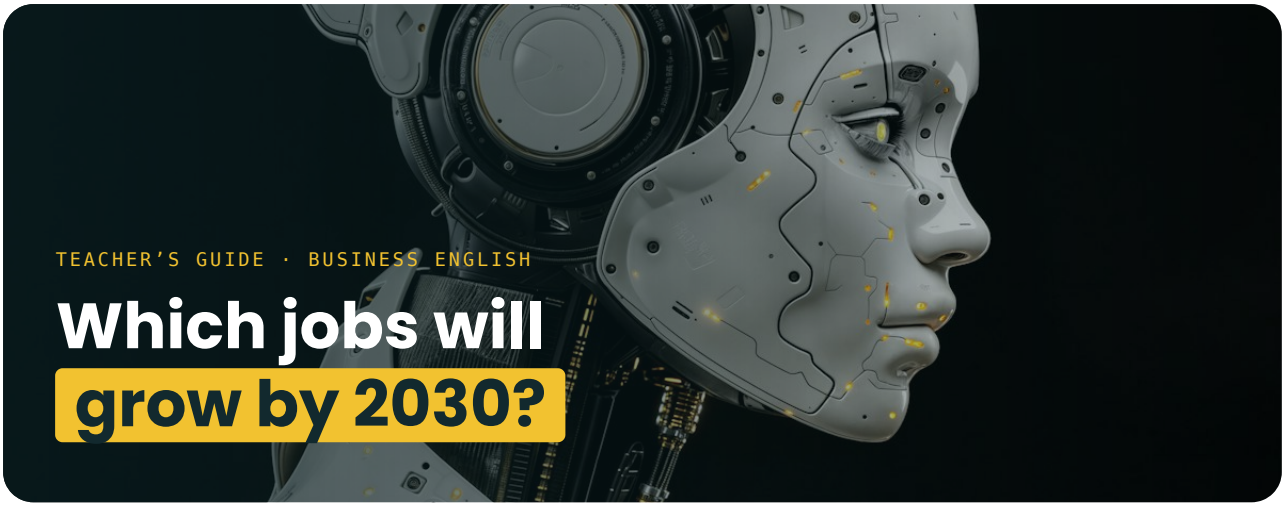


LEVEL
C1 · Advanced

TIME
60 min

SKILLS
Reading · Speaking · Grammar · Vocabulary

Learning objectives

In this lesson, you can:

- analyse an article about global labour-market forecasts
- use advanced future forms for predictions and forecasts
- evaluate the reliability of employer forecasts
- discuss career strategies and reskilling

Key vocabulary

displace · upskilling · reskilling · macro trend · clerical · green transition · labour market · skills gap · fintech · forecast

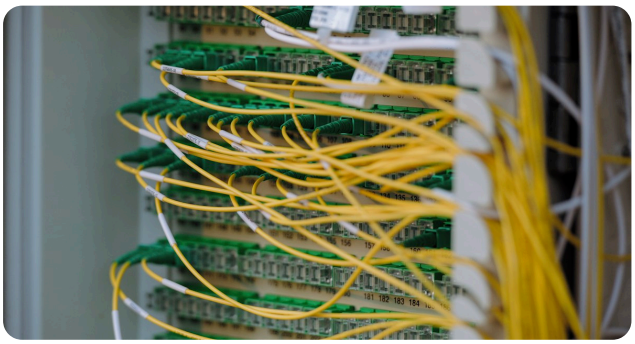
Materials

- this worksheet
- article: *Future of Jobs Report 2025: These are the fastest growing and declining jobs* (World Economic Forum)

1 Warm up

SPEAKING

Look at the pictures. What can you see? How are they connected to the topic? Then answer the questions with your teacher.



PICTURE A · data and technology



PICTURE B · renewable energy engineers

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1. How different will your job be in five years' time?
2. Which skills have you had to learn recently, and why?
3. Which jobs in your industry are disappearing? Which are emerging?

