



LOSING JOBS TO AI



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
1EGB-C1L4-EE1

1

Warm up

In pairs, read the definition and discuss the following questions.

artificial intelligence (n) - computer systems which are able to produce intelligent behavior in a similar way to humans

1. What tools do you currently use that use Artificial Intelligence?
2. Do you need to use Artificial Intelligence for your job or subject of study? If so, how?
3. How do you think you will be using Artificial Intelligence 20 years from now that you aren't doing now?





2

Focus on vocabulary

Part A: Match the definitions to the vocabulary in bold in the following sentences.

1. The rise in artificial technology could **threaten** a large number of jobs in the legal profession.
 2. Her ability to organize herself and others had come in useful in several **administrative** positions throughout her career.
 3. There are a lot of problems with the water systems in the building due to poor **maintenance** over the years.
 4. His article about Artificial Intelligence was able to **generate** a lot of interest from the scientific community.
 5. I need to **alter** the time of our meeting from 3 pm to 4 pm, OK? Something important has come up.
 6. I've had an incredibly **productive** morning and done more than I thought I would. I will probably leave early as I'll have finished everything I need to do.
 7. We've been able to **automate** our response to orders which has really reduced the time it takes to deliver products to the customer.
 8. When I first started my job, it took me about six months to **adapt** to the way this company works, but now it feels very normal to me.
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- a. (v) change something so it works more effectively in a new situation
 - b. (n) the act of making sure something stays in good condition and is able to function in the way it is meant to
 - c. (v) create a problem for a be a danger to something
 - d. (v) use a system, computer or machine to complete a task instead of humans doing it by hand
 - e. (v) create or produce something
 - f. (adj.) able to successfully complete a lot of tasks
 - g. (adj.) deciding on the systems of a business or institution that it will use to run
 - h. (v) change something in a fairly small way



Part B: Now complete the following sentences with different parts of speech of words in brackets.

1. When he asked me if I wanted to stay with the company, it sounded more like a _____ than a question. **(threaten)**
2. In the afternoons I get tired, so I usually do my _____ then where I write emails and make sure all my accounts are in order. **(administrative)**
3. We _____ our relationship for about three years after she moved away, but we lost touch eventually. **(maintenance)**
4. This department is responsible for the _____ of new customers by getting out into the markets and talking to people, advertising and so on. **(generate)**
5. We were forced to make a slight _____ to the schedule as Frank's flight has been delayed. So his presentation will be at the end of the day now. **(alter)**
6. I'm able to work a lot more _____ early in the morning. If I don't start my day until after 11 am, it's really difficult. **(productive)**
7. In the last five years, we've managed to move to full _____ for over 70% of our products. **(automate)**
8. His latest movie is an _____ from a detective novel which was very popular during the 1960s. **(adapt)**

3**Listening for details**

Listen to the interview about AI technology and write down the numbers that correspond to the sentences.

- a. the number of jobs that AI could replace in future: _____
- b. The percentage of tasks in the administration that could be done by AI _____
- c. The percentage of tasks in maintenance jobs that could be performed by AI _____
- d. The percentage wages of traditional taxi drivers were reduced when Uber drivers started competing with them and using apps to navigate around London _____
- e. The percentage of current workers that do jobs that were not available around 80 years ago _____
- f. The predicted percentage increase in the value of goods and services as a result of AI _____



4 Listening comprehension

Listen to the interview again and decide if the following statements are True (T), False (F).

1. Michelle McVee believes AI makes people nervous because this is the first time it has significantly affected people's jobs. _____
2. AI will make it easier for people to do jobs which they would have previously had to learn special skills or train for. _____
3. Taxi drivers in London used to have to take a special test to qualify for the job. _____
4. According to Michelle McVee, AI could increase the number of people entering into healthcare professions in poorer countries. _____
5. Michelle believes that the more you know about AI, the less you will be concerned about it. _____

5 Scanning for vocabulary

You are going to read an article about worries concerning AI (page five). First, scan the text quickly and try to find the vocabulary that means following.

