

ProTalk

Discussion Files

C1. Careers in the digital age

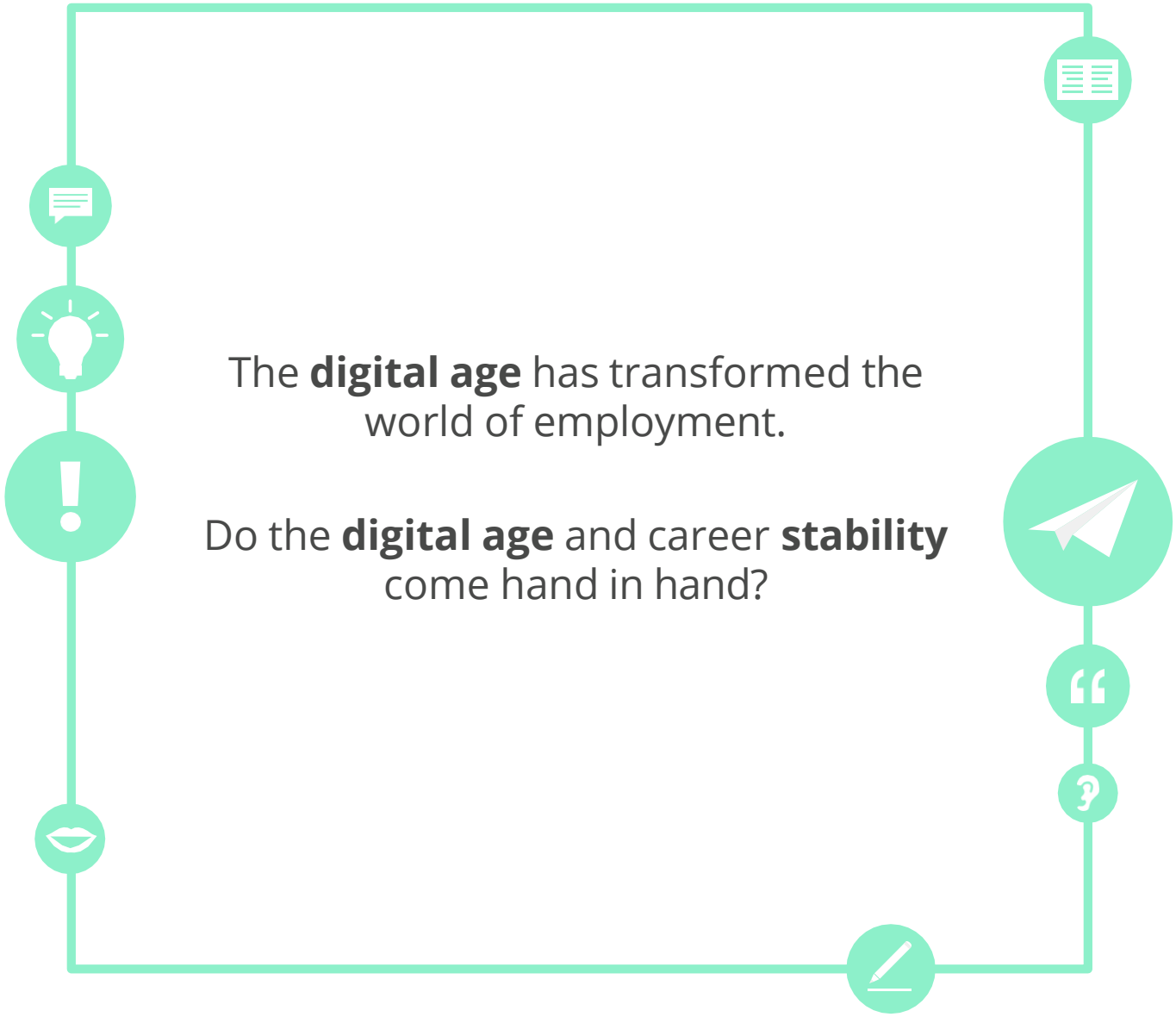
Afaq Language Center

Language Center

Goals

- Can read and understand a complex text about the idea of technology subsuming certain careers.
- Can discuss the future of our careers in depth and speculate on the potential outcomes.





The **digital age** has transformed the world of employment.

Do the **digital age** and career **stability** come hand in hand?

The Digital Age

What do we mean when we talk about the digital age?

How would you explain the digital age to someone who had never heard this term before?



information technology

traditional industry

shift/change

period of time

Thinking about changes

Look at the picture below. In what ways has the digital age transformed offices over the past 50 years?



