

#### Vocabulary: Jobs 词汇: 工作

As new technology is introduced, there are many who worry about its impact on our current and future lifestyles – particularly when it comes to jobs. It is a current belief that with the rise of robotics and artificial intelligence, many people's jobs, and therefore their **livelihoods**, are likely to be lost to automation.

This type of fear isn't new. In the 19th century, the automated weaving machine was revolutionising the English textiles industry and would contribute to the Industrial Revolution. When manual workers became **redundant**, it sparked protests at the loss of their **vocation**.

Automation in the work place is nothing new. Machines have been performing **menial** tasks on our behalf for years, allowing us to escape the **drudgery** that accompanies many **repetitive** jobs. In fact, the International Federation of Robotics states that in manufacturing on average there are now 74 robots per 10,000 **employees**. That has risen from 66 in 2015.

General Manager of Digital Customer Engagement Solutions at tech firm Nuance, Bernard Louvat, believes that 'AI is a big threat to **low-skilled jobs**, no question.' He also thinks that AI chatbots will **oust** most call centre **staff** within a decade. When you consider that a large telecoms company like AT&T employs around 100,000 call centre staff, that's a lot of people **on the dole**.

And that's just one **industry**. A recent report from the McKinsey Global Institute, a private sector think tank, states that nearly two thirds of all jobs could have at least 30% of their activities automated by 2030.

However, McKinsey also believes that this new technology will also 'create new **occupations** that do not exist today, much as technologies in the past have done.' As the horse gave way to the car, hostlers became mechanics and mechanised manufacturing drove up **wages** and created more long-term **roles** than it destroyed. In fact, figures from the World Bank have shown that despite a 2.2 billion rise in population between 1991 and 2017, global unemployment has fallen by 0.3%.

'It's an evolution of work' says Ian Barkin, co-founder of Symphony Ventures, a robotic process automation specialist. As low-skilled jobs are **taken on** by AI, people will need to learn new skills. 'This calls on us to focus on **up-skilling**, Technology can lead to job reductions but it doesn't have to,' says Barkin.

Whether or not robotics and AI will leave us all **jobless** remains to be seen. Current views on the subject are mixed. Increased automation could indeed lead to a loss of some jobs, but at the same time is likely to create many more as new skills are required. Will they balance out? I'll get my AI assistant to get back to you on that one.

## 词汇表

<b>livelihood</b>	生计
<b>redundant</b>	失业的，被裁员的
<b>vocation</b>	工作
<b>menial</b>	（工作）枯燥的、不体面的，带贬义
<b>drudgery</b>	苦工，辛苦乏味的工作
<b>repetitive</b>	单调重复的
<b>employee</b>	公司员工，雇员
<b>low-skilled job</b>	低技能工作
<b>oust</b>	赶走、夺取
<b>staff</b>	全体工作人员
<b>on the dole</b>	（英式表达）靠领取救济金生活
<b>industry</b>	行业、产业
<b>occupation</b>	职业
<b>wage</b>	（尤指给体力劳动者支付的）工钱、报酬
<b>role</b>	工作
<b>take on</b>	承担（一份工作）
<b>up-skill</b>	（通过培训）提升技能
<b>jobless</b>	失业的

## 测验与练习

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What historical example of technology causing a loss of jobs does the article give?
2. True or False: *Automation in the work place is a very new concept.*
3. Approximately how much automation across all jobs is estimated by 2030?
4. In McKinsey's opinion, what will happen as jobs are lost to automation?
5. According to Ian Barkin, what do these changes call us to focus on?

### 2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I hate being a builder. It's the \_\_\_\_\_ of it. All the tasks are boring or physically hard!

redundant	drudgery	low-skilled job	wages
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2. By a vote of no confidence, Phillip is \_\_\_\_\_ from his position as CEO by Tom.

redundant	repetitive	ousted	jobless
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3. After I lost my job at the factory, I was \_\_\_\_\_ for 5 years. I lived on benefits.

menial	ousted	on the dole	occupation
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4. I'm really sorry. I'm so busy with tasks, I don't think I can \_\_\_\_\_ any more.

oust	take on	up-skill	jobless
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5. The loss of business means that we'll have to cut \_\_\_\_\_. The staff won't be happy.

vocation	employees	wages	drudgery
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## 答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What historical example of technology causing a loss of jobs does the article give?  
**In the 19th century, the automated weaving machine caused manual workers to become redundant, sparking protests at the loss of their vocation.**

2. True or False: *Automation in the work place is a very new concept.*  
**False. Automation in the work place is nothing new. Machines have been performing menial tasks on our behalf for years.**

3. Approximately how much automation across all jobs is estimated by 2030?  
**A recent report from the McKinsey Global Institute states that nearly two thirds of all jobs could have at least 30% of their activities automated by 2030.**

4. In the McKinsey Global Institute's opinion, what will happen as jobs are lost to automation?  
**McKinsey also believes that this new technology will also 'create new occupations that do not exist today, much as technologies in the past have done.**

5. According to Ian Barkin, what do these changes call us to focus on?  
**They call on us to focus on up-skilling.**

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I hate being a builder. It's the **drudgery** of it. All the tasks are boring or physically hard!

2. By a vote of no confidence, Phillip is **ousted** from his position as CEO by Tom.

3. After I lost my job at the factory, I was **on the dole** for 5 years. I lived on benefits.

4. I'm really sorry. I'm so busy with tasks, I don't think I can **take on** any more.

5. The loss of business means that we'll have to cut **wages**. The staff won't be happy.