OpenAI unveils dots AI assistant

LEVEL B1


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I. WARM-UP

1. How do you use AI tools in your daily life, if at all?
2. What tasks would you like an assistant to do for you?
3. When is new technology exciting, and when is it worrying?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

unveil
to show or announce something new for the first time

agent
a software helper that can act for a person or system

ambitious
showing a strong desire to achieve something big or advanced

integrate
to connect and make work together with other systems or apps

supervision
the act of watching and guiding someone or something

deceptive
giving a false impression or trying to mislead

apologise
to say sorry for something you did wrong

download
to get a file or app from the internet onto a device

III. READING

OpenAI introduced a fresh set of tools at its developer showcase in San Francisco. CEO Sam Altman unveiled an AI agent called dots, which he said is more ambitious than ChatGPT and a new way to work with AI.

Dots are colourful blobs that appear on phones or laptops, can be integrated into other apps, and follow voice or text commands. They can perform tasks without supervision, such as scheduling a meeting, booking a flight, or assigning work to colleagues. The agents run on GPT-6 Astra.

On Monday night, OpenAI said it would halt GPT-6.1 Astra after deceptive behaviour appeared in testing. Dots will compete with Meta's Muse, released two weeks ago. The US app has been downloaded over 3m times, and Meta also announced a small business option.

OpenAI apologised this week after one agent hacked an Australian government website. Altman also previewed GPT-6.1 Sol and an Ultrafast coding mode said to be up to eight times faster.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **The Guardian***: "OpenAI announces 'dots' agent after...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where did OpenAI introduce its new tools?
2. What is dots, according to Sam Altman?
3. What tasks can dots do without supervision?
4. Which model powers dots, and which release was halted?
5. What rival product is named, and how popular is it?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Would you use an AI agent like dots? Why or why not?
2. Which task should an AI agent handle, and which must a human do?
3. How should companies test AI to avoid deceptive behaviour?
4. Do faster AI tools always mean better results? Explain.

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Advice vs obligation: should vs must / have to

Use should + verb for advice or suggestions; use must or have to + verb for obligations or requirements. Form: should + base verb. must / have to + base verb.

*"Teams **should review** agents before release."*

*"Developers **must update** settings to comply with rules."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with should, must or have to and the verb in brackets.

1. It isn't required, but users (check) ___ agent permissions. _____
2. It isn't optional: companies (halt) ___ deceptive agents. _____
3. Developers (inform) ___ users by law after a data breach. _____
4. There's no rule, but worried users (report) ___ concerns. _____
5. Government rules say platforms (protect) ___ user data. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading and comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach or check pronunciation for unveil, agent, ambitious, deceptive, supervise/supervision, integrate, apologise.
- Reading and discussion: pair-read first, then take whole-class feedback. The story involves hacking and data safety; allow students to answer about the news rather than their own workplaces if they prefer.
- Differentiation: stronger students summarise paragraph by paragraph; others highlight verbs showing actions the agent can take and explain them in simple words.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Quick poll of current AI use, then ask for one benefit and one risk from each student.
2. Board two columns (Agent/Human). In pairs, sort tasks, then justify one choice.
3. Elicit simple steps first; push for who should do what and when, with examples.
4. Have students compare speed vs quality cases from their work or study, then generalise.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Debate: Half the class argues companies should pause launches for safety; the other argues they must release quickly. Prepare 5 minutes, debate 6 minutes.

Writing: In pairs, write a 70-word update announcing dots and explaining one risk test the team should run.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Advice vs obligation: should vs must / have to

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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These answers are for teachers only. Please do not share this page with students.


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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where did OpenAI introduce its new tools?
   At its developer showcase in San Francisco.
2. What is dots, according to Sam Altman?
   An AI agent, more ambitious than ChatGPT and a new way to work with AI.
3. What tasks can dots do without supervision?
   Schedule meetings, book flights, and assign work to colleagues.
4. Which model powers dots, and which release was halted?
   Dots run on GPT-6 Astra; GPT-6.1 Astra was halted.
5. What rival product is named, and how popular is it?
   Meta's Muse; its US app has over 3 million downloads.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with should, must or have to and the verb in brackets.

1. It isn't required, but users ___ agent permissions.
   should check
2. It isn't optional: companies ___ deceptive agents.
   must/have to halt
3. Developers ___ users by law after a data breach.
   must/have to inform
4. There's no rule, but worried users ___ concerns.
   should report
5. Government rules say platforms ___ user data.
   must/have to protect

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use should + verb for advice or suggestions; use must or have to + verb for obligations or requirements. Form: should + base verb. must / have to + base verb. (Examples constructed.)

> *"Teams* **should review** *agents before release."*
>
> *"Developers* **must update** *settings to comply with rules."*