

Computers, Language and Thought

With a partner, have a brief casual conversation about something simple and school appropriate. Record both the A and B portions of this conversation on the left hand side of the template below. Then initiate the same conversation, keeping as true to the original as it possible and natural, with Mitsuku (the chatbot). In this conversation you will record your parts as A and Mitsuku's as B. You may continue the conversation with Mitsuku beyond five responses if you wish to get a better feel for how it uses language. Then complete the back.

Human A	Human B	Human A	Mitsuku B

With all the members of your group, using both conversations, answer the following.

1. If you were not part of either conversation, how difficult would it be to determine which role was played by the computer?
2. What is it about our use of language that makes it so difficult for computer's to use language as we do? List as many observations as you can, supporting these observations with specific examples from the conversations if you can.

Do you think computers will ever be able to pass the Turing test 98% of the time? Explain your answer. If your answer is no, what do you think is the most significant why not?

Is the Turing test an adequate gauge of whether machines have minds? Explain your answer after discussion with your group.