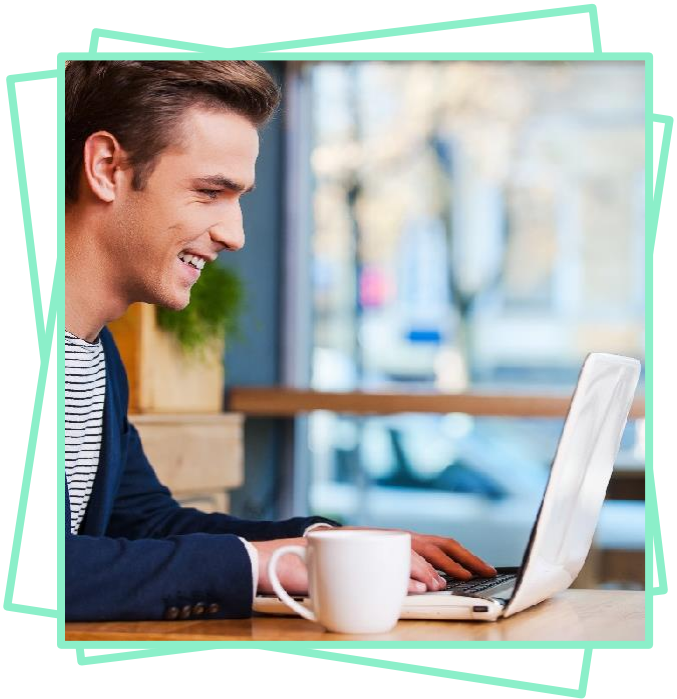
technology

tradition

Your career

Think about your career, or that of a close friend.

Discuss how it has changed thanks to technology and the digital age.



Read the text and summarize it.

Careers that are safe in the digital age

While technological advances have undoubtedly made our daily lives more comfortable, automation and our increasing **reliance** on computer systems make many people uneasy. The **dawn of** the digital age has brought **sweeping** changes to the employment landscape, and many jobs which were once regarded as safe and secure are now in danger of being **rendered obsolete**.



Read the text and summarize it.

Careers that are safe in the digital age



Take for example the role of a supermarket cashier. In 2015, in the US alone there were over 3.4 million people employed as checkout operators. However, the retail experience is changing. Nowadays, increasing numbers of people shop online and self-service checkouts are becoming increasingly **prevalent**.

These systems seem to provide a kind of **win-win situation**. Despite the initial **outlay**, retailers still tend to save money thanks to reduced staffing costs. Additionally, they are able to improve their customer **satisfaction** rates due to reduced waiting times and a smoother shopping experience for consumers. However, where does this leave the **humble** human supermarket cashier?

Read the text and summarize it.

Careers that are safe in the digital age

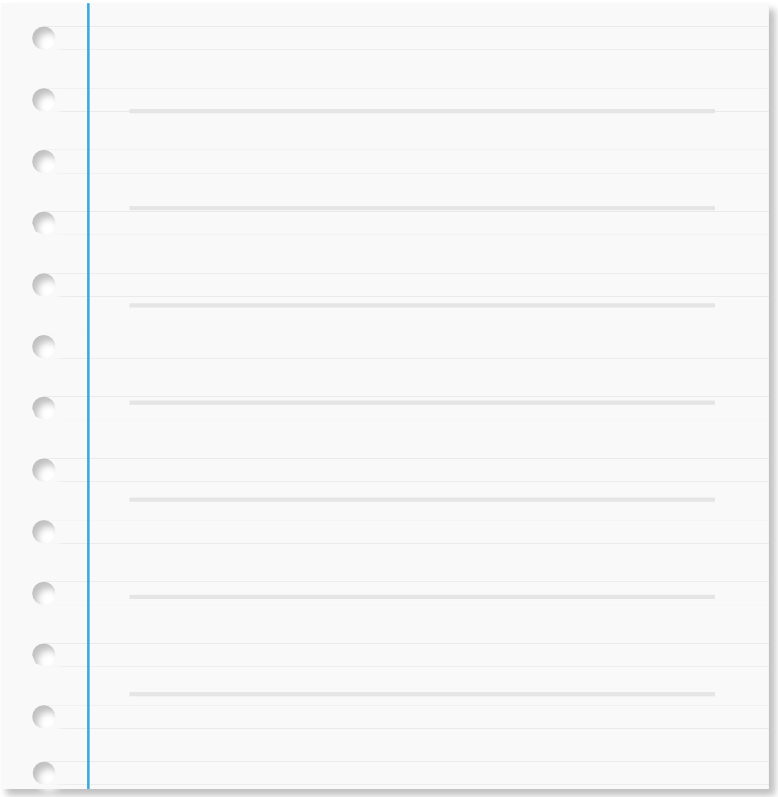
The **onslaught** of automation has **induced a feeling akin to** panic amongst some people, particularly in countries already suffering from high rates of unemployment. Thanks to the digital age the concept of a **job for life** has been confined to the past. For a younger generation, the idea of working 9 to 5 in the same job is often **unappealing** and the changing nature of careers in the digital age is exciting. However, for an older generation who were brought up before the birth of the digital age, there's a very real sense of fear about this **newfound** lack of job security.



