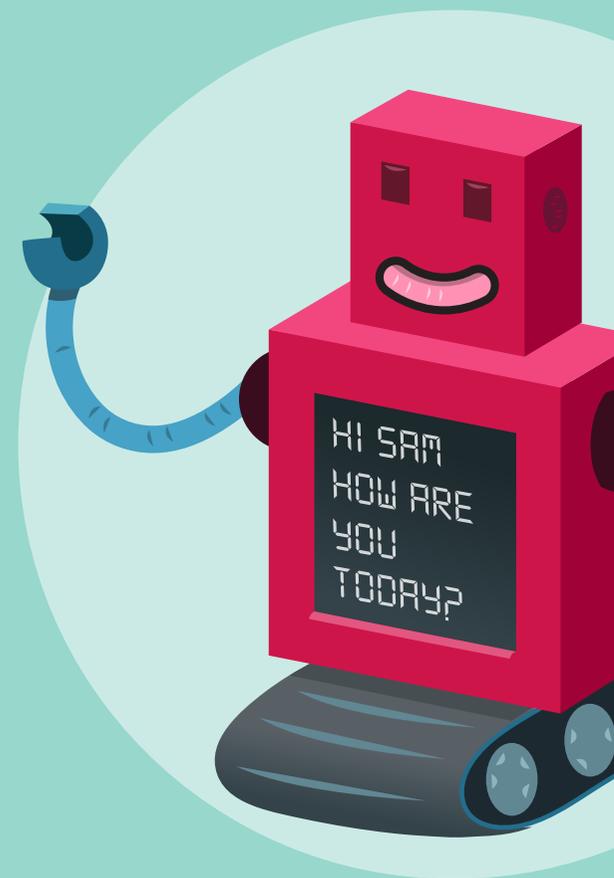




10



Computer-Assisted Translation Tools

Illustrations by Alex Mathers

Pre-Lesson Warm Up

These questions are designed to get you thinking about the subject at hand: Computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools.

Which of the following examples could be described as a CAT tool?

- An automatic translation tool like Google Translate
- A terminology database like ProZ.com Term Search
- Translation memory software like SDL Trados

Which statement best describes your approach to using translation memory software?

- I only use it when I'm translating large texts that contain a lot of repetition.
- I use it most of the time, even for literary or creative texts with little repetition.
- I've never used it before.

Which statement best describes your opinion of CAT tools?

- They are needlessly complicated and expensive; basically, not worth the trouble.
- Love them! Mine has revolutionized my workflow and increased my productivity tenfold.
- I want to use them, but I don't know where to start.

Contemplating CAT tools?

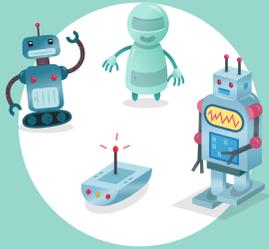
With the aid of computers, translators have been able to achieve significant increases in productivity.

Online search, for example, has reduced research time. Office software programs have streamlined word processing and automated quality assurance.

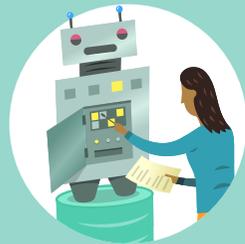
At the most sophisticated end of the spectrum are computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools. These clever "robots" help translators improve their speed, consistency, and organization.

This lesson provides a basic introduction to CAT tools, the different models out there, and how they work.

