《高中英语（上外版）》必修第三册

第四单元 Life and Technology

第1课时学案（教师版）

课题： **Reading A: Life with a Robot Dog**

课时学习目标：

- 能通过基于语篇的问答活动，理解描绘机器狗特征的词汇，把握机器狗与真实宠物狗之间的异同；
- 能通过分段阅读课文，梳理作者对机器狗情感态度变化的脉络，讨论分析态度变化的原因；
- 能辩证思考科技时代下人与科技的关系。

Learning Procedure

I. Lead-in activity

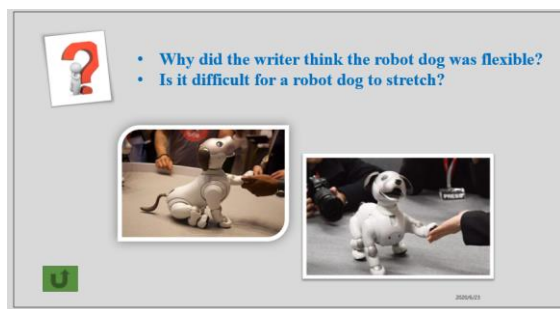Choose one of the three robots and describe the robot with some adjectives.

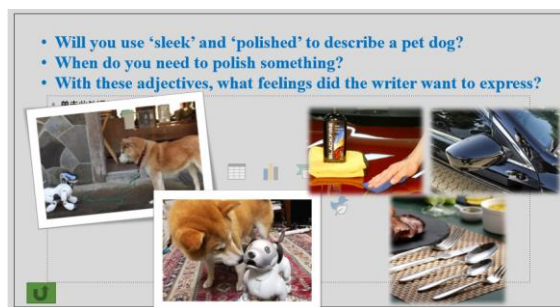### II. While-reading activity 1

1. How dog-like is the robot dog?

   It is dog-like in appearance, size and movement. It is handsome-looking, sleek and polished. It is the size of a large puppy. It is flexible.

2. According to the description in paragraph 1, why did the writer think the robot dog was flexible?

   Because he could stretch, dance, jump around the room and chase a ball.

3. Do you think it is difficult for a robot dog to stretch?

   It is difficult for a robot to stretch because stretch is the movement that creatures possess only and it needs muscles to move freely and cooperatively.

4. Though it's difficult for a robot to stretch, the robot dog made it. So what kind of feeling do you think the writer might have?

   He might be very surprised and amazed.

5. Will you use 'sleek' and 'polished' to describe a pet dog? When do you need to polish something? With these adjectives, what feelings did the writer want to express?

   No. Most pet dogs are furry.

   We polish something to make it shiny. For example, after we polish a car, it will be shiny and polished. Look at this picture, the tableware is polished.

6. [Instruction] Find the expressions in paragraph 1 and summarize the writer's attitude towards the robot dog.

   broke into a huge smile; immediately; fascinating

   The writer was fascinated by the robot dog.

7.   From these features, flexibility is the similarity between the robot dog and a pet dog.

While-reading activity 2

1.   What does the owner of the robot dog need to do?

Program the robot dog.

2.   What was the writer's attitude towards programming the robot dog according to paragraph 2? Find some

expressions and try to analyze what feelings and attitude the writer had.

hugely satisfying; pretty impressive; the best part; didn't even have to…

The writer was satisfied with the way to "raise" the robot dog.

3.   What benefits and demerits do you think programming the robot dog may have?

Benefits: convenience

Demerits: lack of sense of achievement/ surprise

While-reading activity 3

1. [Instruction] Read paragraph 3 and summarize the features of the robot dog.

    Have interaction with the owner; give response to the owner's commands or attention

2. Do you think the robot dog's response is the same as a pet dog's response? Why?

    No. The robot dog's response is programmed, which is under the owner's control and can be expected.

3. [Instruction] Find the expressions in paragraph 3 and summarize the writer's attitude towards the robot dog.

    stroke/ pet…affectionately; shower him with love; enjoy; evoke strong emotional response…

    The writer was enthusiastic about the robot dog.

