2 Focus on vocabulary

Part A: match the words to the definitions

1. automate (v)	a. a set of instructions given to a computer to solve a problem
2. track (v)	b. change something to fit the needs of the owner or user
3. artificial (adj)	c. doing something in a good way with no waste of time, money, or energy
4. algorithm (n)	d. follow the movements of somebody/something, especially by using special electronic equipment
5. innovative (adj.)	e. introducing or using new ideas, ways of doing something, etc.
6. efficient (adj.)	f. made or produced to copy something natural; not real
7. autonomous (adj.)	g. (of a vehicle) with the technology to drive itself without a person in control
8. customize (v)	h. use machines and computers instead of people to do a job or task

Part B: underline the correct form from the same word family as the words in Part A

1. Staff at the **track / tracked / tracking** station used computers to follow the movements of planes and other aircraft.
2. The smartphone is an **innovate / innovator / innovation** that has completely changed the way many companies do business.
3. Nowadays scientists are trying to grow meat **artificial / artificially / artifice** in laboratories.
4. Dating applications use different **algorithms / algorithmic / algorithm** to try and find a person's ideal partner.
5. A high level of **efficiently / efficiency / efficient** is very important when managing a business.
6. Vehicles are already operating **autonomy / autonomous / autonomously** in some parts of the world.
7. The entire manufacturing process in the factory has recently been fully **automate / automated / automating**.
8. The pictures on the website show standard products, but these are **customized / custom / customizable**. You can add messages or pictures to make them more personal.

Part C : Answer the following questions

1. Do you feel the way you work or study is **efficient** enough? Why / why not?
2. Has your country created any **innovative** technology?
3. Do you own any **customized** products?

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3 Predicting the answers

You are going to read an article (page 4) about how artificial intelligence may change our lives in the next thirty years. Predict which subjects will be mentioned. Discuss why you chose these subjects and then check your answers by quickly skimming the text.

- healthcare ☐
- air travel ☐
- pets ☐
- farming ☐
- television ☐
- schools ☐
- elderly people ☐

4 Find the word

Look at the text again and find a word that matches each definition.

1. _____ (noun, p. 2) a computer program that can hold a conversation with a person, usually over the internet
2. _____ (noun, p. 4) goods carried by ship, aircraft, or motor vehicle
3. _____ (verb, p. 5) removed
4. _____ (verb, p. 6) discover or notice something, especially something that is not easy to see or hear
5. _____ (noun, p. 7) plants that are grown in large quantities, especially as food
6. _____ (noun, p. 7) the need of customers for goods that they want to buy
7. _____ (adj., p. 8) extremely modern and unusual in appearance, as if belonging to a future time
8. _____ (noun, p. 9) a picture on a computer screen that represents a particular computer user

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Artificial intelligence

Where will AI have taken society by 2050?

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the study and development of computer systems that can copy intelligent human behavior. AI has made huge advances since the start of the millennium and is already helping us to do everyday tasks with a high degree of perfection.
2. Nowadays, most of us use AI perhaps without even thinking about it, from smart devices to chatbots. But where will it take us in the next thirty years and will new innovative technology help to solve some of the problems facing society?
3. Driverless cars are already on our roads, and Boeing is currently developing an autonomous plane. It is predicted that by 2050 our railways, roads, seas, and skies will be occupied by driverless vehicles. Unlike humans, AI self-driving vehicles stay aware of their environment without losing their focus, so they may improve road safety.
4. However, according to Toby Walsh, a leading researcher on AI, planes without human pilots won't have been perfected by 2050. Walsh, who has written a book predicting the state of AI in 2050, believes that "the debate on whether humans should still be airline pilots" will begin only after several decades of successful autonomous cargo flights.
5. AI could help significantly in the field of health and social care. More than 107,000 people around the world are currently waiting for an organ transplant. Some artificial organs are already being used in medicine, but it is estimated that by 2050 scientists will have managed to create more lab-grown organs, therefore saving thousands of lives. By using a 3D-printing technique, scientists will also have eliminated the chance of the body rejecting the organ.
6. Many countries are faced with issues caused by an ageing population, but AI will have helped many elderly people stay more independent in their homes by 2050. Robots can help them to reach things more safely and track their movements, gathering data on, for example, how many times a person has been to the bathroom and whether they have showered. The information is then analyzed by algorithms that can detect potential problems.
7. The world's population, and therefore our demand for food, will have increased significantly by 2050. However, AI can help farmers increase production and reduce waste, while also protecting the environment. For example, John Deere's Auto Trac system allows machines to plant crops in a much more efficient way and also reduces chemical use. In the coming years, AI will allow farmers to access more real-time data, giving them more time to react to problems and avoid disaster.
8. AI may also help to entertain us in the future. It's possible that by 2050 you will have appeared in your own Netflix movie! With new futuristic technology, people will be able to create virtual characters and enjoy customized films.
9. Walsh also predicts that AI will host TV and news shows. By 2050, it will have become efficient enough to write complex stories. The process will be completely automated, with robotic cameras making the shows and avatars presenting them. You will set your personal preferences, and algorithms will decide what news to show you.
10. But will the intelligence of AI have overtaken human intelligence by 2050? According to some, yes. This idea of a point in time when the ability of AI machines is greater than the brains of those that created them is known as "The Singularity." Will it happen in our lifetime? Watch this space...
11. *Sources: thinkml.ai; theguardian.com; archdaily.com*

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