Skills for the Future

For some people, the way technology is changing the workplace is exciting; for others, it's terrifying. Many people are worried that robots and machines will take everyone's jobs away. It's true that companies will use robots more in the future, but this doesn't mean that human jobs will completely disappear. (1) _____, but job priorities will change. For example, the owner of a business could spend less time analyzing reports if **artificial intelligence** could do it better, leaving more time for team training. The human side of business, (2) _____, will become even more important than it is today.

(3) _____. Even though it's difficult to guess which jobs will be around twenty-five years from now, it's clear that technical skills will still be very important in the future. Today, many jobs are connected to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and this won't change in the next few years. As technology continues to develop, people had better improve their STEM skills and knowledge of **coding** if they want to keep up.

Yet technical skills aren't the only things that will help you get a job in the future. Critical thinking and people skills will become increasingly important, too. Even though robots can do a lot of things better than humans, human interaction is best done by humans, and this is unlikely to change. (4) _____, people need to have good communication skills and be able to listen to and understand their coworkers and customers.

Finally, if somebody wants to get a job in the next 25 years, they should also be creative. At the moment, (5) _____, but they are not creative in the same way that humans are. They don't think outside the box. Although technology will bring many changes to the way employees work, what makes us human will always make us valuable.

artificial intelligence computer programs that copy some qualities of human intelligence, such as translating languages or recognizing images

coding writing computer programs



Robots are used for cooking and food delivery in a restaurant in Kunshan, China.

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B Read the article. Match the phrases and sentences below to the correct spaces in the article.

a. robots are good at locating a problem or analyzing data
b. In order to work together effectively
c. which includes creativity and interpersonal skills
d. People will still have to work
e. Twenty-five years ago, many of today's jobs didn't exist

C Write the underlined words and phrases from the article that match the meanings below.

1. _____: look for creative solutions to problems
2. _____: knowledge of STEM and coding
3. _____: very scary
4. _____: the most important tasks to do at work
5. _____: ability to connect well with other people
6. _____: significant; very important

E Read the statements. Write **T** for *true* or **F** for *false*. Correct the false statements.

_____ **1.** Some people are terrified of the ways technology will change the working world.

_____ **2.** In the future, robots and machines will take everyone's jobs.

_____ **3.** Use of machines and robots may change the important tasks that a person does at work.

_____ **4.** There is nothing humans do better than robots.

_____ **5.** Jobs won't change in the future.

_____ **6.** People will need strong STEM skills in the future.

_____ **7.** Creativity and communication skills won't be important in future jobs.

_____ **8.** According to the article, humans will always be important in the workplace.

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