READING

Jobs that will disappear

LEVEL
Upper-Intermediate (B2)

NUMBER
EN_B2_3041R

LANGUAGE
English

Learning outcomes

- I can read and understand the main points in a series of texts about automation.

- I can discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the digital revolution on jobs.

Warm-up

Brainstorm ideas **in breakout rooms** or **as a class**.

How has the digital revolution already changed the way we work in these areas?

Healthcare

Transportation

Services

Retail

The future of driving

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

Just over a decade ago, two economists who are well-known wrote that driverless cars would not be able to execute a left turn against traffic coming towards them, due to the various factors involved in a task that can be complicated and risky even for humans. Driverless cars seemed like something from a film that takes place well into the future! But only a few years after this report, a major company deployed a fleet of cars that don't require a human driver and began testing them within a geo-fenced area. While self-driving cars are still not available for sale to commercial customers, some industries are already seeing a real impact from advances in automation. Mining companies are increasingly using autonomous trucks for operations like digging and excavating.
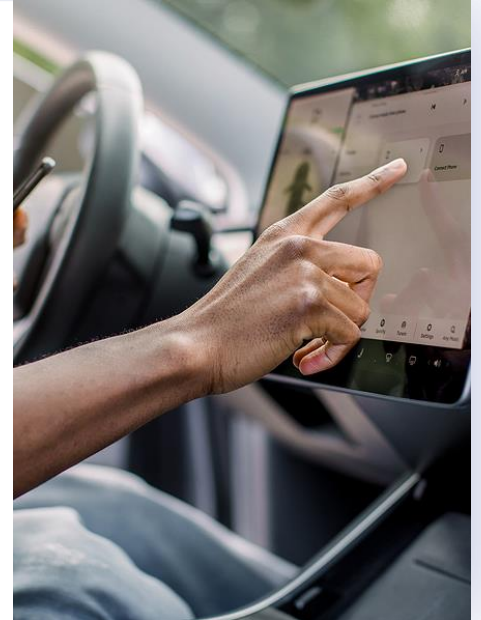
1. What task is considered difficult for both human drivers and driverless cars?
2. Are driverless cars able to drive everywhere these days?
3. Is it possible for anybody to buy a driverless car today?

The future of driving

Read the text again. **Rephrase** the underlined parts using a word from below.

Just over a decade ago, <u>two economists who are well-known</u> wrote that driverless cars would not be able to execute a left turn against <u>traffic coming towards them</u>, due to the various factors involved in a task that can be complicated even for humans. Driverless cars seemed like something from a <u>film that takes place well into the future</u>! But only a few years after this report, a major company deployed a fleet of <u>cars that don't require a human driver</u> and began testing them within a geo-fenced area. While self-driving cars are still not <u>available for sale to commercial customers</u>, some industries are already seeing a real impact from advances in automation. Mining companies are increasingly using autonomous trucks for operations like digging and excavating.

futuristic	autonomous	oncoming	prominent	commercially

A **geo-fence** is a virtual boundary created by, for example, GPS technology.

The future of driving

Here is the **edited version** of the text from the previous slides.

Just over a decade ago, **two prominent economists** wrote that self-driving cars would not be able to execute a left turn against **oncoming traffic** due to the various factors involved in a task that can be complicated even for humans. Driverless cars seemed like something from a **futuristic film**! But only a few years after this report, a major company deployed a fleet of **autonomous cars** and began testing them within a geo-fenced area. While self-driving cars are still not **commercially** available, some industries are already seeing a real impact from advances in automation. Mining companies are increasingly using autonomous trucks for operations like digging and excavating.

1. What is the effect of the rephrased sentences on the text as a whole?
2. Do you find the text easier to understand?

Driverless, self-driving and autonomous cars... What's the difference?

These terms are often used interchangeably, though they can be a little misleading!

If a car were to be truly autonomous or self-driving, it would have a 'mind' of its own and wouldn't need (or want!) human input at all.

Even the driverless taxis and delivery trucks that are being gradually introduced in some areas still require a level of human supervision.

Over to you

Would you like to own a driverless car? Why or why not?

What may be some of the benefits of fully driverless cars over human drivers?

What issues might arise when human drivers and robot drivers begin sharing the roads?

Are driverless cars being tested in the country where you live?

