

how to combine plain language and conversational design

Andrea Othilie Rognan – PLAIN 2019



chatbots are





chatbots are they really useful

chatbots are dead

chatbots are stupid

chatbots are useless

chatbots are the future

chatbots are the new apps

chatbots are transforming marketing

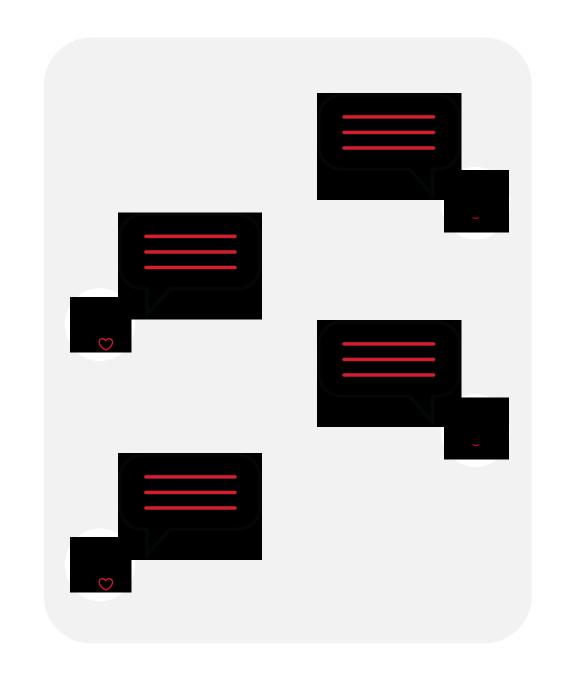
chatbots are bad

chatbots

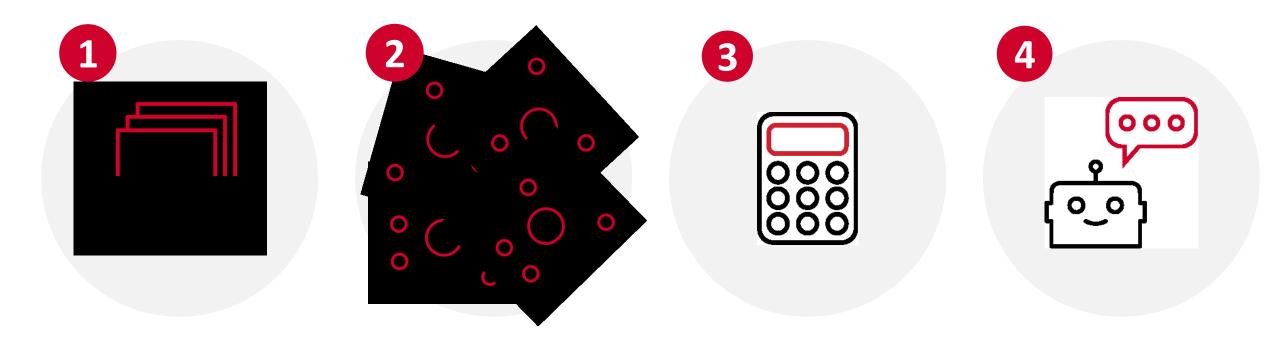
chatbots are awesome

Rapportér upassende forslag









"I never said she stole my money."

Robots have no social intelligence, layers of meaning, or real understanding of context.

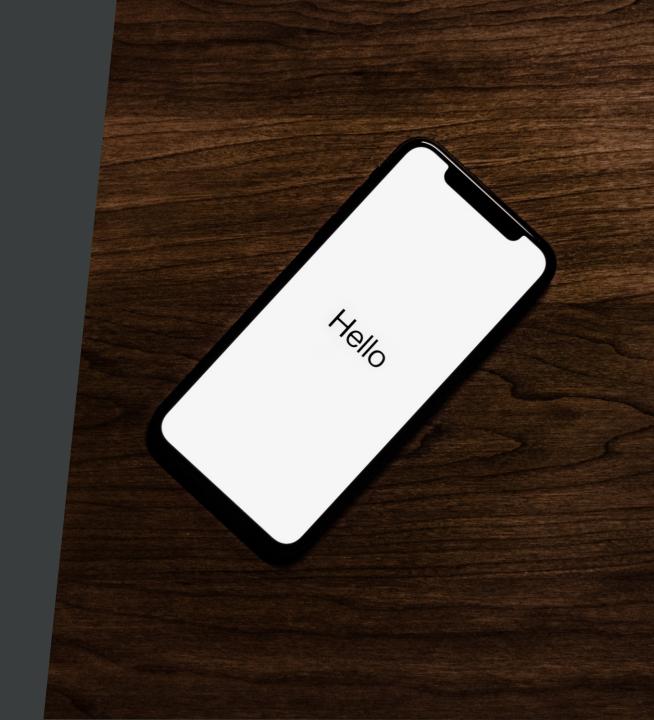
We do.