2 Vocabulary preparation

VOCABULARY

Part A: Match the words with the definitions.

macro trend (n) | clerical (adj) | reskilling (n) | displace (v) | green transition (n) | upskilling (n)

1. _____ to take the place of something or someone, often causing them to lose their position
2. _____ learning new skills to do your current job better
3. _____ learning new skills in order to do a different job
4. _____ a large-scale change that affects the whole economy or society
5. _____ connected with office work such as records, filing and data entry
6. _____ the shift towards a low-carbon, environmentally sustainable economy

Part B: Collocations. Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

skills gap | labour market | job creation | career path | in demand | lifelong

1. Data specialists are highly _____ at the moment.
2. The _____ is changing faster than education systems can adapt.
3. There is a growing _____ between what employers need and what workers can offer.
4. Green technology is a major driver of _____ .
5. _____ learning is no longer optional for professionals.
6. Her _____ took her from accounting to data analysis.

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3 Main input: read and learn

READING · GRAMMAR

Every few years the World Economic Forum (WEF) surveys employers about the future of work. Read the article about its 2025 report. Skip the box about the Centre for AI Excellence.

ARTICLE

Future of Jobs Report 2025: These are the fastest growing and declining jobs

World Economic Forum · David Elliott · 9 January 2025 · about 600 words (3 minutes) · free
https://www.weforum.org/stories/jobs-and-the-future-of-work/future-of-jobs-report-2025-the-fastest-growing-and-declining-jobs

Read the opening section. Answer: Which macro trend do most employers expect to affect their business? Which three jobs are expected to grow fastest?

Language focus: advanced future forms for forecasts

Reports use a range of structures to express predictions with different degrees of certainty.

Structure	Example
be expected / forecast / projected to + infinitive	Robots and automation are forecast to displace 5 million more jobs than they create.
be set to / be likely to + infinitive	Technological skills are likely to grow in importance faster than other skills.
Future perfect: will have + past participle	By 2030, 39% of key skills will have changed.
Future continuous: will be + -ing	In five years, many of us will be working alongside AI tools.
Impersonal: It is expected that…	It is expected that clerical roles will decline sharply.

Practice: Rewrite or complete the sentences using the structure in brackets.

1. Digital access will probably create 19 million jobs by 2030. (expected) → Digital access _____
2. Employers think AI will transform their business by 2030. (It is expected) → _____
3. By 2030, the skills employers need _____ (change) significantly.
4. Next year, I _____ (study) data analysis part-time.
5. Cashier jobs _____ (likely / decline) in the coming years.

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4 Reading comprehension and analysis

READING

Part A: Read again. Are the statements true (T) or false (F)? Circle.

1. The survey covered more than 1,000 companies representing over 14 million workers. T / F
2. Software and applications developers are the fastest-growing job in percentage terms. T / F
3. 86% of respondents expect AI and information processing to transform their business by 2030. T / F
4. Robots and automation are expected to create more jobs than they displace. T / F
5. Cashiers and ticket clerks are among the roles expected to decline. T / F
6. 39% of workers' key skills are expected to change by 2030. T / F

Part B: Complete the figures from the article.

Trend	Jobs created	Jobs replaced / displaced
Broadening digital access		
AI and information (data) processing		
Robots and automation	—	net loss of …

Part C: Analyse and evaluate.

1. Accountants and auditors appear among the declining jobs. Suggest two possible reasons.

2. The report is based on what employers expect. What are the limitations of this kind of forecast?

3. Which two skills should you develop before 2030? Justify your choice using the article.

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5 Speaking practice and discussion

SPEAKING

Part A: Choose TWO cue cards. Talk about each card with your teacher for 1–2 minutes.

Cue card 1: My industry in 2030

- Roles that will grow
- Roles at risk
- Why?

Cue card 2: Skills I need

- Technical skills
- Human skills
- How I'll learn them

Cue card 3: Training at my company

- Budget
- Formats
- Results

Cue card 4: Green jobs

- Examples
- Opportunities in my country
- Barriers

Cue card 5: Forecasts

- Do I trust them?
- Past predictions that failed
- Risks

Part B: Answer the questions with your teacher. Give reasons and examples.

