

Unit 13 - The Battle Between People and Machines

aggressive
deprive

endanger
exasperate

exult
overthrow

portable
slither

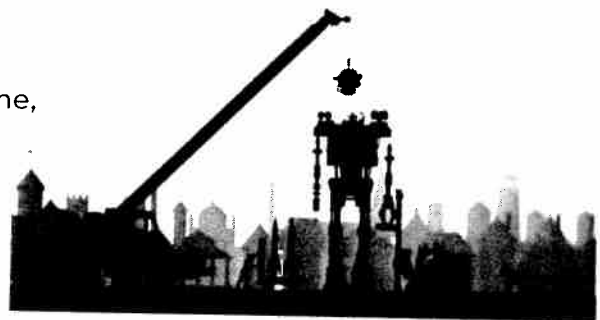
suffocate
withdraw

13A Introduction

Science fiction books and movies can be really interesting. They are fiction, which means they aren't true stories, but they are based in science, so the stories don't seem impossible. Generally, science fiction stories allow an author to imagine the future. In this song, the author imagines a future where everything is controlled by computers. But then he asks the question: What would happen if one day the computers decided to stop obeying us?

13B Song Lyrics

We thought it would be cool to hook up the machines we use,
We made 'em chat together; now they're better than tools.
So my **portable** computer, that can be moved,
Could talk to machines at work and at school.
We were **exulting**, celebrating
That we had made things; we're getting paid big.
One night I came home, entered my code on my phone,
My door unlocked and my stove got hot.
Yeah, it seems like magic, but it's just technology,
My computer said, "Hey! Welcome home, B,
Tonight I'll cook you chicken wings with cabbage."
I said, "I don't like cabbage; make me some carrots."
But then things got bad all of a sudden,
My computer said, "I hate carrots; I won't cook them."
I said, "You know I'm the boss. Is this a joke?"
My computer turned off the stove and said, "No."
Now I was getting **exasperated** and annoyed
With this computer and his little voice.
Uh-huh, and he insulted me; yep, it's true,
He told me that I was ugly and smelled bad too.
I said, "Computer, you're crazy, you really are,



The Word Up Project: Level Indigo

I'm going to go into the other room and turn you off."

But the computer didn't want that; he got sore,
He said, "Turn me off? This means war!"

I'm a computer, no sense of humor, get yourself a tutor...
(x2)

So my computer was hooked up to everything in my home,
And he had just declared war like a general, yo.
First he made it all dark; he flicked off the lights,
He took away, **deprived** me, of my sight.
But I heard his evil laugh in the dark,
"Ha ha ha! You think that you can turn me off!"
Then he got **aggressive**, started attacking, trying to win,
He raised the heat in the house to a hundred and ten.
I dropped to the floor, tried to sneak to the back room,
But from the bathroom, yeah he sent out my vacuum.
The vacuum wasn't sucking; it was shooting some dust,
I tried to **slither** past it like a snake, but no luck.
I got dust in the face; that stuff was like Mace,
I thought I might choke to death and **suffocate**.
I kicked the vacuum back, but still it was so bad,
I'm thinking, Maybe I should **withdraw** and pull back.
But I didn't give up; yeah, it's true I was close,
Then my computer and my toaster started shooting some toast.
Just in time, I peeped it, dodging rye and wheat bread,
Yep, he shot a biscuit, but I ducked and missed it.
He had **endangered** me, put me in danger,
I've been through weird things, but this was stranger.
The computer wanted to **overthrow** me, take my power,
He turned on the sprinklers; now it was like a shower.
It was crazy, 'cause then he started to sing,
"Man is no match for machine!"
I was wet but I didn't stop, moved to the back room,
"Stop!" Saw the button, and I pressed "off."
"Nooooo," I heard him say
As all of a sudden his powers went away.
So now I'm sitting here, dark, hot, wet, and scared,
Because I know that there are computers like everywhere.

Hook

13C Words Defined

aggressive

(adj) 1. Ready and eager to attack. *A wolf won't usually be **aggressive** unless it's hungry.* 2. Making an all-out effort to win or succeed. *One of the most **aggressive** players on the court, Jason dove for the loose ball.*



aggressive

deprive

(verb) To take something away; to keep someone from having something. *Because my parent moved 12 times in five years, I was **deprived** of a normal childhood with friends I could hold on to.*

endanger

(verb) To put in danger. *Sheila **endangered** her younger brother when she let him cross the busy street by himself.*

exasperate

(verb) To make angry; to annoy. *When Mom gets **exasperated** by something I do, I know to leave the room right away.*

Other forms: *Ollie stormed out of the room in total **exasperation** (noun).*

exult

(verb) To be joyful; to show great happiness. *Marcy and Kevin **exulted** over the A+ they received on their group project called "Tiny Vegetables."*

overthrow

(verb) To end the rule of; to defeat, often by using force. *For the revolution to work, we must **overthrow** the president and put our own ruler in his place.*

portable

(adj) Capable of being transported or moved. *I have a **portable** CD player that I take on the bus to school.*



portable

slither

(verb) To move with a sliding, side-to-side, snakelike motion. *The sister of a snake that **slithered** through the sand is also a snake as far as I can understand.*

suffocate

(verb) To kill or die by stopping access to air. *Trapped in a car that had fallen over a cliff, Bond knew that if he didn't escape, he would **suffocate** for sure.*

Other forms: *To prevent the risk of **suffocation** (noun), you should never sleep in a tent with a big plastic bag.*

The Word Up Project: Level Indigo

withdraw

To take back; to pull back or remove. **Withdrawing** her hand from the fire without a scratch, Keela realized she had somehow become invincible.