The Transminator



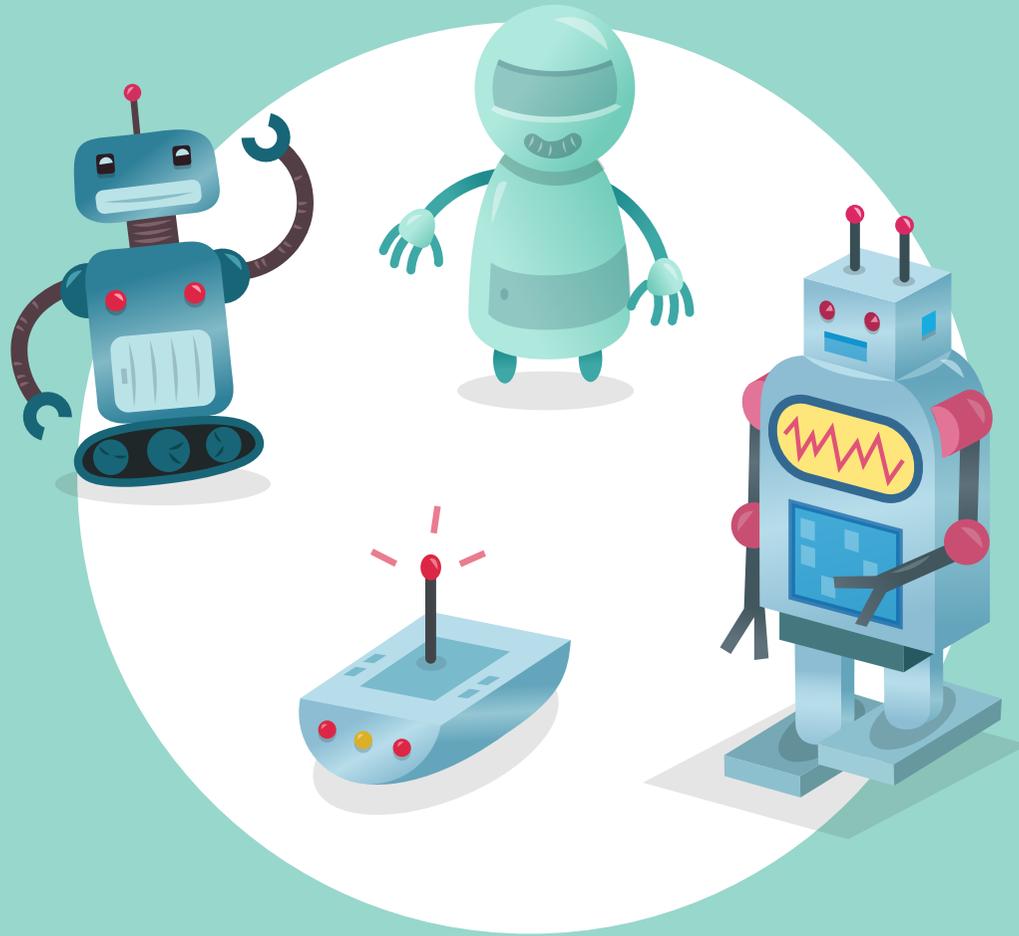
1. Choosing the right robot



2. Programming your robot



3. Translating together



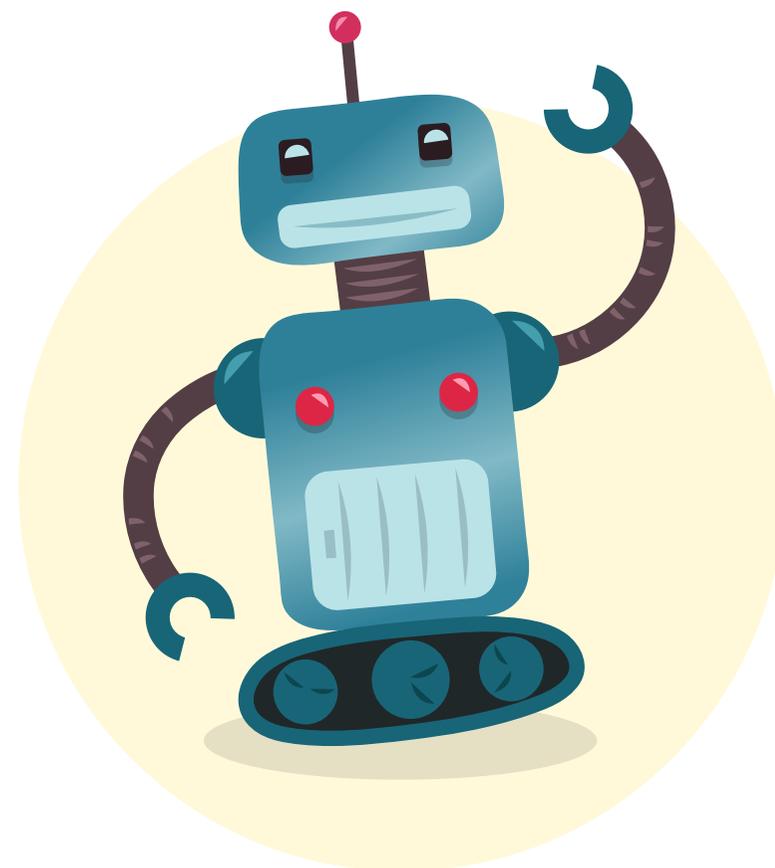
1. Choosing the Right Robot

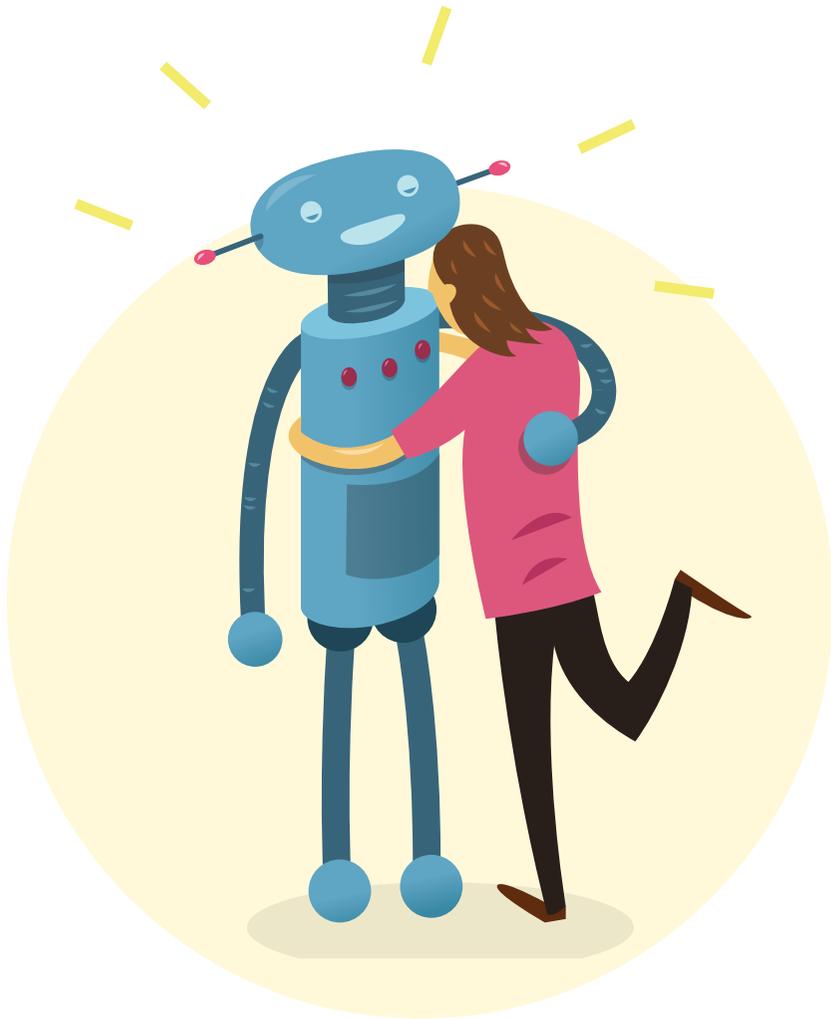
The right model for you depends on your requirements.

Do you need a robot?

Before you start your search, consider whether you actually need a CAT tool. CAT tools are not essential and many translators work without one. In fact, one of the key reasons Gengo hasn't integrated translation memory is that our typical content isn't highly specialized or repetitive. Instead, we've focused on streamlining the translation process and facilitating a crowdsourced approach.

