In 10 years, would you rather live in a smart home or a space station? Why?

Reading & Comprehension

"The Last Human Cashier" – A Short Sci-Fi Story

It was the year **2075**, and most people had grown accustomed to a world run almost entirely by artificial intelligence and automation. Supermarkets had no employees, transportation was fully autonomous, and even restaurants were staffed by androids programmed to mimic human interaction.

But in a quiet town tucked away from the sprawling megacities, a young man named Leo stepped into a modest corner shop. To his surprise, he was greeted not by a holographic interface, but by a **real woman** standing behind the register.

"Are you human?" he asked, half-joking but also genuinely curious.

"I am," she said with a small smile. "In fact, I'm the last human cashier in the country."

Leo was stunned. He had heard stories about people who refused to automate their lives, but he had never encountered one in person. As the woman scanned his items manually and handed him **physical coins** as change, he couldn't help but feel a sense of **nostalgia for something he had never experienced**.

They spoke briefly — about the weather, the shop, and how things had changed. There was no rush, no robotic voice prompting him to "complete the transaction." Just a quiet moment between two people, something increasingly rare in his high-tech world.

As he walked out of the store and into the neon-lit street, Leo looked down at the coins in his hand. For the first time in a while, he wondered: **In a world obsessed with progress, what do we lose when everything becomes efficient?**

? Comprehension Questions

1. What is unusual about the store Leo visits?
2. How does Leo react to meeting the cashier?
3. What feelings does the cashier's presence evoke in Leo?
4. According to the story, what has replaced most human interaction in everyday services?
5. What does the story suggest about the consequences of full automation?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

☑ True or False Statements

1. The story takes place in a rural village in 2025. T / F
2. The cashier is the only human employee Leo has ever interacted with. T / F
3. Leo receives digital currency as change. T / F
4. The shop has a holographic interface that assists the cashier. T / F
5. The story implies that efficiency may come at the cost of human connection. T / F

🧠 Vocabulary Exercise – The Last Human Cashier

Complete the sentences using the correct word or expression from the box below. One word/expression **will not be used**.

accustomed to – mimic – nostalgia - tucked away – transaction – sprawling prompt - manually – encounter - obsession

1. In a fully automated world, people are now _____ using machines for even the smallest tasks.

2. The café was _____ behind a bookstore, making it a hidden local gem.

3. Modern AI can _____ human emotions and speech patterns with surprising accuracy.

4. The cashier processed every item _____, without any digital assistance.

5. His unexpected _____ with a real employee left a lasting impression on him.

6. The story reflects society's growing _____ with technological efficiency.

7. After speaking to the cashier, Leo felt a strange sense of _____ for something he never lived through.

8. Many large cities are now _____ urban jungles with endless buildings and traffic.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Grammar Practice: Sentence Transformations

Rewrite each sentence using a different future form.
Example:

- *Robots will deliver packages. → Packages might be delivered by robots.*

1. AI will improve medical diagnoses.

   _____

2. We will no longer need cash.

   _____

3. Self-driving cars will reduce accidents.

   _____

4. Smart glasses could replace phones.

   _____

5. Drones might be used for public transport.

   _____

Future Interviews

Context: You are a time traveler who has just arrived in the year 2100. You're being interviewed by a journalist about what life is like in that time. You should invent and describe:

- What people eat
- How people communicate
- How people move around
- What work is like
- What hobbies people have

Examples:

- *In 2100, people will probably... / It's likely that... / Maybe people won't...*

LIVEWORKSHEETS