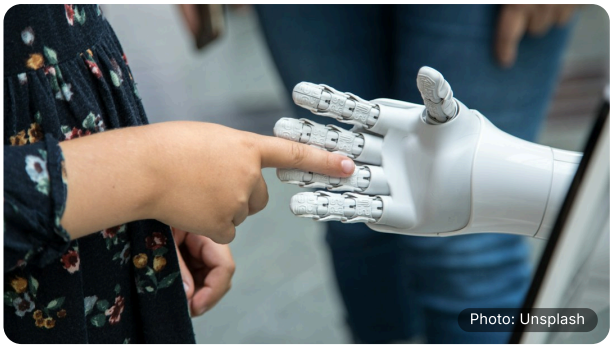
Trump rejects AI safety safeguards

LEVEL C1


Photo: Unsplash

I. WARM-UP

1. What risks or benefits of AI worry you most?
2. Who should set AI rules: governments or companies? Why?
3. When should warnings lead to regulation?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

safeguard
A rule or measure designed to prevent harm or danger.

mandatory
Required by law or official rule, not optional.

third party
An independent person or group not directly involved.

selloff
A rapid drop in share prices when many investors sell.

guardrail
A limit set to stop something from going too far.

deceleration
A deliberate slowing of progress or activity.

monitoring
Regular checking to observe changes or problems.

extinction
The complete end of a species or of humanity.

III. READING

US President Donald Trump called fears about AI safety a "hoax" and attacked proposals for tighter safeguards. He compared warnings to the "Global Warming Scam" and the "RUSSIA, RUSSIA, RUSSIA HOAX", declared "WHOEVER WINS AI, WINS!", and said the only needed "guardrails" were a "strong and smart" president.

His posts followed a selloff in some tech shares as investors weighed a slowdown in AI development. The comments came after Anthropic co-founder Jack Clark told the BBC a "kill switch" for dangerous systems, checked by a third party, may need to be mandatory and enforced by lawmakers.

He said most labs can already "pull the plug". Microsoft AI published guidance on "humanist AI" as the debate intensified. Senator Bernie Sanders warned that uncontrolled growth poses an existential risk, even the possibility of human extinction. Inside Anthropic, the discussion is also sharp.

Researcher Evan Hubinger put the chance of AI causing human extinction "within the next decade" at more than 10%. Chief executive Dario Amodei called for deceleration and closer monitoring, "without sacrificing commercial advantage".

OpenAI's Sam Altman and xAI's Elon Musk backed industry-wide deceleration, regulation, and independent monitoring.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News**: *"Trump says AI safety fears a 'hoax' as he...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What did Trump call fears about AI safety?
2. What control did Jack Clark say may need to be mandatory?
3. Why did some tech shares fall on Monday?
4. What did Microsoft AI publish as the debate grew?
5. What chance did Evan Hubinger give for extinction within a decade?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Should governments impose AI guardrails, or should firms lead?
2. Is an AI kill switch realistic, useful, both, or neither?
3. Do warnings about AI extinction help policy, or harm it?
4. How can rivals share safety data without losing advantage?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Three-word phrasal-prepositional verbs

A three-word phrasal-prepositional verb is a verb + particle + preposition (e.g. look forward to, get away with). They act as a single meaning unit and the particle+preposition order is fixed.

> *"Some campaigners* **stand up for** *stricter AI rules."*
>
> *"Researchers* **came up against** *strict limits during tests."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

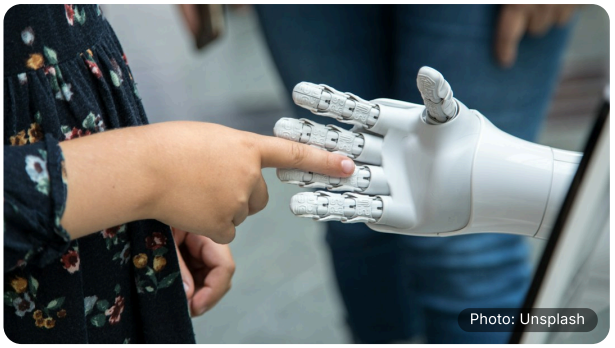
Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Rules often fail to keep up (with / for) the pace of AI. _____
2. Independent teams should check up (of / on) AI labs. _____
3. Firms should live up (with / to) their safety promises. _____
4. A regulator came down (on / at) firms that ignored checks. _____
5. Some experts (put up for / put up with) stricter safety rules. _____

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.


Photo: Unsplash

I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading and comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 12–15 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach or check: safeguard, mandatory, third party, selloff, guardrail, deceleration, monitoring, extinction.
- Run the reading twice: first for main positions, then scan for names, claims and figures. Sensitivity: strong political language features in the story; keep the discussion on policy ideas rather than personal beliefs, and let students comment about the news rather than themselves.
- Differentiation: stronger students map stakeholders and write one-sentence summaries; others highlight phrases that support each viewpoint before speaking.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Set up a quick vote, then pair opponents to exchange two reasons each.
2. Elicit practical examples of a kill switch, then test limits with follow-up questions.
3. Ask students to name benefits and risks, then prioritise the top two for policy.
4. Put students in mixed groups to design a minimal data-sharing rule they could accept.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Debate: In two teams, argue for or against making an AI kill switch mandatory; 8 minutes prep, 6 minutes debate.

Writing: Individually write a 90-word summary of the guidance Microsoft AI published and why now; 10 minutes.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

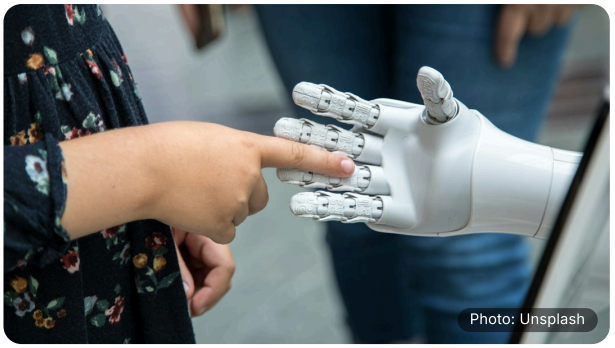
Grammar exercise: Three-word phrasal-prepositional verbs

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

Answer Key

TEACHERS ONLY

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


Photo: Unsplash

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What did Trump call fears about AI safety?
   A hoax.
2. What control did Jack Clark say may need to be mandatory?
   A kill switch checked by a third party.
3. Why did some tech shares fall on Monday?
   Concerns about a possible slowdown in AI development.
4. What did Microsoft AI publish as the debate grew?
   Guidance on "humanist AI".
5. What chance did Evan Hubinger give for extinction within a decade?
   More than 10%.

V. DISCUSSION

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

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: A three-word phrasal-prepositional verb is a verb + particle + preposition (e.g. look forward to, get away with). They act as a single meaning unit and the particle+preposition order is fixed. (Examples constructed.)

> *"Some campaigners* **stand up for** *stricter AI rules."*
> *"Researchers* **came up against** *strict limits during tests."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Rules often fail to keep up (with / for) the pace of AI. **with**
2. Independent teams should check up (of / on) AI labs. **on**
3. Firms should live up (with / to) their safety promises. **to**
4. A regulator came down (on / at) firms that ignored checks. **on**
5. Some experts (put up for / put up with) stricter safety rules. **put up with**