Of course, you can still use CAT tools for your work with Gengo — any initiative to further increase quality and efficiency is OK by us!





Choosing the Right Robot

There are many different types of CAT tools and new options are being added all the time.

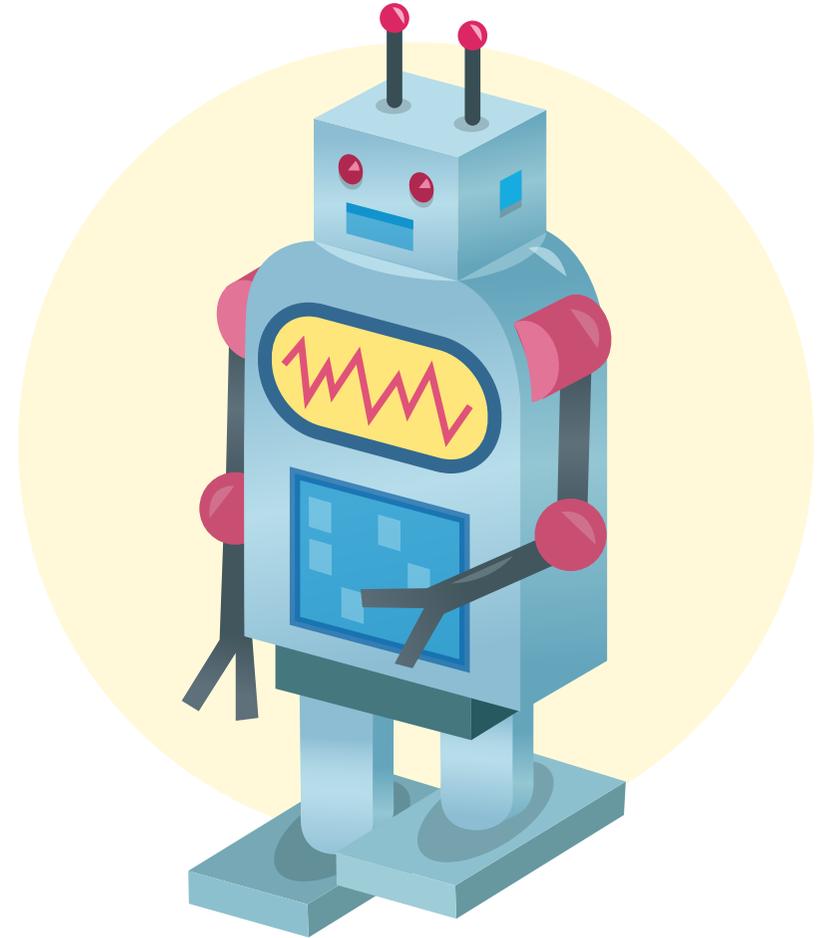
The right model for you will depend on a range of factors, including your:

