

JOBS: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Since the beginning of time, the type of jobs we do and how we do them has changed with the world around us. When the first human beings walked on Earth, there were probably only two jobs: hunter and gatherer. You needed food to survive, and to get food, you either had to hunt animals or gather plants and berries. Over time, people started creating tools to help them do their jobs better and faster and those tools were the first known technological inventions.

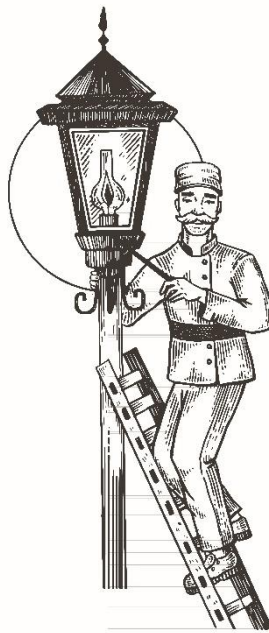
People have always been worried that technology would destroy jobs. And, indeed, new technology often destroys existing jobs, but it also creates new jobs. Some experts think that technology is actually creating more jobs for society than taking them away.

Have you ever wondered what jobs people had in the past and what modern jobs might disappear one day?

JOBS THAT NO LONGER EXIST



Rat catcher – Rat catchers were employed in Europe to control rat population, because there were a lot of rats in Europe and they were dangerous. Rat catchers ran high risks of bites and infections, but they helped prevent some dangerous diseases from spreading to the public.



Lamplighter – Before electricity, gas and oil lamps were used to light up the streets at night and it was the job of a lamplighter to keep them illuminated. Lamplighters used long poles or ladders to light, extinguish and refuel street lamps.

Knocker-up (or Knocker-Upper) – They were human alarm clocks and they were paid to wake people up every morning so that they would come to work on time. They would use poles or pebbles to knock on clients' windows and doors and they would not move until their client was up. Needless to say, they lost their jobs with the invention of alarm clocks.

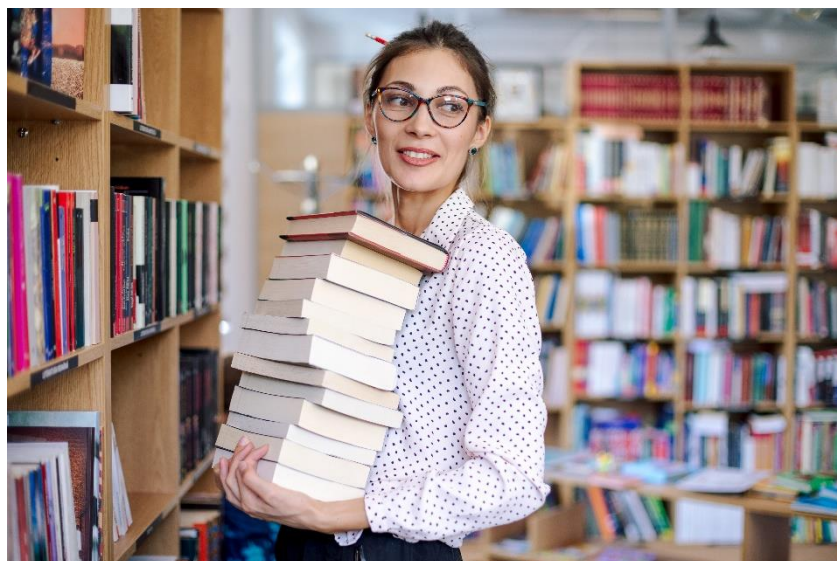
JOBS THAT MIGHT DISAPPEAR IN THE NEXT 25 YEARS



Cashier – Cashiers are slowly but surely being replaced with self-checkouts. Self-checkout is becoming popular because there is usually less waiting. Self-checkouts enable shoppers to scan, bag and pay for their shopping without human assistance. In the stores like Amazon Go there are no self-checkouts. The technology keeps track of everything you've taken off the shelf. When you finish shopping, you can leave the store, and you will receive a bill via email.



Postman – We know that nothing can stop the postman from doing his job – neither rain nor snow – but the amount of mail that's delivered electronically certainly can. Letter writing as a form of communication is losing the battle to faster processes like emailing and texting.



Librarian – People have already got used to reading books on their smartphones and tablets, thanks to e-books. Not to mention that people read less in general. Don't worry, libraries won't just disappear overnight, but the rental system will most likely become an online solution. Libraries will also have more e-book counters and audiobooks and very soon you will see robots finding books for you.

SOME POPULAR JOBS OF THE FUTURE



Cyber security expert - Nobody wants to fall victim to cyber-based crime, especially big businesses, and the job of a cyber security expert is to make systems impenetrable and safe. Their job will be to prevent hackers, who are becoming more sophisticated every day, to steal important information. They need to always be one step ahead of hackers and cyber criminals.



3D Printing Engineer – As 3D printing continues to become more and more popular, so does the need for 3D printing engineers. 3D printers are becoming faster and cheaper, so 3D printing engineers will be in great demand. 3D printing is used in different industries: car, fashion and food industry, aviation, construction, media and entertainment. It's also used in medicine, where the technology is being used to create bones, implants and organs.



Drone pilot – Drones are becoming more useful and popular by the day. They can help us provide medical supplies safely, assess building structures and are used for delivery services. As the drone industry continues to explode, so does the need for skilled drone pilots, who will easily handle drones in public places.

A1 Complete the sentences with the jobs mentioned in the text.

- 1 _____ delivers mail.
- 2 _____ lights the streets at night.
- 3 _____ is a person who customers pay money to in a shop.
- 4 _____ protects systems from cyber attacks.
- 5 _____ wakes people up.
- 6 _____ operates and services 3D printers.
- 7 _____ plans routes for drones and then flies them safely.
- 8 _____ gives you information on books and helps you find the book you want.
- 9 _____ prevents the spread of some serious diseases.

A2 Choose the best summary of the text, A, B, or C.

- A) A great number of jobs will disappear in the future because of new technologies.
- B) Some jobs will disappear because of new technologies, but new jobs will be created.
- C) Throughout history, a lot of jobs have disappeared because of new technologies.

B What about you?

- 1 What do you want to be when you grow up? Make a list of at least five jobs that interest you.
- 2 Will the jobs you've chosen be around in 25 or even 50 years from now?
- 3 What present jobs might disappear in the future?

C Research time

1 Here are some more jobs from the past, present or future: town crier, taxi driver, waiter, extinct species revivalist, ice cutter, mind-transfer specialist, travel agent, typist, climate engineer.

Decide where they belong: 1) past, 2) present or 3) future. If you're not sure about some jobs, go online and check.

2 Choose one job that has been around for a long time (like a farmer, teacher, doctor...) and do some Internet research to learn how that job has changed over the years.

(For example, what did a typical farmer do 100 years ago? What does the typical farmer do today? What changes have taken place during the last century? Try to predict what you think a typical farmer will do 100 years from now.)