

CW The Robot

Marvin Makewell was an amazing inventor. He had already invented a self-cleaning fish tank, a liquid that kept flowers fresh for three months and a surfboard that repelled sharks. For the last 5 years he had been obsessed with his latest invention, a mechanical artificial agent called CW.

CW was a gigantic creation of metal, electronics and flashing lights. He was so tall that his head scraped on the 10 metre high ceiling inside Makewell's laboratory. His advanced electro-mechanical system meant that he was incredibly strong and lightning fast. Marvin had created the first autonomous industrial robot! He believed that in the future it would be a central member of every construction crew. With a super strong reprogrammable multi-purpose manipulator like CW on hand, buildings, bridges and roads could be built faster and safer.

Because he was obsessed, Marvin spent most of his time fine tuning and admiring CW. He tested the robot's amazing strength and hand-eye coordination every day. Sometimes, after a long day of work, he would get CW to juggle cars just for fun. The robot was so dexterous that he could toss and spin three four-wheel-drive vehicles with ease.

One evening, when Marvin was working long past sunset, he was distracted by a loud noise outside. Actually it was a lot of noises, clanging and barking and scraping. A pack of wild dogs had gotten into the rubbish bins at the side of the laboratory and were fighting over the scraps.

"How irritating!" Marvin complained to himself as he unlatched the laboratory's double silver doors and raced outside. Two seconds later, CW bent down and popped his head through the doorway. His single-transducer ultrasonic eyes whirled and glowed as he looked around. On his right, he could see Marvin waving his arms at five scruffy looking dogs. In front, he could see a ridge lined with silhouetted trees and beyond that a magical sea of twinkling city lights.

Mesmerized by the lights, CW tore his way through the doorway and hurried towards the them. His giant boots shook the earth each time he stepped down. Boom! Boom! Boom! They made so much clatter that he didn't hear Marvin calling to him, "CW, come back!"

Quick as a flash, CW was past the trees and moving determinedly onto the expressway that flowed to the city. Marvin hit his head with his fist and groaned when he saw CW elevate three cars, position them carefully in his hands and start juggling them. He took out his phone and called the police, "Hello, I need help. My giant autonomous industrial robot has escaped and is heading towards the city!"

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS IN FULL SENTENCES

1. Who was an amazing inventor?
2. What had he already invented?
3. What did Marvin like to do 'just for fun' ?
4. What made the noise that distracted Marvin?
5. When CW looked outside what could he see beyond the ridge lined with silhouetted trees?
6. Why didn't CW hear Marvin?
7. What sound did CW's boots make each time he stepped down?
8. Why did Marvin groan?
9. Would CW be a useful construction worker? Why?
10. If you made a robot what would it be useful for?
11. What do you think happens when CW gets to the city?
12. Draw a picture of CW and your robot.