Match the words with the pictures.

carmaker

publishing

food delivery

food preparation

warehouse worker

emergency services

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Match the words with the pictures.

Job Market Concerns
Automation

According to some researchers, 40% of jobs will have been automated by 2050. Sounds bad? It gets worse. This prediction is one of the more optimistic ones. Other researchers claim that 20% of all jobs that exist today will have been automated within the next five years. That's a lot of jobs!

Jobs most at risk of being automated are those that require repetitive work. This means most manufacturing jobs. Service workers are also at risk. Cashiers, deliverymen, and customer service representatives are all starting to be replaced by AI.

Those with an advanced education are less at risk of being replaced. However, this doesn't mean they're not at any risk. Of the jobs replaced by 2050, many will have been lost in "white-collar" industries. AI is already able to do many tasks in advanced career fields such as healthcare and law. Take, for example, radiology. Deep-learning programs are becoming capable of reading patient images faster and more accurately than human radiologists. This means better and faster diagnoses of dangerous illnesses and diseases.

It's not all bad news for human workers, though. Not all researchers believe that automation and AI will replace human labor. That's because many new technologies have threatened jobs in the past and proved to be harmless or even helpful to the job market. Take, for example, the ATM (automated teller machine). In the past, bank tellers believed that ATMs would destroy banking jobs. However, this machine led to the creation of more jobs in sales and accounting. Researchers who are not worried about automation are convinced that new jobs will replace old ones—jobs that might not even exist right now. But what are your thoughts? Do you think automation will make life better or worse?

NOTE

To be *optimistic* is to think positively or to think that things will go well.

White-collar is used to describe jobs that take place in offices and require more mental effort. *Blue-collar* is used to describe jobs that require physical labor.

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Comprehension

5 Circle true or false.

1. Researchers believe 40% of jobs will be automated in the next five years. true false
2. Jobs that require advanced education are more at risk of being automated. true false
3. Deep-learning programs are able to do part of a radiologist's job. true false
4. Most researchers believe automation will destroy the job market. true false
5. Some researchers believe new jobs will replace jobs destroyed by automation. true false

6 Answer the questions.

1. What predictions have researchers made about the job market?

   _____

2. What kinds of jobs will be negatively affected by automation?

   _____

3. Why are some researchers not convinced by the dangers of automation?

   _____

7 Talk with a partner.

1. What do you want as your future career?
2. What are the best careers right now in your opinion?
3. What kinds of predictions can you make about the future job market?

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