

READING

New skills for new jobs

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_3043R

LANGUAGE

English

Learning outcomes

- I can read and understand a short text about new skills for future jobs.
- I can discuss the role of education in a digital world.



Warm-up

Discuss the question below. **Option:** complete this activity **in breakout** rooms.
Make a list of the skills you and your partner(s) mention, to share with the class afterwards.

**Think about your studies
and/or professional
career.**

**What skills have been the most useful to you?
Where did you learn them?**



Vocabulary match

Match these words and phrases to the correct definition.
Which words and phrases are new for you?

1

manual labour

a

always changing

2

ever-evolving

b

the part of the future that can be predicted

3

to implement

c

to change or make more varied

4

to diversify

d

to put into practice

5

the foreseeable future

e

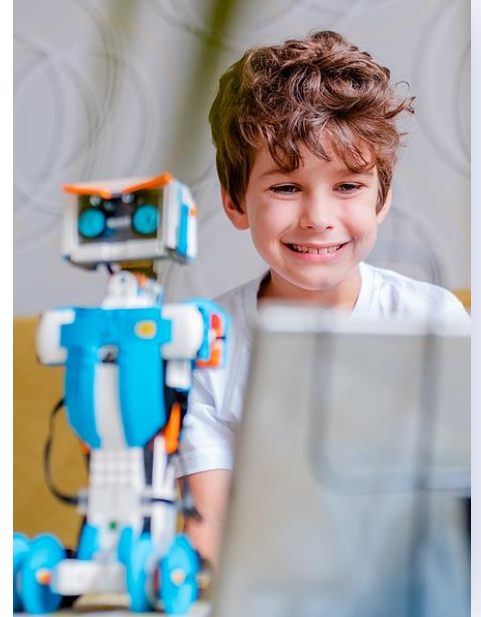
physical work which is done by humans

Reading (1)

Read the text. **Answer** the questions.

Many typical manual labour jobs that were once handled by humans are now moving towards robots and automation. In China and the United States, both manufacturing powerhouses, fewer people work in manufacturing today than they did twenty years ago. Naturally, this has shifted the way our generation looks for opportunities in the ever-evolving job market.

Studies have shown that as early as 2030, we will not only have automated shelf stackers and van drivers, but automation may even replace jobs like administrators and assistants.



1. Which job types are set to be replaced by automation?
2. What change in the workforce can be seen in the last twenty years in the United States and China?



China and the United States are both manufacturing **powerhouses**.

When you describe a person or thing as **a powerhouse**, it means they have great strength and power.

What do you think the word means in the above sentence?

Reading (2)

Read the text. **Answer** the questions.

Which jobs will be in demand in future? One study in the EU has shown growth in the services market, including the IT, insurance and consulting sectors. It's no surprise that the IT sector will most likely experience the biggest growth since automation brings with it an increase in demand for programmers and developers. The fastest growing jobs now include software engineers, network administrators, network analysts and desktop publishers.

We may also see programming language becoming just as popular in school as taking a second language. In addition, social work, health care, hotels and catering will also see growth in the future. Jobs in manufacturing and construction will likely see a decrease for demand in the future. The most vulnerable jobs include butlers, payroll assistants, bank assistants and even pharmacists.

Which sectors have shown growth?

Which sector will experience the most growth, and why?

What jobs are set to see an increase in demand in future?

Discuss

Read the statement below. **Share your thoughts**, using the questions as a guide.



Education is not about getting a professional skill; it is about learning throughout your life.

Do you **agree** with the statement above?

Give a reason for your answer.

How can second- and third-level education help people prepare for an **ever-evolving** job market?

What role might **digital education** play for current and future generations of learners?



Skills needed for new jobs

Below are some of the skills that are required in **modern roles**.
Digital competencies now play a huge part in many jobs.

Digital competencies	Advanced digital competencies	General skills for effective work
Proficiency in using the internet to do research	Programming languages	Multitasking / analytical skills
Proficiency in using social media	Building robots	Flexibility / communication / self-management skills
Proficiency in text processors and spreadsheet software	Configuring artificial intelligence	Problem-solving skills / multilingualism

Skills needed for new jobs

What is the role of education in a digital world? **Discuss** the questions below.

- 1 Should universities and schools focus on teaching new skills?
- 2 Should education be focused on culture or on employability?
- 3 Do you think everyone should learn a programming language?

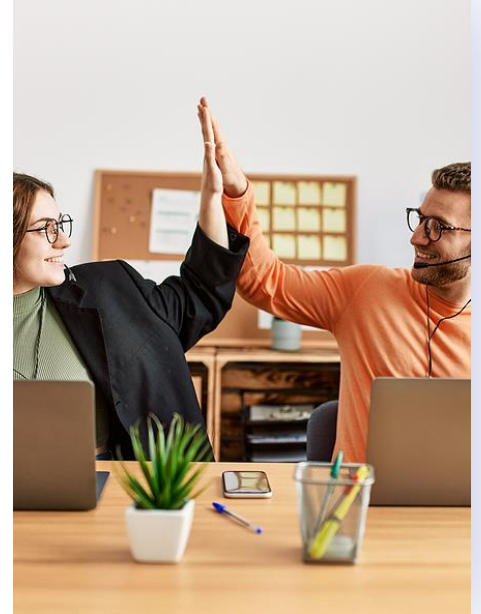


Reading (3)

Read the text. **Answer** the questions.

