**Emerging technologies: what will the world be like in 2030?**

Adapted from <https://www.bbva.com/en/emerging-technologies-what-will-world-be-2030/>



The [Fourth Industrial Revolution](https://www.bbva.com/en/francisco-gonzalez-fourth-industrial-revolution-will-change-world-bring-opportunities-everyone/) is radically transforming the job market. Technological progress heralds a radical increase in productivity that would be almost unthinkable for human productivity. This situation will represent a turning point that will require us to rethink our current way of life.

One of the biggest transformations will take place in the labor market. By 2030, individuals will cease to have permanent jobs, with most people becoming freelancers, as part of the so-called gig economy, in which work consists of one-off tasks. Also, about 85% of those tasks have yet to be invented. The multinational computer technology company Dell has identified the following technologies as the most relevant in the human-machine relationship.

**Read the following paragraphs and answer the questions**

**Robotics**

Robotics is already used for many tasks human beings “don’t want to do because they are dangerous, repetitive or don’t require special cognitive skills.” However, we continue to move toward a more advanced industrial revolution, in which many processes will be automatized.

The Chinese company Changying Precision Technology, which produces parts for cellphones, has been the first to replace 90% of its workforce with robots, leading to a 250% increase in productivity. This has prompted calls by [Bill Gates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Gates), for one, to argue that robots that replace human jobs should pay taxes as a worker would do.

According to a [study by the OECD](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/the-risk-of-automation-for-jobs-in-oecd-countries_5jlz9h56dvq7-en;jsessionid=mQxRDVkhujhHi9oywcHeHu-e.ip-10-240-5-18) on the risk posed by automatization, 9% of the jobs in member countries of the bloc can be potentially automatized. By 2030, robotics will focus on mobility and we will see the emergence of robot drivers. Such services will be contracted through applications similar to those that already exist.

**True or false?**

1. In the future, robots will continue being used for dangerous, repetitive and easy tasks. TRUE
2. Automation will lead to the loss of 90% of human jobs. FALSE
3. In 2030, one of the jobs performed by robots will be related to solving emergencies. FALSE

**Artificial intelligence and machine learning**

The latest [CES](https://www.ces.tech/) (Consumer Electronics Show) in Las Vegas made clear that artificial intelligence presents an opportunity that no company wants to miss. The use of voice assistant apps such as Apple’s Siri, Amazon’s Alexa and Google Assistant are becoming more common every day.

More and more companies and consumers are turning to biometric technologies to enhance their authentication and payment methods. Compared to traditional password-based mechanisms, these solutions provide a better user experience and increased security.

For its part, ‘[machine learning](https://www.bbva.com/en/machine-learning-intelligence-learns/)’ aims to develop techniques that enable machines to acquire behavior that will later allow them to make decisions on their own initiative. This technology is already being used in different areas. Facebook uses machine learning to recognize violent content or nudity, in order to censor them, even in direct transmission. The audiovisual giant Netflix uses machine learning to make recommendations to users. Driverless cars also need machine learning to monitor the movements of other vehicles or to react to unexpected events.

The visionary founder of Tesla and SpaceX, [Elon Musk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk), has predicted that the only possible way ahead is the merger of machines and humans, if the latter do not want the very superior artificial intelligence of machines to make them irrelevant.

The former -> el anterior

The latter -> el ultimo

1. **Which of the following statements do not reflect the information in the paragraph?**
2. Companies do not want artificial intelligence to miss the opportunity. NO
3. All companies want to use artificial intelligence. YES
4. Biometrics is earning a place in personal finance. YES
5. Biometrics has been developed thanks to user experience. NO
6. Passwords are being replaced by biometric methods. **YES**
7. Facebook and Netflix use machines that make decisions on their own initiative. YES
8. Human intelligence will always be superior to artificial intelligence. NO
9. **“The only possible path is the merger of machines and men” (Elon Musk). What does this mean?**

The union of machines and people.