Putting new words to use!

Discuss the below words and confirm your understanding.
Practise making sentences with each word.

obsolete	the dawn of
render	prevalent
humble	onslaught



A win-win situation



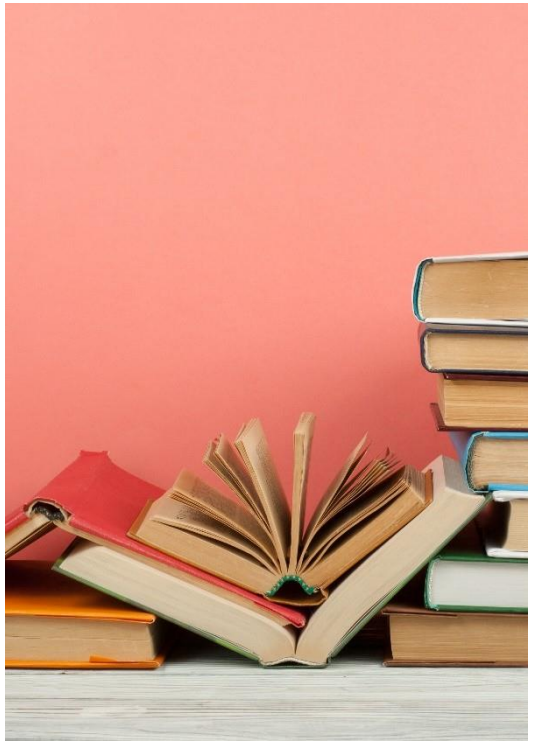
What is the **win-win situation** described in the text?

Give two other examples that could be classified as win-win situations.

Thinking about changes

Look at the careers on the cards. How have they changed as a result of the digital age?

Compare the differences prior to the digital age and now.



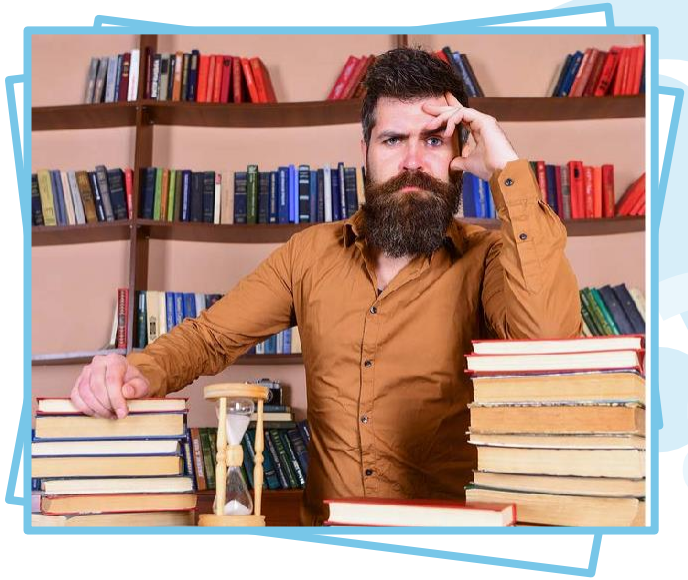
supermarket cashier

librarian

lawyer

bank manager

Thinking about the next 50 years



Think about the next 50 years, in what ways do you believe the jobs on the previous slide might change further in the future?

The concept of a job for life

Read the quotes below. Discuss your thoughts on the term a job for life. Who do you agree with more, and why?

> It's important to be adaptable. A job for life doesn't exist in this fast changing environment. It's important to be open to the idea of changing your job and even your whole field of employment. I find this exciting, change doesn't have to be negative!

> I like my job. I have a family and I prefer the idea of a stable career. I don't want to spend time worrying that there might not be a job for me in ten years' time. The idea of a job for life is very appealing to me.



Safe careers

Do you think we will always need people for the below jobs? Is there anything that these professions have in common? Can you think of other professions that might be considered safe in the digital age?



president

teacher

counsellor

scientist

Imagine you are

Your neighbour's daughter is thinking about career choices. Some relatives have been discussing careers in the digital age and she is concerned about the impact this will have on her future. She has called you for advice.

- Summarise for her what impact the digital age has had on the employment market.
- Give examples of how jobs have changed in the digital age.





- Acknowledge the fears surrounding jobs in the digital age and provide positive reassurance.
- Give options of careers that are considered safe in the digital age.

Give your opinion



Is the digital age a force for positive change in the employment market?

Do you feel optimistic about the future?

Presentation

Below are some of the words from today's lesson. Think about the consequences of the digital age.
Prepare a two-minute presentation about it. Include several reasons to support your point of view.
Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.

newfound	consumers
reliance	satisfaction
win-win situation	unappealing