An automated world

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

The automotive industry uses large robots to assemble vehicles and 3D-printers to create precise parts. In healthcare, automation can mean the use of robots to perform complicated surgical procedures. It can also mean digitalising more manual, repetitive tasks, such as scheduling appointments or chat-bots that guide patients to a preliminary diagnosis. When it comes to retail, many shops now have self-checkout counters to replace cashiers, with one employee overseeing multiple machines. In the service industry, the necessity for human interaction is also decreasing, with touch-screen interfaces for placing your order at many fast-food chains.

1. Which industries are mentioned in the text?
2. Give one **example** from the text of how automation is changing the way we work.

Match the words and phrases

Match the words and phrases from the text to the correct definition.
Are any of them new for you?

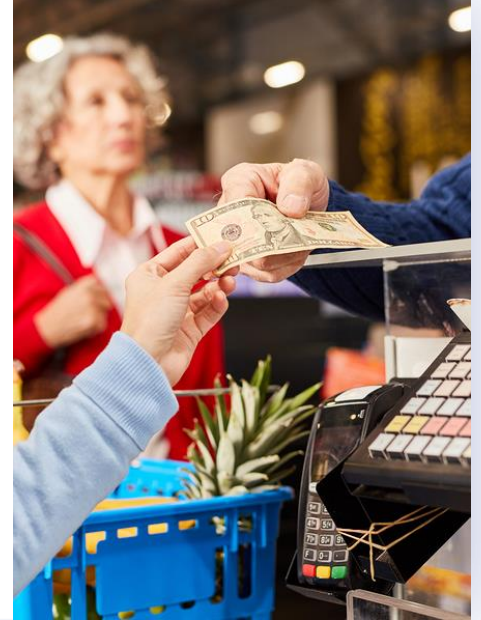|			
1	**prominent**	a	to perform a task successfully
2	**to execute**	b	to release
3	**to deploy**	c	able to operate without direct human input
4	**autonomous**	d	about to happen
5	**to be on the verge (of)**	e	a set of rules or a process used to calculate or perform an operation
6	**algorithm**	f	(of a person) well-known, (of a thing or object) visible

Less human interaction

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

There are currently trials and tests being conducted with sensors that automatically know what you are buying and can deduct it straight from your credit card. This means you can walk into a shop, find the items you need, bag them and simply walk right out of the store without any other human interaction.

And have you noticed that fewer and fewer telemarketers are cold-calling these days? That's because advanced algorithms are now able to track your clicking habits online to tailor targeted ads to you.

What trials are currently being done in shops?

Why are people receiving fewer calls from telemarketers?

How are consumers' habits being monitored and influenced these days?

to cold-call

a cold call

When you **cold-call** someone, you…

(a) …are very unfriendly on the call.

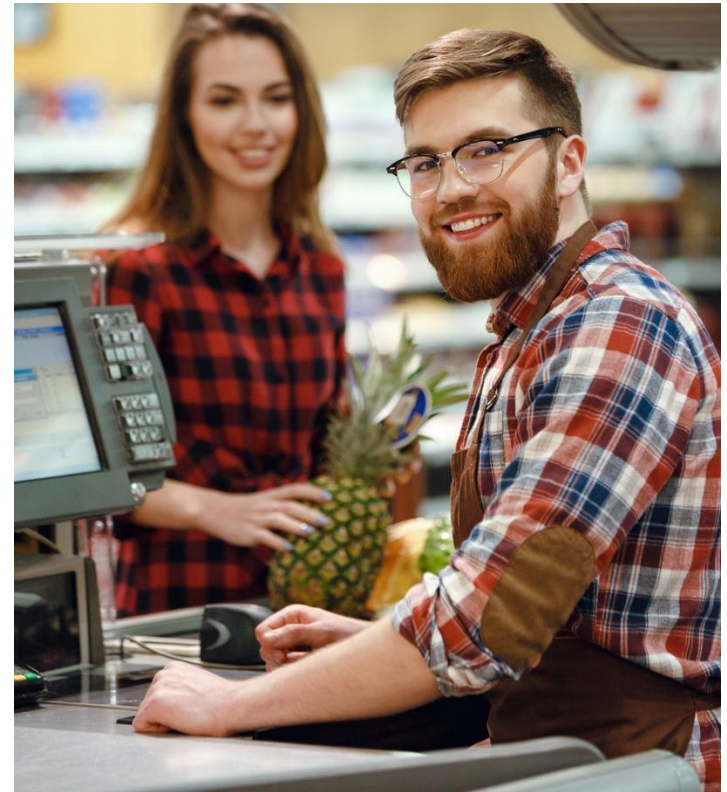(b) …call them to try to sell goods or services.