1. How will your job have changed by 2030, and what are you doing to prepare?
2. Which of your current skills are likely to become less valuable, and which more valuable?
3. Who should pay for reskilling: employers, governments or workers themselves? Why?
4. Are technical skills more important than human skills such as leadership and creativity? Discuss.
5. What advice would you give a young person choosing a career today, based on this article?

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6 Lesson takeaway and wrap-up

REVIEW

Complete the sentences. Then tell your teacher.

1. Three expressions for forecasts I'll use: _____
2. The finding with the biggest implications for my sector: _____
3. By 2030, I will have _____
4. One action I'm going to take this year: _____

Takeaway: Employers expect technology — especially broadening digital access and AI — to reshape jobs by 2030: specialist tech roles grow, clerical roles decline and almost 40% of key skills change. Continuous learning is the safest career strategy.

+ Optional extension / homework

WRITING

Write a short report (200–250 words) for your manager: "How the Future of Jobs trends will affect our team". Include data from the article, at least four future forms and one recommendation.

Alternative activity:

Prepare a three-minute presentation: "My reskilling plan for 2030", with goals, actions and a timeline. Present it to your teacher in the next class.

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References

Elliott, D. (2025, January 9). *Future of Jobs Report 2025: These are the fastest growing and declining jobs*. World Economic Forum. https://www.weforum.org/stories/jobs-and-the-future-of-work/future-of-jobs-report-2025-the-fastest-growing-and-declining-jobs

Original materials: vocabulary, language examples and exercises were written for NATeacher for C1 learners.

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Teacher's guide

Learning objectives. By the end of the lesson, the student can: analyse data and claims in an article about labour-market forecasts; use advanced future forms to express predictions with different degrees of certainty; evaluate the reliability of forecasts; discuss reskilling strategies.
Total time: approx. 60 minutes — Warm up 6 · Vocabulary 7 · Main input 10 · Comprehension 14 · Speaking 18 · Wrap-up 5. The extension is optional homework.

▶. Main input: about the resource

Resource: *Future of Jobs Report 2025: These are the fastest growing and declining jobs*, World Economic Forum (David Elliott, 9 January 2025). Free; no login. https://www.weforum.org/stories/jobs-and-the-future-of-work/future-of-jobs-report-2025-the-fastest-growing-and-declining-jobs

What to read: the whole article except the box "How is the World Economic Forum creating guardrails for Artificial Intelligence?" (about 600 words, 3 minutes). The chart of the top 15 jobs is optional.

Copyright: the text is not reproduced in this guide; open it on screen from the official page.

Key information: Broadening digital access is the macro trend most employers expect to affect their business. Survey: more than 1,000 companies, 22 industry clusters, over 14 million workers, expectations to 2030. Fastest-growing (percentage terms): big data specialists, fintech engineers, AI and machine learning specialists; software and applications developers fourth; security management specialists in the top five; autonomous and electric vehicle specialists and environmental/renewable energy engineers in the top 15 (green transition). 86% expect AI and information processing to transform their business by 2030. Digital access: 19 million jobs created, 9 million replaced; AI and data processing: 11 million created, 9 million replaced; robots and automation: 5 million more displaced than created. Declining: cashiers and ticket clerks (clerical), administrative assistants, printing workers, accountants and auditors. 39% of workers' key skills expected to change by 2030; continuous learning, upskilling and reskilling will be employer priorities.

1. Warm up

6 mins.

Show the pictures. Ask the questions and push for specific examples from the student's sector.

Possible answers: "The pictures represent growth areas: data and technology, and renewable energy."
Support: provide sentence starters: *In my sector, we're seeing…* **Challenge:** ask "Which past predictions about jobs turned out to be wrong?"

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2. Vocabulary preparation

7 mins.

The student completes Part A and Part B alone. Check together, say the words aloud and ask the student to repeat the difficult ones.

Part A

1. displace
2. upskilling
3. reskilling
4. macro trend
5. clerical
6. green transition

Part B

1. in demand 2. labour market 3. skills gap 4. job creation 5. Lifelong 6. career path

British and American English: British *labour*, American *labor*. *Fintech* = financial technology. Note the difference between *upskilling* (same job, better skills) and *reskilling* (new job).