While-reading activity 4

Features	appearance	sleek, polished	attitude	
	movement	stretch flexible	fascinated	he
Similarity	flexible		satisfied	
Difference	program response emotional connection mutual relationship **a technological work of art**		enthusiastic disappointed	

1. [Instruction] Find the expressions that show the writer's attitude and summarize his attitude.

   die down; lose patience and get annoyed; fail miserably; let me down…

   The writer was disappointed at the robot dog.

2. Why did the writer's feelings have a sharp change? What lacks in the relationship between the robot dog and the writer?
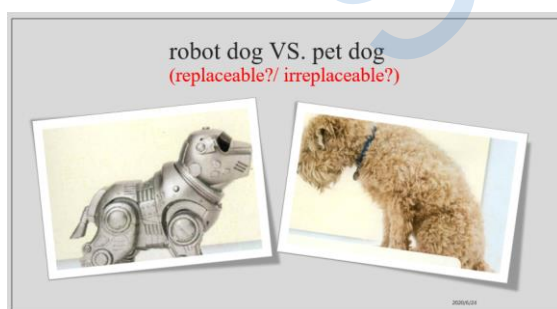
   Emotional connection and mutual relationship.

3. Do you think mutual relationship matters in the development of a relationship? Why?
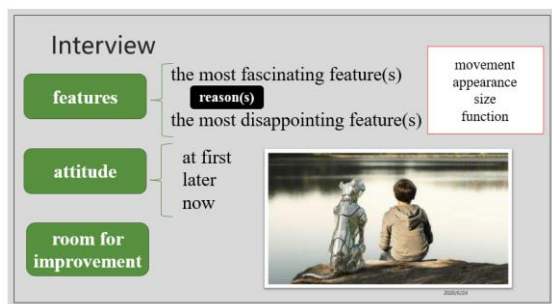
   Yes. We can feel the warmth and real response from our partner instead of cold technology.

4. What did the writer refer to the robot dog at first? later? What's difference between 'he' and 'it'.

   He is a creature with life and emotion while it is a cold-blooded machine.

5. The writer drew a conclusion at the end of the passage. What did he think of the robot dog?

   It is a technological work of art.

Post-reading activity

1. Do you think pet dogs are replaceable? Have a discussion with your group members.

   Robot dog can bring us convenience and an excitement of enjoying technology but it cannot give us real company and emotional support.

2. Now the robot dog developers want to improve it, so they need to know the owners' feedback. Make an interview with your partner. One student plays the role of the developer and the other the owner. The interview should be based on the following outline. Try to use as many expressions learned in the passage as possible. Your interview will also be judged on these aspects.

Homework:
1. Complete task II on page 54.

	The authors' feelings towards the robot dog	Descriptions from the text
At first	The author liked the robot dog very much.	Verbs and verb phrases: broke into a huge smile, played with, stroked, enjoyed, pet, showered him with love, evoked a strong emotional response…
		Adjectives and adverbs: handsome-looking, fascinating, hugely satisfying, impressive, affectionately…
		Other expressions: Immediately became a "him", not an "it", without any hesitation, …
Later	The author was disappointed and annoyed with the robot dog.	Verbs and verb phrases: die down, stopped delighting in, losing my patience, getting annoyed, didn't enjoy, failed, stopped referring to him as a "he", started calling him "the robot", let me down…
		Adjectives and adverbs: frustrated, miserably…
		Other expressions: however, never really happened between me and my robot dog, our relationship was limited, inability to develop a mutual relationship,

2. Complete the brief introduction to the following technologies with the words in the text. The first letter is

given.

A. Self-driving car

People may be **fascinated** by cars on city streets without a driver. The high-tech company Google has a fleet of self-driving cars. They look **sleek** and **polished**.

B. 3D printing

3D printing can produce objects by adding material in layers. After being **programmed,** the 3D printing machine can produce almost anything you want.

C. Robotics

Robotics deals with robots which can be applied to various fields. Some robots playing sports are as **flexible** as human players while others can **respond** to human's commands.

3. Find more information online for one of the technologies above. Accumulate expressions concerning the features and people's attitude towards the technology. Make a presentation about the technology in terms of its features (appearance, size, functions etc.) and people's attitude.