**Translate the chunks of text in italics into English. Then, listen and check your answers.**

**Virtual reality and augmented reality**

These two concepts can lend themselves to confusion. Virtual reality functions by blocking out the physical world and transporting the user to a simulated world. Augmented reality, on the other hand, adds virtual information to the physical world, *haciendo que el usuario perciba***………making the user perceive** a mixture of both realities.

The report stresses the substantial change that these two technologies represent, as *permiten a los usuarios sumergirse* **they allows users to submerge themselves** in a virtual world and experience information in first person, *empleando todos sus sentidos***…using all their senses..**. Both technologies *están aplicándose actualmente***……are currently being applied…..**in education, where augmented reality allows students to visualize concepts such as parts of the body through 3D constructions; in entertainment, where [virtual reality experiences](https://zerolatencyvr.com/) can transport the user to places such as a zombie apocalypse or an intergalactic war; and in medicine, where they can resolve phobias or fears *transportando de manera virtual al paciente a una situación de conflicto***…by virtually transporting the patient into a conflict situation …..**.

In 2030, these technologies will speed up the merger of physical and digital identities. Augmented reality will be used as *una herramienta de aprendizaje* **…a learning toll..**, to improve the training of individuals or to recycle them in the job market. Virtual reality will make possible for users to immerse themselves in alternative scenarios, thus serving as a preparation for future situations.

By 2030, in-the-moment learning *será habitual***…will be the usual way of doing this/ will be commonplace/ will be second nature..**. The capacity to acquire new knowledge will be more valued than the knowledge that individuals already have. In this type of learning, virtual reality will play an essential role, while augmented reality *permitirá que los empleados se enfrenten a circunstancias***…will enable/permit/allow employees to face circumstances..**in which they may find themselves in the future.

Allow/ enable/permite (sinonimos)

**Choose the right option**

**Cloud computing**

This technology could be defined as the offer of *storing/storage*, access and usage of computing resources, principally those established on the Internet. Some 70% of U.S: companies *are already working/ are working already* with the cloud and more are expected to follow the trend.

Chilate Dairy, a milk production company, improved its production and the wellbeing of its workers, thanks to cloud computing. By using RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) labels, the company captures *dates/data* on the health of its cows and, after analyzing *it/them*, sends information to employees, instructing them to adjust a cow´s diet, give them medicine or apply a vaccination.

By 2030, cloud computing will be *as/so* widespread that it will be hard to remember a time when it didn´t exist.

**Fill in the gaps with the right word. There are extra words.**

**developing, making, looking, performing, knowing, according, seeking, hiring, using**

**Talent and the search for employment**

The search for talent in 2030 will be nothing like it is today. Keeping in mind the aforementioned predictions about the “gig economy”, companies will select their workers …according… to their talent for …performing… a specific task. In 2030, employees will be selected from around the world and will be able to work in teams in a collaborative manner, helping to make country barriers disappear.

The integration of virtual reality into hiring will make it possible to recruit personnel without …knowing… the sex or the race of the individual. Selection tests will be done through a neutral avatar, so …hiring… will be based solely on a worker’s capabilities.

However, in 2030, not only will the capacity or the experience of the worker be taken into account. The so-called “[soft skills](https://www.bbva.com/en/what-are-soft-skills-and-how-are-they-used/)” will be crucial to differentiating oneself when …seeking… employment. …Developing… a strong personal brand and an ability to capitalize on the human-machine relationship will guarantee success in the new era.

## Vocabulary

Current 🡪 actual

Actual 🡪 real

Labor (forma americana) 🡪 labour (forma británica)

Freelancers 🡪 van por su cuenta(autómatas)

Gig 🡪 bolo

Gig-economy 🡪economia con contratos finitos, economia de bolo

Robotics is a science that study robots so “Robotics is…”

aforementioned 🡪 before

performing 🡪 realizar tareas

soft skills 🡪 habilidades sociales

Data “is” a synonym of information.