

Unit 3 Innovation

Lesson 3

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Text 1

*We Must Shape
the AI That Will in
Turn Shape Us*

Source: Financial times, 2023

FINANCIAL TIMES

LD US COMPANIES TECH MARKETS CLIMATE OPINION LEX WORK & CAREERS LIFE & ARTS HTSI

Opinion Artificial intelligence

We must shape the AI tools that will in turn shape us

The answer to fears about this technology is not to slow down its progress but accelerate it

REID HOFFMAN + Add to myFT



Filippo Brunelleschi had to collaborate with a range of professionals to create the tools that would allow him to construct his innovative and beautiful dome, which crowns the Santa Maria del Fiore cathedral in Florence, Italy © Clarissa Cavalheiro/Reuters

Reid Hoffman

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The Washington Post | LIVE

the path forward

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Reid Hoffman

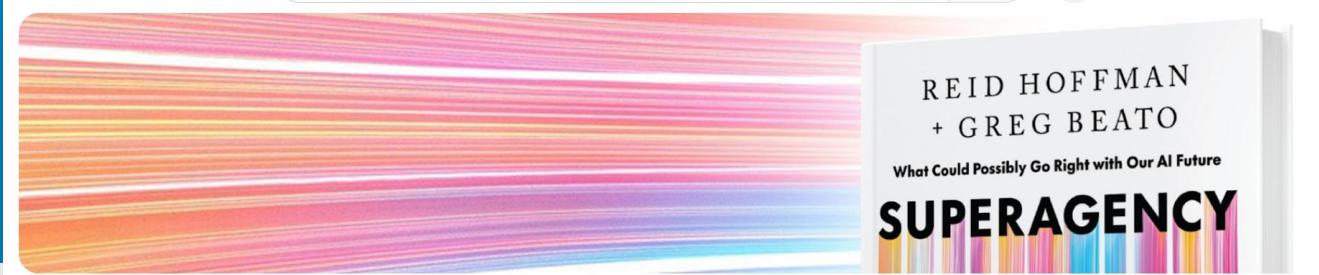
Co-Founder, LinkedIn
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The writer is co-founder of LinkedIn, co-founder at Inflection AI and a partner at Greylock. This article is inspired by a commencement speech given at the Bologna Business School on September 8.

Reid Hoffman



Reid Hoffman

@reidhoffman · 6.2万位订阅者 · 528 个视频

Hi—I'm Reid Hoffman, co-founder of LinkedIn, partner at Greylock, co-host of the Possible ...[更多](#)

[superagency.ai](#) 和另外 6 个链接

订阅

What is his standpoint on AI's role?

热门视频

热门视频

- Bill Gates on possibility, AI, and humanity
- Reid Hoffman meets his AI twin - Full
- Trevor Noah on the Future of Entertainment and AI
- Giving Humans Superpowers with AI and AR | Meta CTO...
- Dr. Jane Goodall on Hope, AI, and the Natural World
- Marques Brownlee on the future of creators

My Thoughts On AI ► 全部播放

My Thoughts On AI ► 全部播放

- I asked my AI twin to review my book
- 50+ Panels in 10 Minutes: Reid AI's Top AI Summit...
- Reid Hoffman has more advice for his younger self
- Reid Hoffman pitches LinkedIn to himself
- My AI twin has been busy
- Reid Hoffman and a team of AIs chat with Allie K. Miller

Scanning questions:

1. **In paragraphs 1-2, what is the author's main opinion about AI and who should control it?**

AI will reshape all our lives and become the primary technology we use.

We have this technology in our hands—not the other way around. / Humans should control AI.

Text 1 (Foreword)

*The answer to fears about this technology is not to **slow down** its progress but to **accelerate** it.*

- **Accelerate (v.) 加速、促进**
 - accelerate the process/reform/development 加速进程/改革/发展
 - accelerate economic growth 加速经济增长
 - e.g., The government wanted to accelerate the reform of the institutions.

Text 1 (Para 1)

Artificial intelligence will reshape all our lives. It will become the primary technology that we use to make decisions and **navigate** the world—a steam engine of the mind; a **cognitive** GPS; a tool for **orientation**, discovery, and navigation. But we have this technology in our hands—not the other way around. And with it, we have the opportunity to **amplify** and define the future of **humanity**.

