

# What Is a Robot? by Clive Gifford

## What is a robot?

Robots are amazing machines that can work on their own. They can go into many places – from space to deep underwater.

## Handy workers

Robots can often do more than one job. Gripping hands allow them to hold and use many different tools and objects.

## On the move

Many robots can move using wheels, caterpillar tracks like tanks, or legs.

## Robot controllers

Controllers are a robot's brain. They make decisions for the robot and operate all of its parts. Robot controllers are usually computers.

## Learning to walk

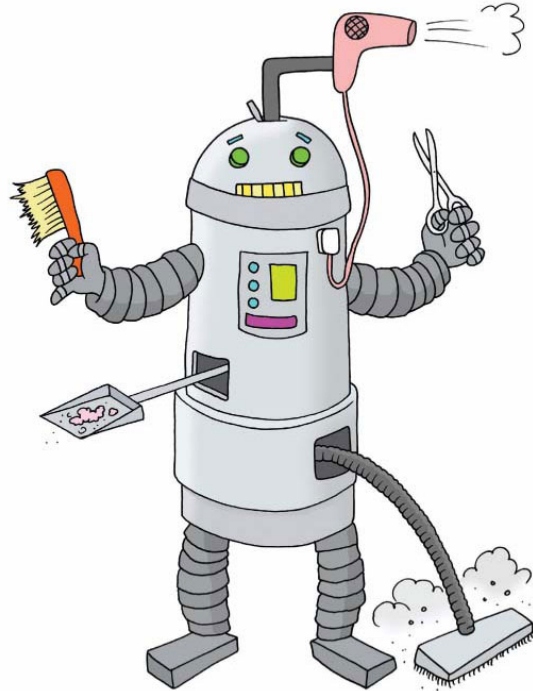
Some robots are controlled directly by people. Others are able to work by themselves.

## Robot arms

Robot arms are the most popular type of robot. They have joints so the arm can move in many different directions, just like a human arm.

## Get a grip!

Many robot arms end with a robot hand, called a gripper. Grippers are often fitted with pressure sensors to help judge how much force is needed to grip something.



Name:	Class:	Date:
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1 What is the definition of a robot used in this text?

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2b  
☐  
 1 mark

2 How are robots' sensors like human senses?

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2b  
☐  
 1 mark

3 Why could you not ask a lawn-mowing robot to vacuum your carpets?

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2d  
☐  
 1 mark

4 The writer talks about robots' hands, arms and brains.  
 Why do you think she uses words for the human body to talk about a machine?

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2g  
☐  
 1 mark

5 Why do you think we do not send so many people to explore space any more?  
 Use a reason from the text in your answer.

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2d  
☐  
 1 mark

6 What can robots do?  
 Choose **three** answers from the text.

- build cards ☐
- make decisions for themselves ☐
- smell if there is a fire ☐
- fly into a volcano ☐
- send information from space ☐
- tell you if they like something ☐

2c  
☐  
 1 mark