

Technology and the future of jobs

Level: Advanced (C1-C2)

Time: Approximately 90 minutes

Overview: This article presents predictions for how technology and AI will change the nature of jobs over the next several years.

Business topic: Jobs of the future

Business language: Trends in employment

Activities: Key words, Understanding the article, Business language, discussion of trends in STEM jobs, discussion of how people adapted to the first two industrial revolution, preparation and presentation of a report on the future of jobs in the students' country

Groups: Whole class, pairs, small groups

6. *hyped roles*
7. *envision*
8. *augmented*
9. *contextual understanding*
10. *commonplace*
11. *safe bet*
12. *summit*
13. *sought after*
14. *harness*
15. *heavy lifting*

3. Understanding the article

- a. Ask students to choose the correct answers to the questions according to the information in the article. Encourage them to go back and scan the article to check their answers.

Key:

1. *a*
2. *c*
3. *a*
4. *b*
5. *b*
6. *c*
7. *a*
8. *b*
9. *c*
10. *a*

4. Business Language – trends in employment

- a. Ask students to complete the sentences from the article with the words and phrases in the box. Encourage them to scan the article to look at how each phrase is used in context to check their work. When you check the answers, make sure the students understand both the words and phrases themselves and the sentences they are used in.

Key:

1. *algorithmic bias*
2. *metaverse sector*
3. *bids*
4. *prompt engineers*
5. *compliance*

1. Warmer

- a. Ask students to discuss the questions as a class or in pairs or small groups. If you don't have a whole-class discussion, you may want to ask for some opinions after giving them a few minutes for the discussion.

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to match the words with the definitions and to use the words in example sentences to check their understanding. When they have finished, and before checking answers, ask them to read the whole article carefully and to look at how the key words are used in context. Explain that they can change answers in the activity if necessary after seeing the words in context.

Key:

1. *age-old needs*
2. *mind-boggling*
3. *sift through*
4. *STEM*
5. *scarcity*

6. *immersive workers*
7. *venture capital firm*
8. *large language models*
9. *Talent site*
10. *talent raid*

5. Discussion

- a. Put the students in pairs or small groups and ask them to discuss the questions. After a few minutes, you may want to open the discussion to the class and ask some students to share their ideas.

6. Wider business theme – The third industrial revolution and the future of jobs

- a. Give students a couple of minutes to read the short text. Then either put them in pairs or small groups or have a class discussion of the questions.

- b. Put students in pairs or ask them to work individually to prepare a short report on the future of jobs in their country. Go over the four sections they should include in the report and point out that they can use phrases from the Useful language box to help them frame some of their sentences. Explain that they can refer to the Financial Times article, but that they may need to look up some information specifically related to their country.
- c. When they have finished, ask them to present their reports. If they have done the reports individually, they could present their reports either to the class or to a classmate. If they have done them in pairs, they could present their reports either to the class or to another pair.