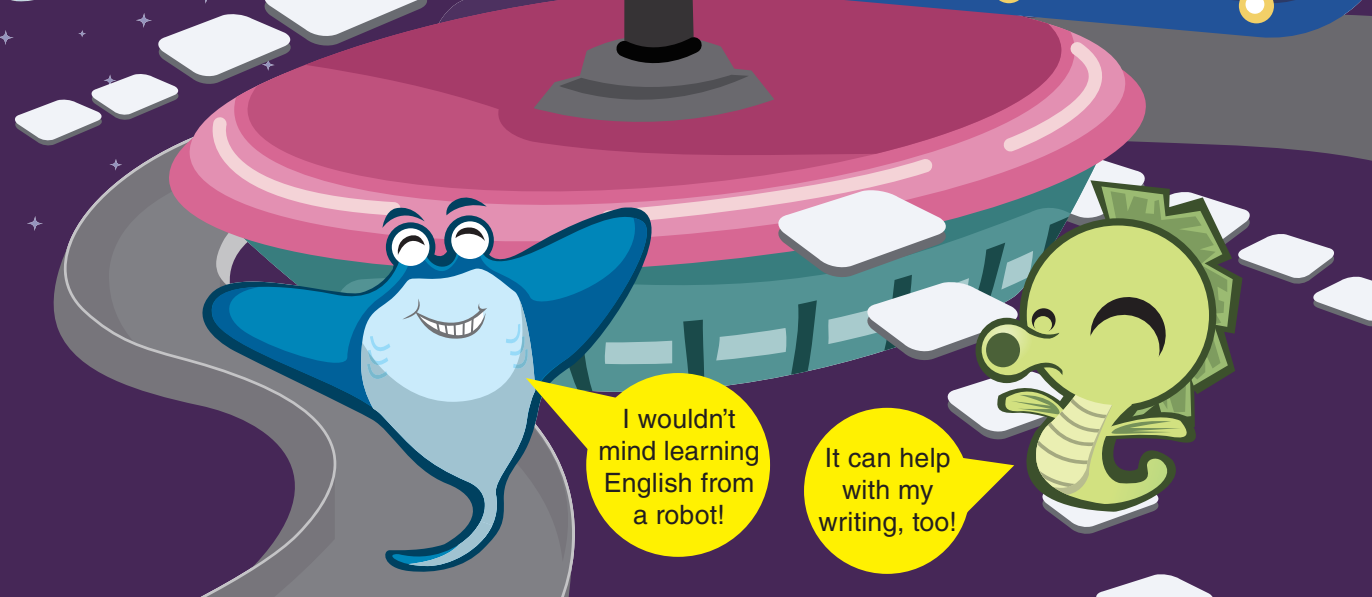
Goodies

Learn English with robots

ROBOTS can do a lot of things these days, and in Japan they will be teaching English! The education department of Japan will be introducing English-teaching robots next year, to help build up their students' English speaking and writing skills. Each student will get a robot of his or her own, so that schools can help every student instead of just the ones who speak out the most. The robots help by encouraging the students to speak English in the first place, and then they correct their pronunciation. The students' writing skills will get individual attention as well.

I wouldn't mind learning English from a robot!
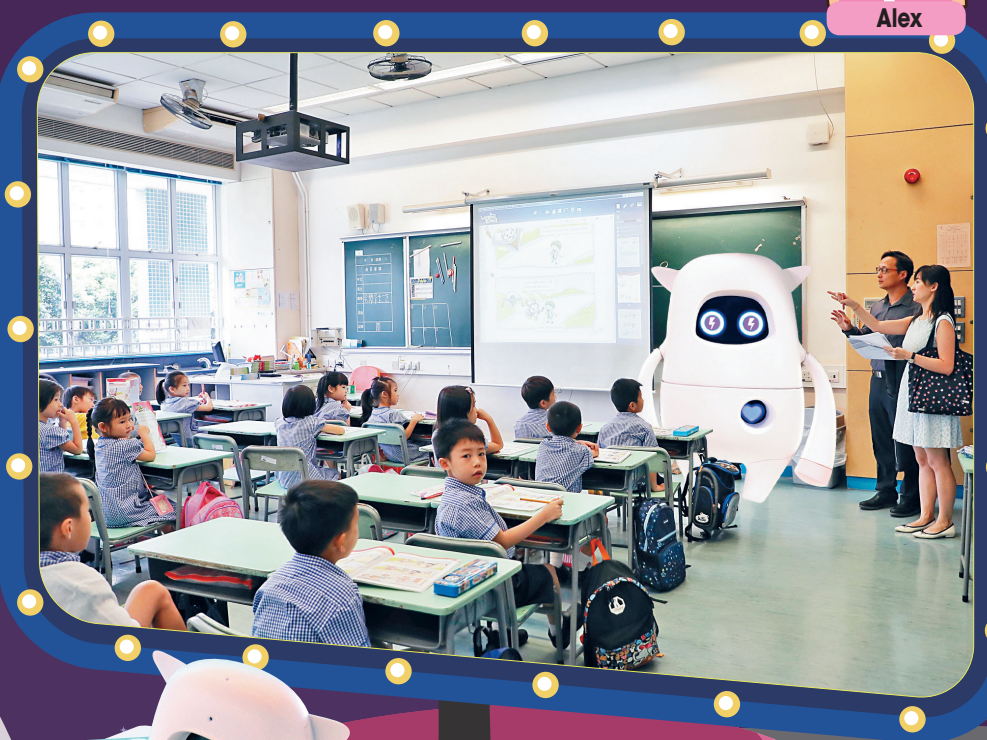
It can help with my writing, too!

Alex

Lessons from machines

MANY Japanese schools are already using robots in their English lessons. Can Hong Kong adopt the same methods?

How will robots help?

THE project will put these machines in 500 classrooms. In this project, the robots in classes today already have many functions, like correcting a student's **pronunciation**. This is difficult for human teachers to do because they cannot give their full attention to every student in a class.
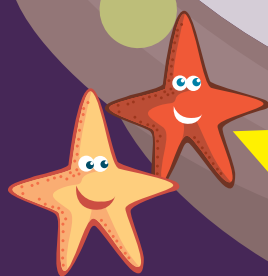
In Hong Kong

HONGKONGERS start studying English from P1, but sometimes our English skills are ranked below other Asian (亞洲的) **regions**, like Singapore (新加坡). What can we do to help Hong Kong kids learn English better? Would such robots, equipped with **artificial intelligence**, help each student they are **assigned** to? How would it change the **tutorial** culture?

English in Japan

IN Japan, all students must learn English from ages 12 to 15, but starting from 2020, they will have to start doing so at the age of 10. But good English teachers with proper training are difficult to find in Japan, so their education department is looking at different technologies to help. Robots are only one **aspect** of the plan, and the Japanese education department is also looking at apps on tablets.

We love our teachers, but we wouldn't mind some extra help, either!

G Fun

What does the robots not help with?

A. Reading   B. Speaking   C. Writing

Challenge
⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐

Vocabulary

pronunciation (n) 發音
aspect (n) 方面

region (n) 地區
artificial intelligence (n phr) 人工智能

assign (v) 分配
tutorial (n) 補習