3. Main input and language focus

10 mins.

Open the article on screen. The student reads the opening section for the gist questions, then the rest (skipping the AI box). **Answers:** broadening digital access; big data specialists, fintech engineers, and AI and machine learning specialists.

Present the language focus in 1–2 minutes: elicit the rule from the examples, then move to the practice.

Practice

1. is expected to create 19 million jobs by 2030
2. It is expected that AI will transform their business by 2030
3. will have changed
4. will be studying
5. are likely to decline

Common mistakes: “is expected to creating” → “is expected **to create**”; “By 2030 skills will change” (acceptable) vs “will have changed” (emphasises completion before 2030); “It is expected to AI will…” → “It is expected **that** AI will…”.

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4. Reading comprehension and analysis

14 mins.

The student reads again and works alone. Check together, asking for evidence and for the exact verbs used to express certainty.

Part A

1. T 2. F (fourth) 3. T 4. F (they will displace 5 million more than they create) 5. T 6. T

Part B

digital access: 19 million / 9 million · AI and data processing: 11 million / 9 million · robots and automation: net loss of 5 million jobs

Part C

1. Open answer, e.g. automation of routine data processing and AI tools for auditing and reporting (the article doesn't give reasons; accept logical inferences). 2. e.g. expectations can be wrong; respondents may be biased; the sample is large companies; economic shocks can change trends. 3. Open answer, e.g. data and AI literacy, plus continuous learning, supported by the figures.

Accept: logical inferences in Part C1 if they are presented as inferences; well-argued evaluations in C2. **Support:** highlight all numbers first and match them to their meaning. **Challenge:** the student critiques the headline: does the data justify "fastest growing" in percentage vs absolute terms?

5. Speaking practice and discussion

18 mins (cue cards 6 · questions 12).

The student chooses two cards and speaks for 1–2 minutes on each. Then ask the five questions one by one. Let the student finish, then ask follow-up questions: "What's your evidence?", "How confident are you?", "What would change your mind?"

Model answer (Q3): "I'd argue the cost should be shared: employers benefit directly from a more skilled workforce, while governments have an interest in preventing long-term unemployment. Workers, for their part, are likely to need to invest some of their own time."
Evaluate: precise future forms and hedging; data-based arguments; register; cohesion; ability to evaluate sources critically.
Correction: note mistakes while the student speaks and correct 2–3 of them at the end, so you don't interrupt fluency.

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6. Lesson takeaway and wrap-up

5 mins.

The student completes the sentences and says them aloud. Ask: "What would be the first step of your reskilling plan?"

Possible answers: "be forecast to, will have changed, is likely to"; "Robots and automation are forecast to displace 5 million more jobs than they create."; "By 2030, I will have completed a course in data analysis."

+. Optional extension / homework

Check: 200–250 words; report structure (purpose, findings, implications, recommendation); accurate data; range of future forms; formal register and cohesion.

✓. Did the student reach the objectives?

- Can the student summarise the key figures accurately?
- Does the student use a range of future forms with appropriate certainty?
- Can the student evaluate the limitations of employer-based forecasts?
- Can the student present a reasoned career or reskilling strategy?

✓. Resource verification log

Resource	Institution / URL	Type · length	Checks (21 Oct 2026)	Result
Future of Jobs Report 2025: These are the fastest growing and declining jobs	World Economic Forum (international organisation) https://www.weforum.org/stories/jobs-and-the-future-of-work/future-of-jobs-report-2025-the-fastest-growing-and-declining-jobs	Article · about 600 words (3 min)	Page loads; content matches the exercises; free, no login; suitable for C1; international organisation, not a language school	**Approved**

Photos: credits listed in the references (Unsplash). No image links are included in the worksheet.

References

Elliott, D. (2025, January 9). *Future of Jobs Report 2025: These are the fastest growing and declining jobs*. World Economic Forum. https://www.weforum.org/stories/jobs-and-the-future-of-work/future-of-jobs-report-2025-the-fastest-growing-and-declining-jobs

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