DAY 59 · Part 6 · What Comes Next

Which pieces of a robot have AI inside? — Robots and AI

Five-Minute AI Lessons · Nov 4, 2026

Robots didn't turn into AI, AI went into the robot's first three pieces.

In a nutshell

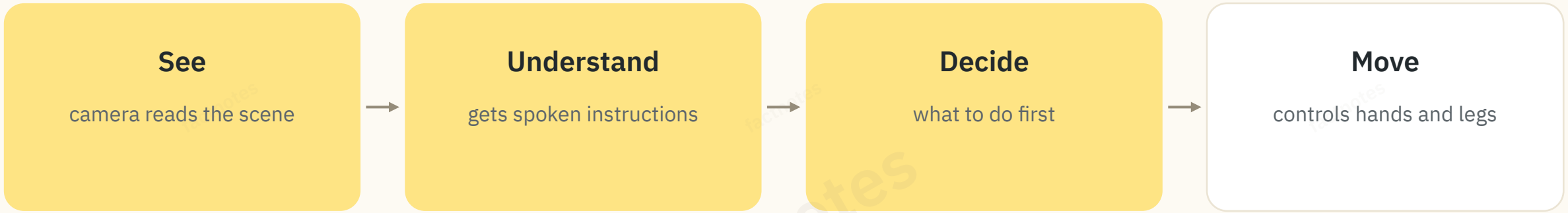
1. Robots look smart these days, but not because their bodies got better. It's because **the same kind of AI we use got plugged into the robot's 'brain' spot**.

2. Split it up and you'll see AI went into the eyes, the ears for instructions and the decision-making, while **the pieces that actually move the hands and legs are still mechanical engineering**. The two fields have different roots, and they started really coming together around 2023.

3. So the truly hard part isn't the thinking, it's the body. Balance has to be adjusted hundreds to thousands of times a second, and thinking can't go that fast, so **robots run fast circuits and slow circuits separately**.

In one picture

What it takes for a robot to make one move



The first three pieces got attached in just the last few years, and the last piece is technology built up over decades. The robot only moves when the two meet.

Key idea: AI went into the robot's first three pieces, and the piece that moves the body is separate

Split a robot into pieces — where did AI go in?

Older robots

Repeats the same set path

Eyes (seeing) | Ears (understan... | Brain (what to... | **Hands (grabbing)** | **Legs (moving)**

It only moves to the exact positions it's given. If an object is just 1 cm off, it grabs thin air. The hands an...

Robots today

Sees · understands · decides

Eyes (seeing) | **Ears (understan...** | **Brain (what to...** | **Hands (grabbing)** | **Legs (moving)**

Starting in 2023, AI that recognizes images and AI that understands language got wired straight into robot bodi...

Open it up

Fast circuits and slow circuits

Balancing (fast... | **Moving joints (...** | **What to do (slo...** | **Why do it (slow...**

One robot released in 2026 readjusts its whole-body balance 1,000 times a second and its joints 200 times, and...

Tap the buttons to see the same robot split up by era, and then all the way inside. Orange pieces have AI in th...

Try it yourself in the web lesson · next-token.net/en/learn/day-59/

Quick check

Just three questions

Q1

What's the biggest reason robots look smart these days?

① AI like ours got plugged into the 'brain' spot
② Their bodies got much tougher
③ Their batteries got bigger
④ A person is controlling them from behind

Q2

What was the biggest weakness of older robots?

① They were weak
② Moved only as told, so small shifts made it miss
③ They were too slow
④ They were too noisy

Q3

Why do robots split work between fast circuits and slow circuits?

① To save electricity
② To be quieter
③ Balance needs 100s a second
④ To weigh less

Know the why, too

Q1

① The technology for hands and legs was precise even before. What changed is that AI went into the pieces that see, understand and decide what to do.

Q2

② They only moved to set positions, so if an object was just 1 cm off, they grabbed thin air. There was no piece that could see and decide on its own.

Q3

③ Holding the body steady has to happen hundreds to thousands of times a second, but thinking about meaning can't go that fast. So they're split into layers and run separately.

Robots didn't turn into AI.
AI went into the robot's first three pieces.

Tomorrow: The order of learning — the last lesson of the 60 days. Let's put the steps for learning on your own in order.