According to research, soft skills such as problem-solving, decision-making, active learning and language skills will be most important. The ability to work in a team, discuss, implement and review ideas are still things which automation has not been able to come close to replacing.

Technical skills will also continue to be in demand. If you are a mechanic or plumber who is called to emergencies in different locations to repair something, those skills will likely be done by humans for the foreseeable future.



1. What skills will become most important?
2. What skills will continue to be needed?

Reading (4)

Read the text. **Answer** the questions.

While some jobs may disappear, others will be created and many will be redefined. With the way technology has been moving, it's hard to predict exactly what the future will look like in twenty or more years.

We may see a future where people diversify themselves with many talents and skills, and work several different jobs throughout the week. Perhaps a future where not only English is a second language, but knowledge of C++, or another programming language, also becomes a preferred skill for an applicant. Because it's so hard to know what the future holds, you should also be open to try new things that you have never thought about. You may find that you have skills and talents that you never realised you had!

Why is it difficult to predict the future of the jobs market?

What are some potential future scenarios in relation to jobs and job-seeking?

What outlook can help someone prepare for such an uncertain future?



Reading comprehension

Are these statements about the text true or false?

Correct the false statements.

		true	false
1	More manual labour jobs are being created at the moment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Machines and robots are taking over manufacturing powerhouses such as the US.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Jobs in 2030 will be a lot different from the types of jobs we have now.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Robots that can cooperate and show teamwork have been invented.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	People with technical skills are less vulnerable to the automation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Discuss

Read the text below. **Answer** the questions.

When you look at an online job-seeking platform, chances are you mightn't have heard of quite a few of the job titles posted there or know exactly what the position entails.

According to research done in recent years, it has been estimated that around 65% of children entering primary school will find themselves in an occupation that does not currently exist.

Or to put it another way, some of today's most in-demand, specialist jobs didn't exist as little as five to ten years ago.

What are some common jobs today that didn't exist in the past?

*Have you recently used a job platform?
Were there any job titles you didn't recognise?*

What jobs could you see your children doing in the foreseeable future?



Discuss

If I were in school again...

Are you happy with the path you have chosen for your life?

How would your decisions be different if you were 16 again?

Would you choose a different major or stick with the one that you chose?





End of the lesson

Idiom

to rack your brains

Meaning: to try very hard to think of something, for example a solution to a problem

Example: She racked her brains to try and remember the name of a city she visited when she was younger.



Additional practice



Employable skills

Imagine you are the head of human resources at a big company,
Read the items below and **answer** the questions.

multi-tasking

teamwork

analytical
reasoning

initiative

leadership
skills

creativity

digital
competency

academic
training

1. What do you expect from future employees? Are there any key skills not listed above?
2. What kind of workers would you not want to hire?

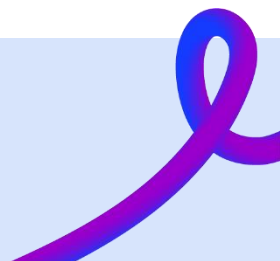


Skills needed for new jobs

How does each type of skill benefit a worker in society? Can you think of some other skills not listed below?



critical thinking	agile development	validating information
reflecting	self-learning	resilience
technical skills	multi-lingualism	writing skills





Vocabulary review

Do you know the words below?





Vocabulary in context

Read the words from the previous slide in context.

1



University entrance exams usually test a student's **aptitude** in maths, science, reading and writing.

2



The medical examiner's **expertise** was in heart conditions since he was a heart surgeon before becoming an examiner.

3



Her **dexterity** with the sewing machine was so amazing that she was featured on a recent television show.

4



This job as an auditor requires you to be extremely **analytical** with the financial statements and data.



Vocabulary in context

Read the words from the previous slide in context.

5



Sherlock Holmes was famous for using his **deductive** reasoning to capture criminals.

6



Proficiency in any second or third language comes with patience, effort and fortitude.

7



My **expectations** for the third film are not that high because the sequel was pretty bad.

8



There was no way he could **anticipate** the surprise birthday party.



Discuss

Answer the questions below using the words you have learnt on the previous slides.

- 1 What is your secret for improving your language **proficiency**?
- 2 What do you do when a service or product doesn't **live up to your expectations**?
- 3 How do you manage difficulties that you haven't **anticipated**, either at work or in your personal life?
- 4 How are **deductive** and inductive reasoning different?
- 5 Do you agree that video games demand great manual **dexterity**.





Answer key

P.4: 1. e 2. a 3. d 4. c 5. b

P.13: 1. false 2. true 3. true (though up for discussion) 4. false 5. true



Summary

Vocabulary for a changing job market:

- *manual labour; to implement; to diversify; powerhouse*
- *Many jobs that involved **manual labour** are now being done by robots.*
- *The USA and China are manufacturing **powerhouses**.*

Vocabulary for the new market:

- *ever-evolving; competency; soft skills*
- *The job market is **ever-evolving**.*
- ***Soft skills** are becoming increasingly valuable.*



Vocabulary

manual labour

ever-evolving

to implement

to diversify

the foreseeable future

powerhouse

competency

