

## Will Robots Brighten Our Future?

For many decades, there have been popular anime about robots in Japan. Many people have heard of Astro Boy and other popular anime and manga robots. Many children became big fans of robots on TV and thought, “In the future, I will make real robots.” Now, about one quarter of the world’s industrial robots are made in Japan!

Japan’s robot technology is possibly the most advanced in the world. In 2000, Honda developed the world’s first robot that walks on two legs—ASIMO. It excited the world by walking freely, going up and down steps, as well as dancing! In 2014, Softbank presented Pepper, the world’s first emotion-recognizing robot. Pepper can live with a family or work in an office.

These days, there are practical robots all around us. Some robots can enter places and do work that is too dangerous for humans, such as removing landmines. Robots for medical and nursing care are expected to play a key role in the future, helping people walk and carry things. Drones, which are flying robots, can also take pictures, survey land, and assist in security. Some companies are even looking into drones to make deliveries.

Although robots are useful to humans today, one day they may cause serious problems. AI is quickly advancing, meaning robots will become smarter than humans. In fact, robots may replace half of Japanese workers in the next 10 to 20 years. What will we do if there are too many robots?

Should we continue developing robot technology? Of course, robots can solve many of Japan’s problems if we develop and use them properly. We should start thinking about how to get along with robots today.

(283 words)