



Job Automation

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Topic Introduction: Answer the questions as a group.

1. Have you heard of the concept of job automation?
2. Do you think your job is at risk of being automated? Why/Why not?
3. Can you think of any jobs that have already been automated?
4. What jobs do you think won't exist in 20 years' time?
5. Do you think job automation is overall a good thing?
6. Do you think that machines will do all jobs in the future?



Video: Watch the video below and discuss if your answers have changed.

video link: <https://youtu.be/gWmRkYsLzB4>



Grammar Focus: Study the structures below.

likely to: subject + be likely to + infinitive

We use this structure to express probability or likelihood.

e.g., Simon is likely to get the job. = It is probable that Simon will get the job.

Other examples:

- It is likely to rain this afternoon.
- Job automation is likely to change the future of work drastically.

On the next slide, you will see how to modify the degree of probability or likelihood →



Grammar Focus: Study the structures below.

← not at all - hardly - somewhat - quite - very - highly - extremely →

e.g., Cleaning robots are **quite** likely to exist in the future.

We can use the **adverbs and adverbial phrases in blue** to express the degree of likelihood.

Other examples:

- Jobs in manufacturing, such as assembly line work, are **quite** likely to be automated as robotics technology becomes more advanced and cost-effective.
- Machines are **highly** unlikely to fully replace doctors and nurses in the medical field, despite the increasing use of automation in telemedicine and diagnostic tools.



Grammar Focus II: Study the structures below.

There's **a** chance that...

e.g., There's **a** chance that supermarkets will be totally automatic one day.

This is another expression we use to express possibility or probability.

In the place of the article, '**a**', we may use other adjectives to modify the degree of likelihood.

← **no** – **a slim** – **some** – **a fair** – **a good** – **a strong** – **every** →

e.g., There's **every** chance that robots could replace bus drivers in cities.



Grammar Focus II: Study the structures below.

← no – a slim – some – a fair – a good – a strong – every →

More examples:

- There's **a fair** chance that autonomous vehicles and delivery drones will disrupt the transportation and logistics industry.
- There's **a strong** chance that many jobs in the service sector, such as cashiers and fast-food workers, will be automated in the next decade.



Grammar in Use: Take a look at the jobs below.

Do you think they'll be automated in the near future? Use the two structures you have learnt to help you. Examples are given below.

Psychologists	Data Entry Clerks	Marketing Managers	Drivers	Teachers
Proof-readers	Healthcare Workers	Telemarketers	Dentists & Orthodontists	Cashiers

← not at all - hardly - somewhat - quite - very - highly - extremely →

e.g., Assembly line workers are **highly** likely to become automated in the future.

← no - a slim - some - a fair - a good - a strong - every →

e.g., There's **every** chance that robots will replace assembly line workers soon.



So, is it all doom and gloom?



Speaking I: Read the introduction and answer the questions as a group.

Job automation, and things such as Artificial Intelligence, will inevitably bring about big changes.

All change has positive and negative aspects. As with past revolutions, there will be job losses, but also new opportunities.

Take, for example, the agricultural revolution. It led to an increase in food production and population growth, but also caused many people who worked in agriculture to be out of work. However, as technology advanced, new jobs emerged, such as factory work and other manufacturing jobs.



Speaking I: Read the introduction and answer the questions as a group.

Similarly, during the Industrial Revolution, the introduction of new technologies led to many job losses. Artisans and craft workers, for example, were replaced by machines. Again, however, new jobs such as those in marketing and advertising came about in time.

A little further down the line, the Digital Revolution caused job losses as new technologies emerged. Secretaries, administrative assistants, and bank tellers were some of those affected. Yet again, though, it led to the creation of new jobs, such as web development, social media management, and data analysis.



Speaking I: Read the introduction and answer the questions as a group.

The automation revolution is currently underway. Many routine and repetitive jobs are at risk of being automated. However, this revolution will also lead to the creation of new jobs which we are yet to discover.



Speaking I: Read the introduction and answer the questions as a group.

So, are the following advantages or disadvantages of job automation?

1. It replaces humans in dangerous environments.
2. It requires a high initial investment.
3. It leads to a more efficient use of materials.
4. It creates possible security threats.
5. It frees up workers to take on other roles.
6. It increases productivity.
7. It reduces the hours of an average working week.
8. It displaces workers due to job replacement.
9. It increases output consistency.



Speaking II: With all you have learnt, hold a debate on whether job automation is a good or bad thing overall for society.





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Check out the printable worksheet
and Teacher's Insights at
www.ESLhome.es