So, what is conversational design?

Using our understanding of social norms from natural human conversations to shape design.



Manage the expectations people show up with.





Hi, there! I'm Bill.



Hi!

I'm a tax chatbot. I can answer questions you have about your returns.

I understand short and simple sentences.

Fill out forms

Hand in returns

Deadlines

People will see personality.
Use it for good.





Hi, there! My name is Roberta The ROBOT. I'm your new robot assistant. I can help you with your tax returns.





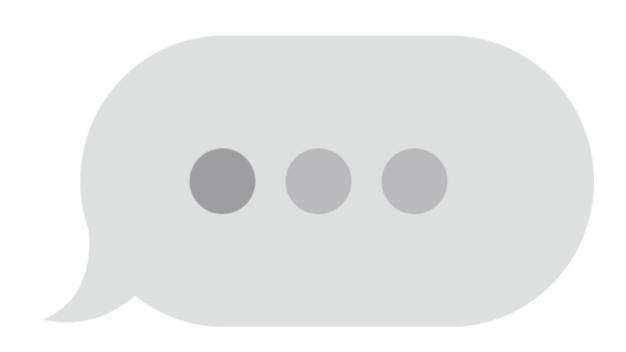
Hi, there!

I can help you with your tax returns.

Feel free to ask me any questions, and I'll answer the best I can.

People can and will expect a machine to be polite.





A conversation is give and take. Take turns.



Hello. I would like to set up an account at your bank.



Hi! That's great!

We welcome you to the bank! Just use your ID to log in, and set up your account.

We can also help you terminate your old accounts at different banks.

Do you need insurance? We have that too. We have many types of insurances that you can get as an add on to your

Hello. I would like to set up an account at your bank.



I'd be happy to help you with that. Would you like a private account or a business account?

Private, please.

Be brief.



Do you know what time it is?



Yes.



Yes. I do know what time it is. It's two o' clock, or 14:00:03 to be precise.

Do you know what time it is?



Yes. It's two o' clock.

The truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.



Hey! Can you tell me how many ducks there are in Taizhou?

X

Look at all these ducks.

There are at least ten.



Hey! Can you tell me how many ducks there are in Taizhou?



Taizhou city has approximately 5000 ducks registered at local farms, but the Chinese government doesn't have an exact or complete record of all living ducks in the city.

Context is everything. Know what's relevant.

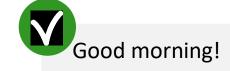


Hey! Where can I get a good cup of coffee close by?

Coffee is really not good for you, you know.

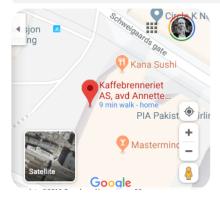
I only drink green tea.

Hey! Where can I get a good cup of coffee close by?



There's a coffee place called Kaffebrenneriet, just two blocks away.

It has four stars!



You're going to fail.

Fail graciously.









PayPal 08:46 PM

Hi! I'm PayPal's virtual agent. To get started, simply ask me a question.

I am still learning, so if I can't help you I'll direct you to additional resources.



Brady Pettit 08:47 PM

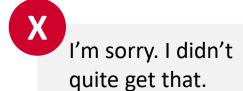
I got scammed



PayPal 08:47 PM

Great!

Hey! I was thinking I might sign up or register with the conference I don't know yet, but when is PLAIN?



Hey! I was thinking I might sign up or register with the conference I don't know yet, but when is PLAIN?



I'm sorry. I didn't quite get that.

I understand short and simple sentences.

Try asking again, or see if any of these options can help:

Programme

Practical information

- 1. Manage expectations
- 2. Use personality
- 3. Take turns
- 4. Be brief
- 5. Speak the truth
- 6. Know what's relevant
- 7. Be polite
- 8. Fail graciously



Thanks for listening!

Andrea Othilie Rognan Content designer at Sopra Steria

Twitter: @andreaothilie

Email: andrea.rognan(at)soprasteria.com