Job automation

What are some of the **main functions** of these jobs?
In what ways have they **changed**?

1   Cashier

2   Telemarketer

3   Bank assistant

Option: complete this activity **in breakout rooms**.

Discuss

When was the last time you went to your local bank branch?

What are some tasks that you prefer (or need) to do in person?

Discuss

What are some jobs that your family members had fifty years ago?

Are they different from the kind of job you considered when choosing a career?

Future jobs

Answer the questions below.

What is your **specialist** subject?

What jobs are **available** for you?

Could they be **vulnerable** to digitalisation?

If so, what will you do?

Let's reflect

- Can you read and understand the main points in a series of texts about automation?

- Can you discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the digital revolution on jobs.

Your teacher will now make one suggestion for improvement for each student.

End of the lesson

Idiom

Hold the phone!

Meaning: This is usually given as an imperative to tell someone to stop or wait. It can often be used to express surprise.

Example: Hold the phone! Did you just say they're giving out free ice-cream at Roger's? We need to go there.

Additional practice

Vocabulary review

Review these words and phrases from the texts in the lesson.

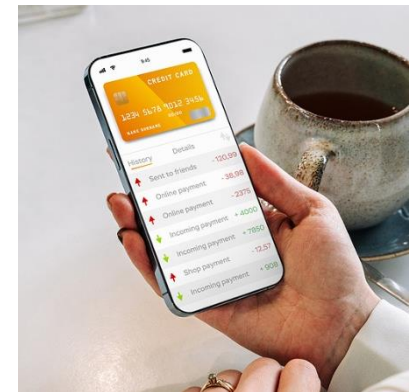| to oversee | in-person |
to tailor	to open an account
targeted ad	automated
human interaction	to conduct a survey
cold call	to deduct money

Respond to the statement

" **Nowadays it seems like our smartphones know us better than we know ourselves. I got an ad for a new pair of shoes, for example, before I'd even realised I needed them!**

Can you relate to this statement? How do you think the speaker feels about seeing the ad?

When was the last time you purchased something based on an ad?

What are some pros and cons of modern marketing strategies, such as ads on social media?
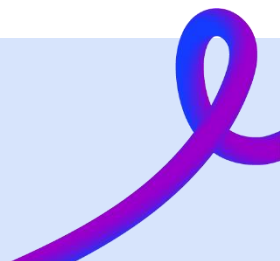
Additional practice

When was the last time you used the self-checkout to purchase items?

Do you prefer to use the self-checkout option, or go to a cashier? Why?

Answer key

P.4:
1. to execute a left turn against traffic coming towards them
2. No
3. No

P.5:

Just over a decade ago, **(1)** <u>two economists who are well-known in their field </u>wrote that driverless cars would not be able to execute a left turn against **(2)** <u>traffic coming towards them </u>(in countries that drive on the right) due to the various factors involved in a task that can be complicated for humans. Driverless cars sounded like something from a **(3)** <u>film that takes place well into the future</u>! But only a few years after this report, a major company delivered a programme that can deploy **(4)** <u>cars that don't require a human driver</u> and began testing them within a geo-fenced area. While self-driving cars are still not **(5)** <u>available for sale to commercial customers</u>, some industries are already seeing a real impact from advances in automation. Mining companies are increasingly using autonomous trucks for operations like digging and excavating.

Replace underlined with:

1. prominent economists **2.** oncoming traffic **3.** futuristic film **4.** autonomous cars **5.** commercially available

Answer key

P.10: 1. f 2. a 3. b 4. c 5. d 6. e

Summary

Vocabulary about the future of driving:
- *driverless; self-driving; autonomous*
- *prominent; to execute; to deploy; to be on the verge of*
- *Mining companies use **autonomous** trucks in their operations.*
- *We are **on the verge of** a major breakthrough.*

Vocabulary about human interaction:
- *algorithm*
- *cold calling; to cold call*
- *vulnerable; digitalisation*
- *These jobs are **vulnerable** to **digitalisation**.*

Vocabulary

driverless

self-driving

autonomous

prominent

to execute

to deploy

to be on the verge (of)

algorithm

to cold call

Notes