

St Mark's Word of the Week



Uncanny

Are you familiar with this word?

What does it mean?

Can you use it in a sentence?

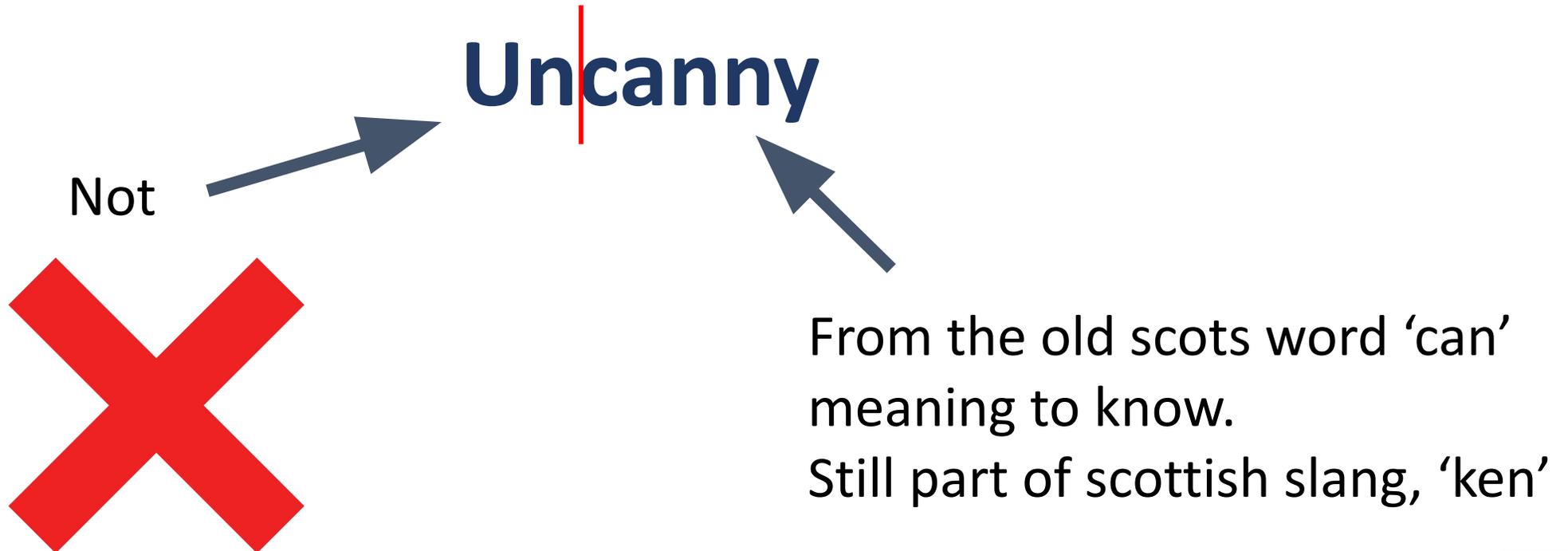


Uncanny (adjective)

Definition

Strange or mysterious, in an unsettling way

Where does the word come from? What is its etymology?



Uncanny (adjective)

Definition

Strange or mysterious, in an unsettling way

Can you think of any synonyms for uncanny?

- Strange
- Mysterious
- Unnatural
- Eerie

Any others?

Can you think of any antonyms for uncanny?

- Ordinary
- Normal
- Unremarkable
- Run-of-the-mill

Any others?



Uncanny (adjective)

Definition

Strange or mysterious, in an unsettling way

Examples:

- Erling Haaland has an uncanny ability to be in the right place to score a goal.
- Mr Crone has an uncanny resemblance to Ronan Keating.
- As scientists tried to make robots look more human, they become more uncanny.

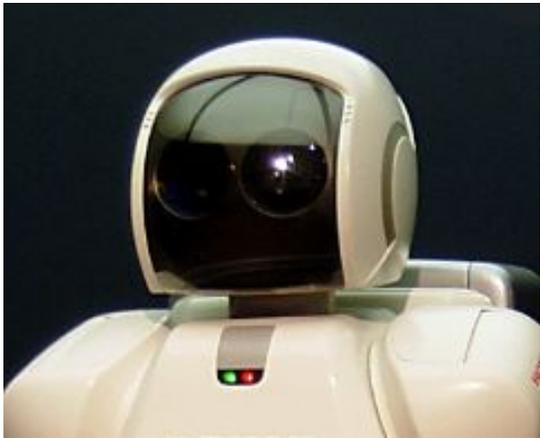


“As scientists tried to make robots look more human, they become more uncanny”

The first robots didn't look very human.

Scientists found that if they made them more human, people liked the robots more.

However, as robots got closer to looking like actual humans, people liked them a lot less.

