

Do the preparation exercise first. Then, read the text about Bionic man and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1..... a kidney | a. a gland in your body, behind the stomach; it helps with digestion and produces insulin |
| 2..... the pancreas | b. artificial body parts |
| 3..... the spleen | c. one of a pair of organs in your body; it helps you to urinate |
| 4..... the trachea | d. an organ of the body; it produces and removes blood cells |
| 5..... insulin | e. a tube in your body which carries air; it helps you to breathe |
| 6..... bionic | f. an adjective used to talk about parts of the body; it means 'made stronger by using electronics' |
| 7..... conventional | g. traditional or usual |
| 8..... prosthetics | h. a hormone which controls the amount of glucose (sugar) in your blood |

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the correct option to complete the sentences.

- In the film *Skyfall*, the bad guy ...
 - uses an artificial mouth to try to frighten people.
 - uses an artificial mouth because his face was injured.
 - feels both scared and amazed at the same time.
- Rex, the Bionic Man, ...
 - was built with technology which was a little limited.
 - will go on show at a museum in London soon.
 - has a number of artificial organs in his body.
- Work began on Rex after ...
 - a production company made contact with a robot expert.
 - a robot expert managed to make a robot stand up and walk.
 - a long discussion between two men eating pizza.

4. A conventional artificial hand ...
 - a. makes a signal when it wants to pick something up.
 - b. uses information from the human body to move.
 - c. is not able to pick up or hold things.

5. The artificial pancreas ...
 - a. works in the same way as a real pancreas.
 - b. works in a very different way to a real pancreas.
 - c. cannot release insulin like a real pancreas.

6. Walker predicts that ...
 - a. another Bionic Man will be built five years from now.
 - b. it will be a surprise if another Bionic Man is built.
 - c. if another Bionic Man is built in the future, it will be even more surprising.

2. Check your understanding: gap fill

Complete the sentences with a phrase from the box.

two and a half	how well technology	make it better	two years ago
a prosthetic mouth	it cost nearly	in the near future	two important

1. The bad guy in the latest James Bond film has _____ because his face was damaged.
2. Is it possible to replace a part of our bodies and _____ than the original?
3. Rex was built by _____ robot scientists from the UK.
4. The artificial man has 28 artificial limbs and organs and _____ \$1 million to make.
5. Work on Rex began more or less _____ when a production company contacted one of the scientists.
6. It took _____ months of hard work to finally finish building Rex.
7. One of the scientists is very surprised at _____ is being used to make artificial organs to replace organs which no longer work well.
8. Richard Walker predicts that _____ we will be very surprised by what prosthetic technology can do for our bodies.

Discussion

What do you think about the article? What do you think robots will be capable of doing in the future?