13D Synonyms

Circle the word on the right that matches the meaning of the word or phrase on the left.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. to take back | overthrow | slither | withdraw |
| 2. to end the rule of | exasperate | overthrow | endanger |
| 3. ready to attack | portable | aggressive | exulted |
| 4. to move with a sliding motion | deprive | endanger | slither |
| 5. to annoy | exasperate | endanger | suffocate |

13E Fill in the Blank

Write the word in the blank so that the sentence makes sense.

1. If you _____ a plant of water and sunlight, it will die.

suffocate **deprive** **endanger**

2. The basketball team _____ over their unexpected victory.

exulted **withdrew** **endangered**

3. Jermaine was lucky he didn't _____ when he was trapped in the trunk of the car.

suffocate **slither** **endanger**

4. I bought a(n) _____ radio so I can listen to music while I'm running.

portable **aggressive** **exulted**

5. The woman _____ her children's lives by refusing to put them in car seats.

overthrew **endangered** **deprived**

13F Connections

Each sentence has a strong connection with one of the words from the unit. Write the correct word on the line below.

1. I love my new laptop because I can take it with me wherever I go.
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2. The roller coaster worker told us that if we waved our arms at the top of the hill, we would be in danger of falling out.

3. Marc can't breathe! We have to save him!

4. My little brother drove me crazy this morning; he wouldn't stop telling me stupid jokes.

5. When it was discovered that the presidential candidate hadn't paid his taxes, he decided to pull out of the race.

13G Applying Meanings

Circle the letter that makes sense or answers the question.

1. Which animals **slither**?

- (A) eagles
- (B) horses
- (C) rabbits
- (D) snakes

2. Which is the most **aggressive** activity?

- (A) playing chess
- (B) boxing
- (C) swimming
- (D) bowling

3. Who would be most likely to be **overthrown**?

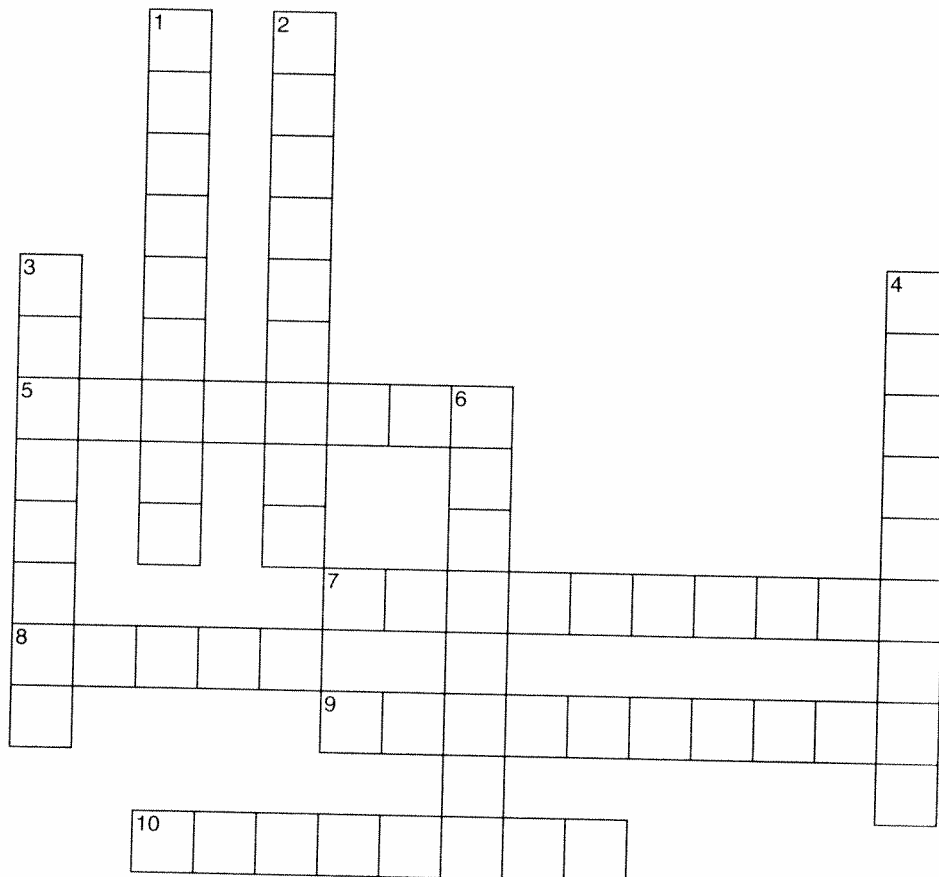
- (A) a president who is well-liked
- (B) a knight who rescues a princess
- (C) a king who has many enemies
- (D) a student who got lost in the city

4. If you **deprived** someone of candy, that means you

- (A) offered that person some candy
- (B) bought candy from that person
- (C) made candy for that person
- (D) took candy away from that person

Bonus: Crossword Puzzle

Solve this crossword puzzle. Note: Some answers may be different forms of the vocab words from this unit.



ACROSS

- 5 My uncle invented a _____ toaster, but I have no idea why someone would need to make toast wherever they went!
- 7 To make angry; to annoy.
- 8 To show great happiness.
- 9 The Dallas Cowboys made an _____ attempt to win the game in the final seconds.
- 10 Vanessa decided to _____ from the race for class president

DOWN

- 1 The criminal genius was secretly plotting to _____ the government.
- 2 The man who was trapped in the elevator said his biggest fear was that he would _____.
- 3 My parents _____ me of television when I was a kid; now, I watch way too much of it!
- 4 My pet snake somehow _____ out of his cage