

TAKE A TURING TEST

In 1950, an English computer scientist named Alan Turing (1912–1954) devised a test to tell a person from a computer. You're going to try this with a **Chatbot**. This is an online computer program that is designed to mimic a human.

- **Write down five questions** you think a computer might find hard to answer.
- **Pick one person to be the interrogator and ask the questions.** This person should not be able to see the computer or the human. They can be in another room or behind a curtain.
- **A second person will be the human answering the questions.** A third person will be the computer who will type the questions to the chatbot and then write out the answers.
- **With an adult's permission, the person playing the computer** should go on the internet and visit cleverbot.com. Here, you can type to an AI.
- **Have the interrogator ask the questions.** Rather than answering out loud, the "human" and the "computer" should both write the answers down. The person playing the computer should write down the chatbot's answers.
- ★ Can the interrogator figure out which is the human answering the questions and which is the chatbot? Why?

Try This!

Try thinking up a new list of questions that reveals which subject is the computer. Do you need to ask more specific questions? Questions about feelings and ideas? What kind of language does the computer use that makes you realize it's a computer?