- **Navigate (v.)** 导航；驾驶；应对（困难局面）
 - e.g., He has learned to navigate in rough waters.
- **Cognitive (adj.)** 认知的；认识的
 - cognitive skills 认知技能
 - e.g., As children grow older, their cognitive processes become sharper.
- **Orientation (n.)** 方向；定位；取向
 - have an orientation (towards/to) 有...倾向
 - career orientation 职业定位
 - e.g., The company has an eco-friendly orientation

Text 1 (Para 1)

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- **Amplify (v.) 放大；增强**
 - amplify sound/voice 放大声音
 - amplify the effect/impact 扩大效果/影响
 - e.g., The music was amplified with microphones
- **Humanity (n. 不可数) 人类；人性**
 - all of humanity 全人类
 - for the benefit of humanity 为了人类的利益
 - e.g., The environmental impact of these policies affects all of humanity.

Text 1 (Para 2)

Only a few innovations have had the potential to shape us in this way. The last two were the Internet and mobile phones. AI not only belongs on that list, but should sit at the top of it, because of its **potential** to amplify how we use the Internet, mobile phones, and many other technologies.

• **potential** (n. & adj.) 潜力、可能的

- have/achieve/realize one's potential 拥有/发挥/实现潜力
- potential risk/benefit/problem 潜在风险/好处/问题
- e.g., I don't feel I'm achieving my full potential in my present job.

Scanning questions:

2. **In paragraphs 3-4, what example from the 1950s does the author use? What did people imagine vs. what actually happened?**

People imagined flying cars but didn't get them.

They didn't imagine the Internet, but they got it—and it revolutionized human lives.

Text 1 (Para 3)

What will the world shaped by AI look like? To answer that question let's go back to a future we once imagined. In the 1950s, we thought flying cars were just **on the horizon**. We didn't get them then, nor have we got them yet. But in that same decade, U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower established the Advanced Research Projects Agency, which generated the technology that created the Internet.

- **on the horizon** 即将发生
的；在酝酿中的
 - no... on the horizon 没有...迹象
 - appear/loom on the horizon 出现在地平线上
(即将来临)
 - e.g., There is no new drug on the horizon that will make this disease easier to treat.

Text 1 (Para 4)

We didn't imagine we'd get something like the Internet or mobile phones—but we did. And those tools have **revolutionized** the lives of the majority of humans on Earth. Now, humanity is imagining a new future with AI.

- **Revolutionize (v.)** 彻底改变；使发生革命性变革
 - revolutionize an industry/field 使行业/领域发生革命性变化
 - e.g., Electronic cash systems have revolutionized the way that people around the world pay for goods and services.

Scanning questions:

3. **In paragraphs 5-6, does the author think we should speed up or slow down AI development? What is his reason?**

Speed up / accelerate it.

The faster we have technology in our hands, the better we can solve problems. / Technology is a tool we should shape.

Text 1 (Para 5)

Given the speed and spread of AI, some people fear it could **usher in** a potential catastrophe, while others argue that it will bring the new **utopia**. But we should avoid setting up camp around either extreme, particularly at this stage of the technology's development.

- **usher in** 开创；引入

- usher in a new era/age 开创新时代
- usher in change/reform 引入变革/改革
- e.g., Every time you try to usher in change, some people will resist.

- **Utopia (n.)** 乌托邦、理想国、完美社会

- a utopia (通常单数)
- technological utopia 技术乌托邦
- e.g., The fall of one regime does not bring in a utopia.

Text 1 (Para 6)

The answer to our challenges is not to slow down technology, but to accelerate it. Technology is a tool. And the faster we have it in our hands, the better we can solve the problems we have—and the problems it might create. Let's shape the tool that will in turn shape us—and consider three questions. How can I make it better? How can I increase beauty in the world? How can I make better tools and increase beauty **to the benefit of** my fellow humans?

• **to the benefit of** 为了...
的利益； 有益于

- 同义表达: for the benefit of / in the interest of
- e.g., The new policy was implemented to the benefit of all employees.

Scanning questions:

4. In paragraphs 7-10, the author uses a historical example. Who is the person and what did he build?

Filippo Brunelleschi.

He built the dome of Santa Maria del Fiore cathedral in Florence. / He also invented mobile scaffolding and linear perspective.

Text 1 (Para 7)

An example of humans asking—and acting on—these questions can be found in Renaissance Italy—specifically in Filippo Brunelleschi's **dome**, which **crowns** Santa Maria del Fiore cathedral in Florence. The beauty of Brunelleschi's dome can be **attributed** to many things. But to my mind its beauty lies in what's long gone: the people who built it and the tools they used to make it.

