

Careers that are safe in the digital age

SPEAKING

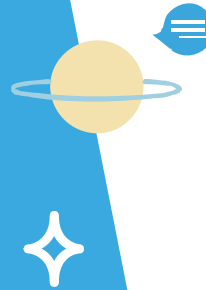
LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_4058S_EN

LANGUAGE
English



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Goals

- Can read, listen to and understand a complex text about the idea of technology subsuming certain careers.
- Can discuss the future of our careers in depth and speculate on the potential outcomes.







The Digital Age

**What do we mean when we talk about the digital age?
How would you explain the digital age to someone who had
never heard this term before?**



information
technology

traditional
industry

shift/change

period of time



Thinking about changes

Look at the picture below. In what ways has the digital age transformed offices over the past 50 years?



technology

tradition



Your career

Think about your career, or that
of a close friend.

Discuss how it has changed
thanks to technology and the
digital age.





Careers that are safe in the digital age

While technological advances have undoubtedly made our daily lives more comfortable, automation and our increasing **reliance** on computer systems make many people uneasy. The **dawn of** the digital age has brought **sweeping** changes to the employment landscape, and many jobs which were once regarded as safe and secure are now in danger of being **rendered obsolete**.





Careers that are safe in the digital age



Take for example the role of a supermarket cashier. In 2015, in the US alone there were over 3.4 million people employed as checkout operators. However, the retail experience is changing. Nowadays, increasing numbers of people shop online and self-service checkouts are becoming increasingly **prevalent**.

These systems seem to provide a kind of **win-win situation**. Despite the initial **outlay**, retailers still tend to save money thanks to reduced staffing costs. Additionally, they are able to improve their customer **satisfaction** rates due to reduced waiting times and a smoother shopping experience for consumers. However, where does this leave the **humble** human supermarket cashier?



Careers that are safe in the digital age

The **onslaught** of automation has **induced a feeling akin to** panic amongst some people, particularly in countries already suffering from high rates of unemployment. Thanks to the digital age the concept of a **job for life** has been confined to the past. For a younger generation, the idea of working 9 to 5 in the same job is often **unappealing** and the changing nature of careers in the digital age is exciting. However, for an older generation who were brought up before the birth of the digital age, there's a very real sense of fear about this **newfound** lack of job security.





Putting new words to use!

**Discuss the below words and confirm your understanding.
Practise making sentences with each word.**

obsolete

the dawn of

render

prevalent

humble

onslaught

A blank sheet of lined paper with a spiral binding on the left side, intended for writing sentences.



A win-win situation



What is the **win-win situation** described in the text?

Give two other examples that could be classified as win-win situations.



Thinking about changes

Look at the careers on the cards. How have they changed as a result of the digital age?

Compare the differences prior to the digital age and now.