1. _____ (n, para. A): the reason for doing a particular task
2. _____ (adj., para A): being in a way that was not planned
3. _____ (v, para. B): organise for people to do work for a company who are not directly working for that company
4. _____ (adj., para. B): having a negative effect on someone
5. _____ (adj., para. B): making you feel sad, worried or angry
6. _____ (n, para. C): a person who has a lot of knowledge about a particular subject
7. _____ (v, para. C): be able to know what is going to happen in the future
8. _____ (adj., para. C): better in quality than something else





What Are We Doing?

Worries about AI

We asked some of our readers what worried them about AI. Here's what they had to say.

A. Cassandra, 34

I don't think we know where we are going with it. There's clearly a lot of excitement about AI, but the motivation is personal. People are thinking about making profits or making a name for themselves. But it doesn't seem as though anyone is thinking about what the unintended results of developing AI could be. When cars were first invented, they were an exciting and cleaner alternative to horses. Now they are a problem. When the Internet was developed, it helped communication in a way that nothing else had. But we've also seen it used for criminal businesses and it has negatively affected mental health. With all these companies and scientists looking at what they can get from AI, who is looking at the bigger picture?

B. Julian, 28

A recent report in Time magazine found that Open AI, the company that developed ChatGPT, was outsourcing some of the labor to workers in Kenya who were being paid under \$2 per hour. The work involved teaching AI to identify harmful content which it found on the Internet, meaning workers had to look at upsetting images and material and label it as examples of what not to post. Look at the Asians who work long days making clothes for a few dollars per day so we can have cheap clothes in the West, or the African miners working for \$3.50 a day to get the materials for our greener electric car batteries. There are always people in poor countries who suffer from the developments that benefit the richer countries.

C. Akiva, 32

When thinking about this question, you need to consider whether humans will be involved in the future. We are already developing AI at a speed that even specialists in the subject did not foresee. At the moment, we are using it for specific tasks, but there are companies working on AGI or Artificial General Intelligence, which is a technology that can be used in a variety of situations where humans may need to use their intelligence. This can include learning. Once AI is able to learn without humans, then we are in a situation where we have created a technology with intelligence superior to ours that has no need for us. It will have goals and needs that are different from ours and just as we have destroyed animals and land because we had different uses for it, AI may well destroy us.

6

Reading comprehension

Part A: Which of the following questions are being answered by each person A-C? There are more questions than people.

1. What do you think is the future of AI? _____
2. What have been the negative effects of AI on education? _____
3. Who do you think has been negatively affected by the development of AI? _____
4. What do people not understand about AI? _____
5. What worries you about the development of AI? _____



Part B: Decide which reader A-C gives the following ideas or points of view.

1. The development of AI moving faster than expected. _____
2. The interest in AI is for personal gain. _____
3. Horses were dirtier and less interesting than cars when cars were first used. _____
4. The need for AI to learn what is and isn't appropriate content on the internet. _____
5. Workers in developing nations doing jobs that are of more help to developing countries. _____
6. AI destroying humans in the same way as we have destroyed certain animals. _____
7. The Internet is being used to help illegal businesses. _____
8. People work for low pay to help create environmentally-friendly transport. _____

7

Talking point

Look at the cue cards below and, in pairs, discuss the following questions.

- Are you worried about how AI might change jobs for you or your family? Why or why not?

Hint: Think about machines doing jobs people do now. Could that be good or bad

- What good things could AI do for work?

Hint: Think about how machines can help people do their jobs better or faster.

- Should we be scared of making AI? Why or why not?

Hint: What good or bad things could happen if we make machines that think?

- Why do people in poorer countries often work for richer countries? Should laws stop this? Why or why not?

Hint: Think about people working for less money in some places. What can laws do?



- What bad things might happen because of AI that we don't expect?

Hint: Can you think of problems that might come up with machines that think?

8**Optional extension/homework**

Write an essay on the topic below. Your essay should agree or disagree with the statement and be at least 250 words long.

Steps taken to slow down the development of AI are pointless. You cannot stand in the way of progress. Yes, some people will be negatively affected by the development of AI, but there are always losers when it comes to change. This is no different to developing the wheel, factories or the internet.

You should:

- Write at least 250 words
- Check your grammar, spelling and punctuation