- **Dome (n.)** 圆顶；穹顶
 - build/construct a dome
建造穹顶
 - e.g., The dome of St Paul's Cathedral is one of the most famous sights in London.

Text 1 (Para 7)

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- **crown (v.)** 为...加冕；使圆满；使达到顶点 (n.) 王冠；顶部
 - be crowned by/with 以...达到顶点
 - crown a building/hill 位于建筑/山顶
 - crown one's achievement/career 使成就/事业达到顶峰
 - e.g., The evening was crowned by a marvelous performance from the famous singer.

Text 1 (Para 7)

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- **Attribute (v.)** 把...归因于；认为...是由于
(n.) 属性；特质
 - e.g., He attributed the project's success to a combination of teamwork and good planning.

Text 1 (Para 8)

Brunelleschi took 16 years to build the dome, construction of which began in 1420. He had an ambition to build it without wood **reinforcements**. He had to innovate. So Brunelleschi invented mobile scaffolding.

- **Reinforcement (n.)** 加强；强化；增援

- reinforce (v. 加强)
- positive/negative reinforcement 正面/负面强化
- **without reinforcement** 没有加固/支撑
- e.g., The new logo serves as a visual reinforcement of the company's values.

Text 1 (Para 9)

Then there's Brunelleschi's collaboration with a range of professionals to **assemble** these tools and the dome. He worked with a famous mathematician to make calculations. He teamed up with blacksmiths and carpenters to create cranes, mobile platforms, and scaffolding. Hundreds of workers joined him.

- **assemble (v.)** 集合；聚集；
组装
 - 名词形式: assembly 集会、
集配
 - assemble in/at (a place)
在 (某地) 集合
 - assemble people/a team
召集人员/团队
 - assemble tools/parts
组装工具/零件
 - e.g., All the students were
asked to assemble in the hall.

Text 1 (Para 10)

Brunelleschi answered those three questions. But there is a fourth one: How can my work transcend me and benefit humankind, now and into the future? In creating his dome, Brunelleschi grew the toolbox for generations of artists and architects, having been **credited** with the invention of linear perspective and mobile scaffolding. His tools and techniques were not only used in art and architecture, but also in many other fields and **applications**.

• **credit (v.)** 把...归功于 (n.)
信用；功劳；学分

- 动词: be credited with (doing) sth. 被认为做了某事；因...而受到赞扬
- 名词: give credit to 归功于
- take credit for 因...获得荣誉
- e.g., She's credited with making the business a success.

Text 1 (Para 10)

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- **application (n.)** 应用、申请、应用程序
 - job application 求职申请
 - software application (app) 应用软件
 - e.g., The invention would have wide application/a wide range of applications in industry.

Text 1 (Para 11)

Where Renaissance masters mostly reshaped the physical **realm**, AI now gives us the opportunity to do the same with the mental realm. We are already seeing how the technology can significantly enhance how we share ideas or express ourselves, whether that's through writing essays or books, creating art and poetry, or helping us communicate with each other in ways we might otherwise not have attempted.

- **realm (n.)** 领域；范围；王国
 - in/within the realm of 在...领域/范围内
 - the realm of science/art/politics 科学/艺术/政治领域
 - move/enter into the realm of 进入...领域
 - e.g., At the end of the speech he seemed to be moving into the realm of fantasy.

Text 1 (Para 12)

Brunelleschi diligently shaped his tools and his tools shaped him—and all of us. As we **contemplate** a future shaped by AI, we should remember the famous saying of media theorists John Culkin and Marshall McLuhan: “We become what we behold. We shape our tools and then our tools shape us.” AI is our cognitive “mobile scaffolding”. And it will help us build all kinds of cathedrals of the mind—many of which we could not have built before.

- **Contemplate (v.)** 思考；考慮

- contemplate (doing) sth. 考慮（做）某事
- contemplate the possibility/future 思考可能性/未来
- e.g., She contemplated the possibility of changing jobs.



Homework

Homework

- **Textbook tasks:**
 - Text 1 exploring the text 1-3
 - Language skills 1-2
- **Recommended reading and listening:**
 - Interview: **Bill Gates on possibility, AI, and humanity (64 min)**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeGYI69sWvw>
 - Microsoft report: **jobs most likely to be replaced by AI**
 - <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2507.07935>

END