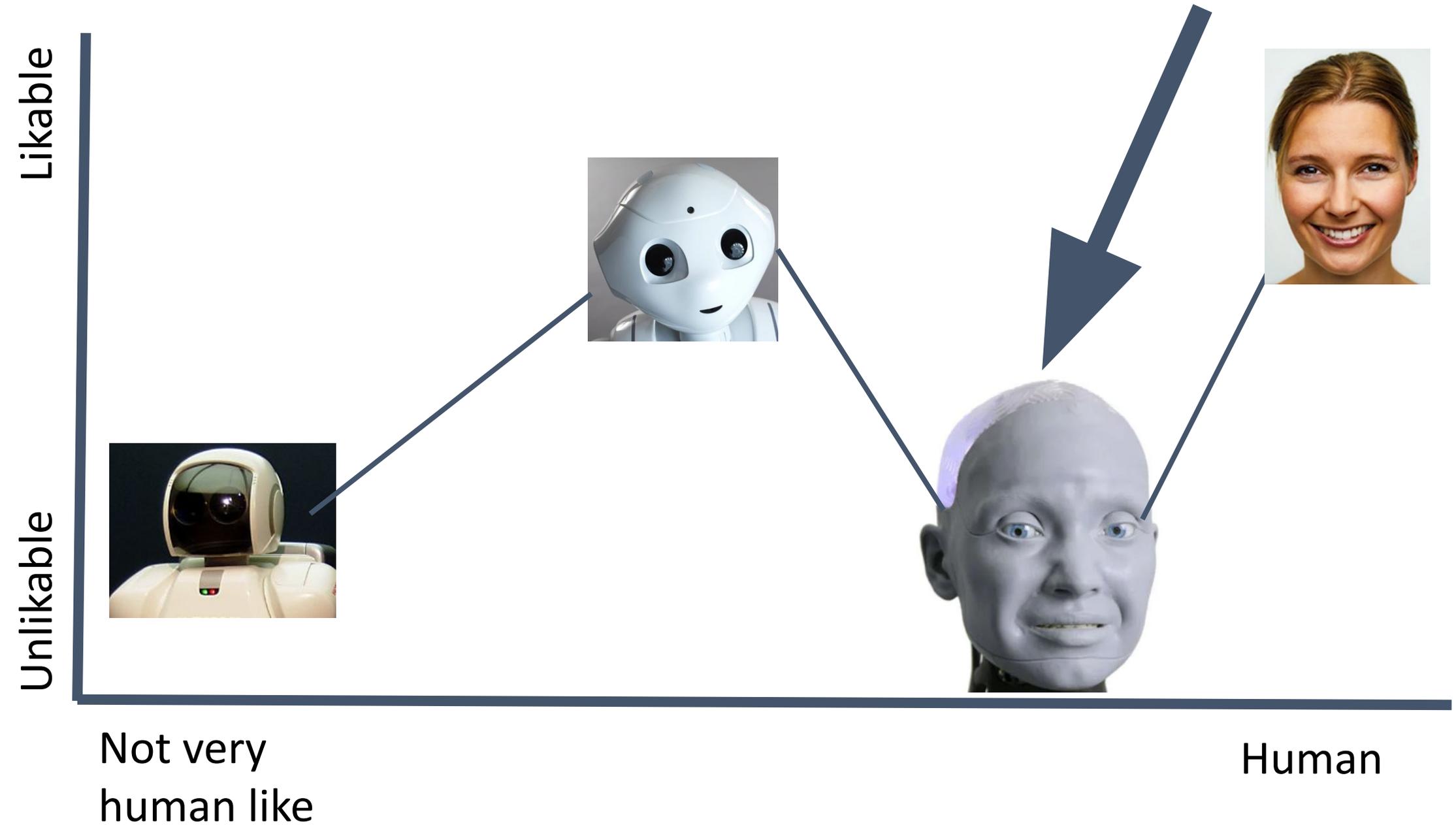


Not very
human

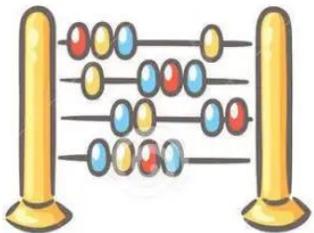
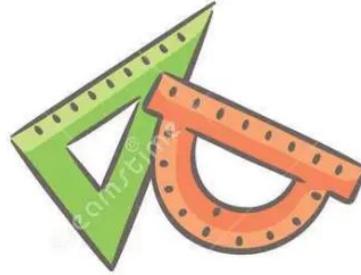
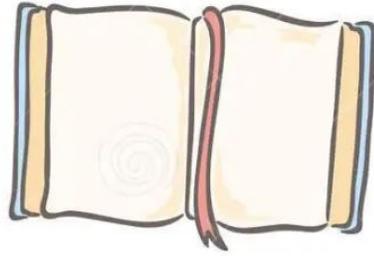
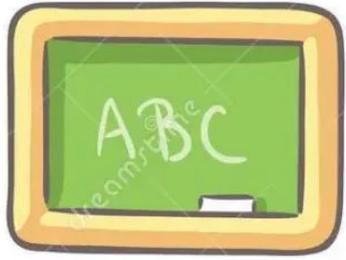
Human



Scientists named this effect the 'uncanny valley' as it looks like a valley on this graph



How could you use the word 'uncanny' in your lessons this week?



Definition

Strange or mysterious, in an unsettling way