

Small Robots Deliver Snacks

ARTICLE READING

In some neighborhoods, small robots can carry food from a shop to a customer's home. The robot moves slowly on the sidewalk and uses cameras to avoid people, bicycles, and walls. When it arrives, the customer uses a phone code to open the top and take the order. A bright flag or light helps other people notice the robot. Supporters say these machines can help shops deliver small orders without using a car. They may also help workers avoid bad weather or heavy traffic. However, a robot can still make mistakes. It may stop when a large dog stands in front of it, or it may need help when a person blocks the sidewalk. The funniest problem would be a robot that reaches the wrong house with the right snacks.

If a snack robot delivered the wrong order to your door, what surprising food would you hope to find?

1. Would you trust a small robot to deliver your food? Why or why not?
2. What should a robot do when a dog, child, or bicycle blocks its path?
3. What snack should a delivery robot carry on its first test trip?

4. Are robots better than people at simple delivery jobs? Give one advantage and one problem.
5. What funny voice or sound should a robot make when it arrives?
6. How could a neighborhood protect delivery robots from damage or theft?