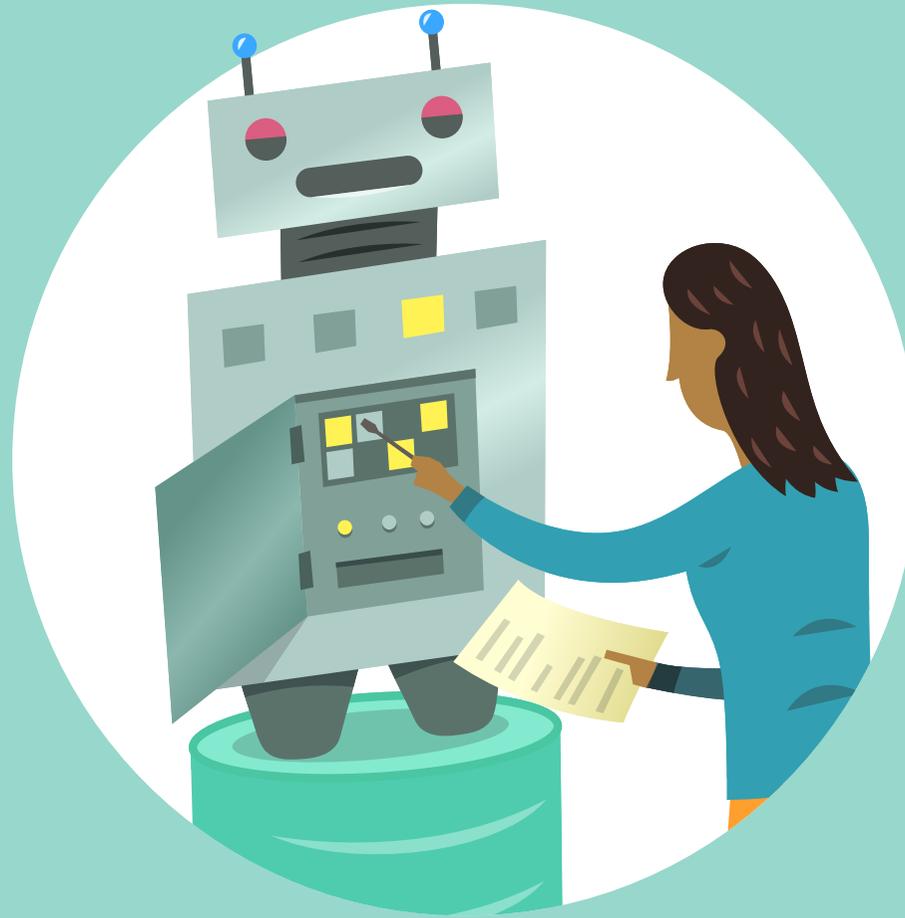
- Typical file formats
- Operating system
- Language pair
- Budget

Do Your Research

CAT tools can be expensive. Before you buy, research what's available by:

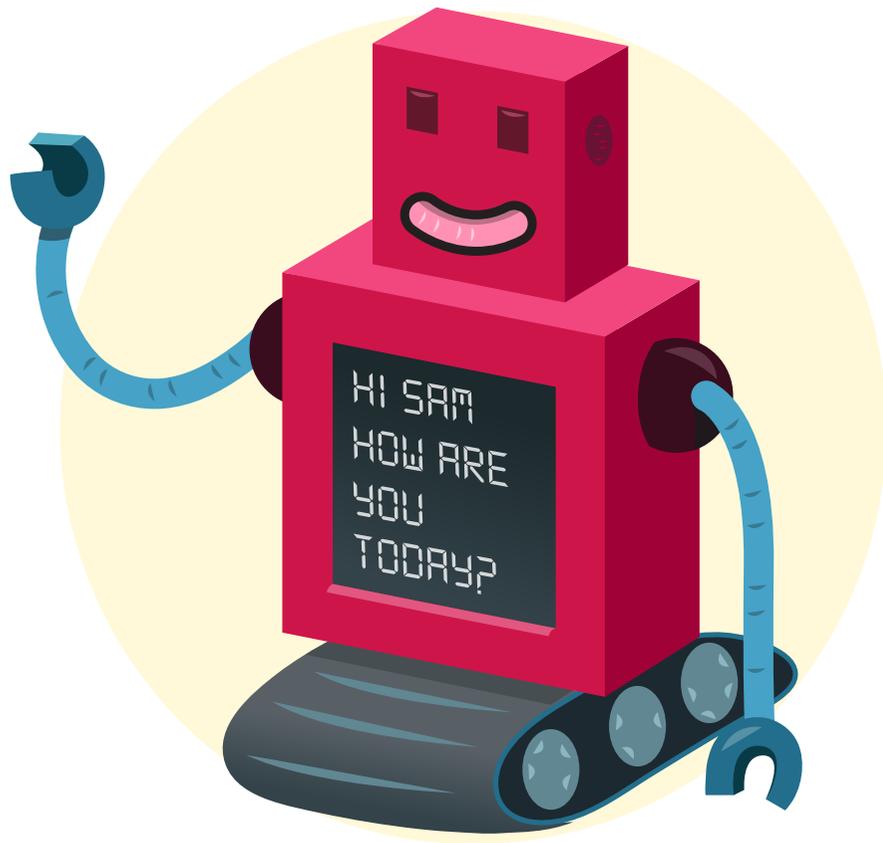
- **Exploring available options online.**
A simple Google search for “CAT tools” is a good starting point.
- **Reading reviews.** Check out online forums or ProZ.com's [Software Comparison Tool](#) to see what others are saying.
- **Testing.** Most companies offer free trials or a free version with limited features — use these to assess features, usability and support.