supermarket
cashier

librarian

lawyer

bank manager



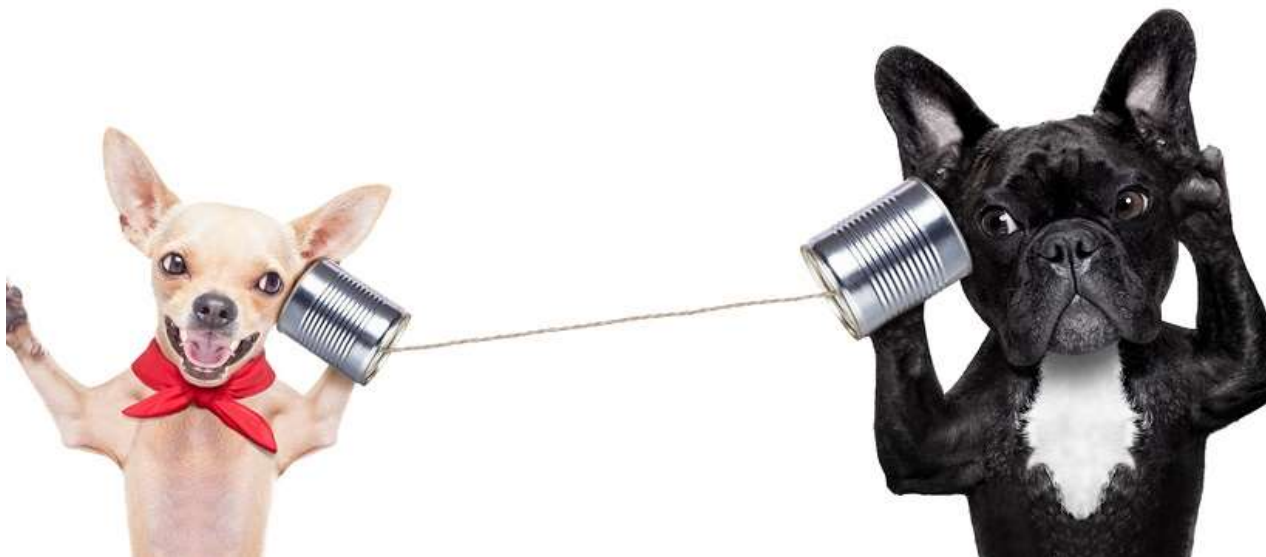
Thinking about the next 50 years



Think about the next 50 years, in what ways do you believe the jobs on the previous slide might change further in the future?



Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on training your listening comprehension.



Listen carefully!

Listen to the transcript and answer the below.



In which 4 roles will we never see a robot supersede a human?

Jobs are not disappearing, but are being...

What percentage of professions are at risk of automisation?

Which occupations are most at risk of automisation in the digital age?



The concept of a 'job for life'

Read the quotes below. Discuss your thoughts on the term a job for life. Who do you agree with more, and why?

“It's important to be adaptable. A job for life doesn't exist in this fast-changing environment. It's important to be open to the idea of changing your job and even your whole field of employment. I find this exciting, change doesn't have to be negative!”

“I like my job. I have a family and I prefer the idea of a stable career. I don't want to spend time worrying that there might not be a job for me in ten years' time. The idea of a 'job for life' is very appealing to me.”





Safe careers

Do you think we will always need people for the jobs below? Is there anything that these professions have in common? Can you think of other professions that might be considered safe in the digital age?



president

teacher

counsellor

scientist



Imagine you are

Your neighbour's daughter is thinking about career choices. Some relatives have been discussing careers in the digital age and she is concerned about the impact this will have on her future. She has called you for advice.

- Summarise for her what impact the digital age has had on the employment market.
- Give examples of how jobs have changed in the digital age.



- Acknowledge the fears surrounding jobs in the digital age and provide positive reassurance.
- Give options of careers that are considered safe in the digital age.





Give your opinion



Is the digital age a force for
positive change in the
employment market?
Do you feel optimistic about the
future?



Reflect on this lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!



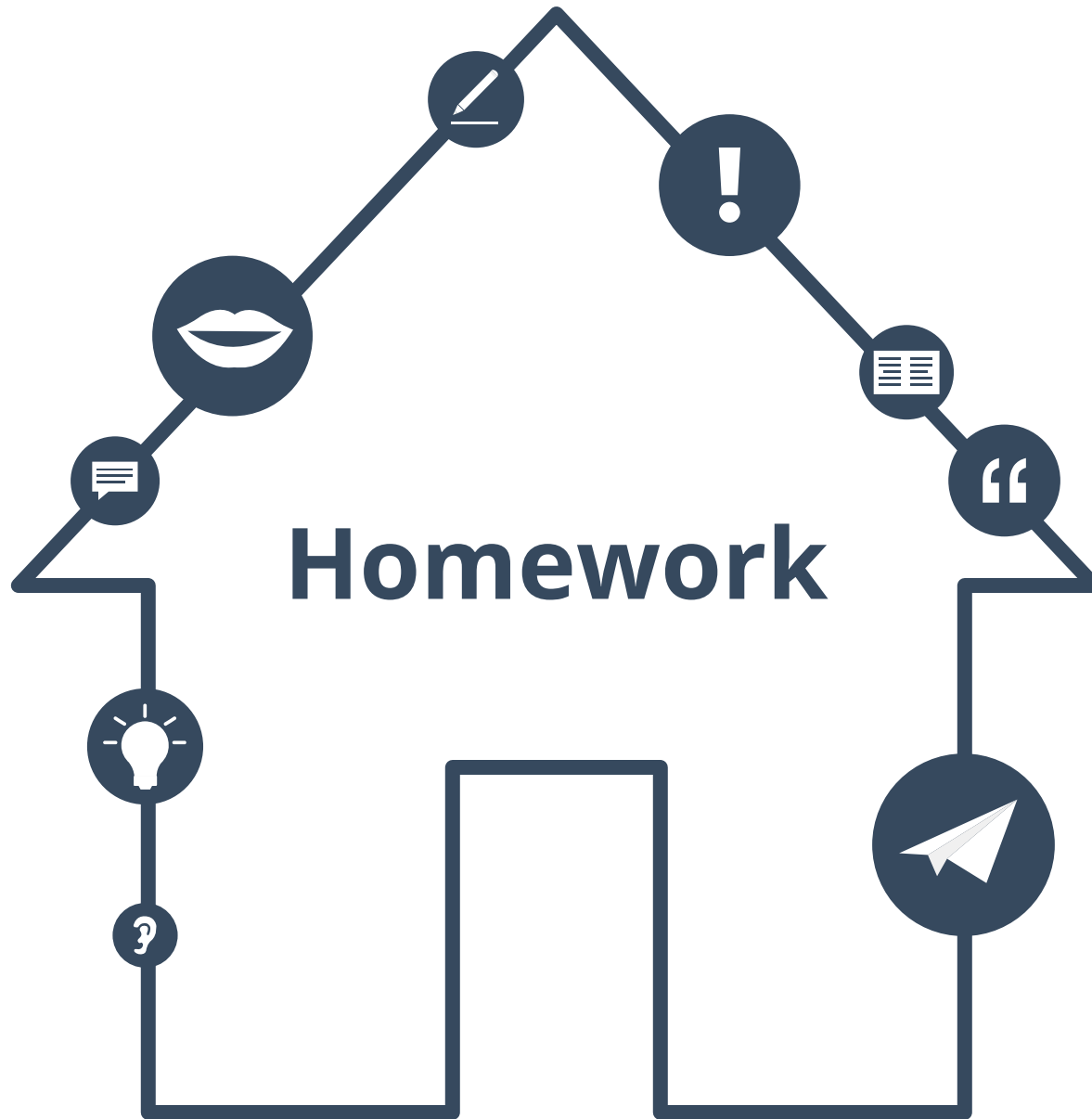


Transcription p. 15

Is the situation really so **drastic**? No matter how advanced technology becomes it is assumed that there are some industries in which humans can never be replaced. Will we ever see a robot **supercede** a president, a primary school teacher, or dentist? Are the fields of politics, science and education considered safe in terms of job security? It is thought that no matter what your occupation, automation and the digital age is taking over.

Some jobs, such as the supermarket cashier, are arguably not disappearing but are being **redefined**. As more people prefer the **convenience** of shopping online to **traipsing** around a shopping centre, we will require additional delivery drivers and **warehouse** operatives to feed our consumer habits. Will cashiers have to retrain to work within deliveries in order to retain their jobs? It is thought that around 30% of tasks in 60% of professions are at risk of being computerised.

The occupations which are at greatest risk of automisation in the digital age are: taxi drivers, telemarketers and tax advisers. Whilst the safest jobs lay within the sciences: mental health workers, therapists and surgeons, or anyone working with other humans on a complex level are safe, for now!





Homework lists activity

Write a list of jobs which you feel are safe from automatisation and give your reasons why you believe this to be the case.

The graphic shows a spiral-bound notebook with a light gray cover. A white sticky note with a torn edge is stuck to the top right of the notebook. The sticky note contains the text "Professions safe from the digital age!". Below the sticky note, the first line of the notebook's pages is pre-filled with the text "Technology related vocabulary". The rest of the pages are blank and lined.



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