2. Programming Your Robot

Setting parameters before you begin is fundamental.



Programming Your Robot

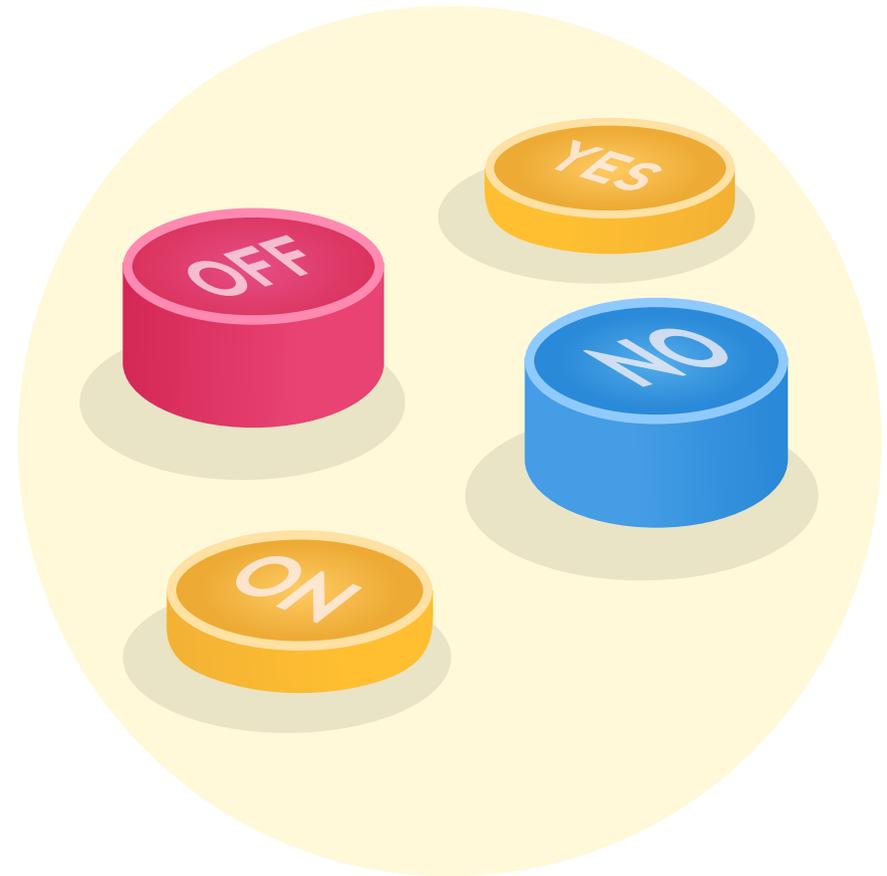
CAT tools offer many customizable options. Get the most out of your robot by:

1. Learning how to properly use it from the beginning (consider [formal training](#)).
2. Correctly programming it before you start each translation job.

Buttons & Switches

To give you an idea of CAT tool uses, here are some common customizable options:

- Checking for typing, style guide or regional language errors
- Segmentation based on a set number of words/characters
- Automatic text insertion based on an imported terminology list





3. Translating Together

Use your CAT tool wisely to maintain high quality.

Working Together

CAT tools are designed to support the translation process, not replace you, the translator. Use them wisely or risk producing lower quality work.

Here are some common misuses to watch out for:

- **Errors in context:** Sometimes CAT tool suggestions (100% matches, in particular) don't make sense in context. Proofreading is essential!
- **Filter errors:** Failing to properly set up filters can introduce errors into your translation, and distort cost and time analyses. Make sure you get these right.

