
ProTalk
Discussion Files
afaq
Language Center
C1. Women in tech
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Goals

- Can read and understand a challenging text about women in tech.
- Can maintain an extended discussion on gender issues in the work force and in specific industries.



Women hold **disproportionately** fewer technical related positions. There are several reasons why this **under-representation** is occuring.

Why is this gender **disparity** taking place?

Facing challenges in the workplace

Look at the jobs on the cards below.

Discuss what you think might be the most challenging aspects of each job. Does gender come into play when you think of these challenges?



doctor	air steward or air stewardess	waitress or waiter
delivery driver	scientist	builder
singer	lorry driver	teacher

Working in the technology industry

Discuss what you think the working culture is like in the technology industry.



education requirements

community

pressure

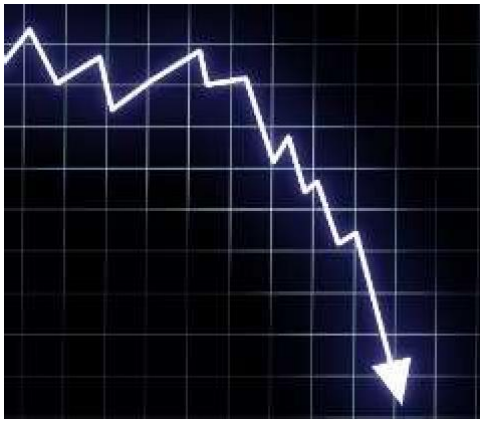
roles available

What challenges do women face in the workplace?

Read the text and summarize it.

Women in tech

There has been an **explosive** growth in the tech industry over the last decade. In the US alone employment in this field was approaching seven million in 2017. **Within** this industry a much-discussed issue is the gender gap. When it comes to employment within the tech world, the US and the UK **lag** behind other countries when it comes to gender **parity**. For example, in 2013, only 25% of the employees in Silicon Valley, often known as the heart of the tech industry, were female.



Read the text and summarize it.

Women in tech

The reasons why such a gap exists are complex. Part of the problem may **stem** from the fact that subjects such as computer science are often **portrayed** as male **domains**. This results in a lack of women **engaging** with the subject at degree level and fewer female graduates in the field. There have been some moves to **address** this imbalance, for example by marketing degree courses such as engineering and computer science as accessible to all and offering female **mentorship** schemes. Many people also hope that having strong female **role models** within the industry will further encourage female applicants.



Read the text and summarize it.

Women in tech



The problem also needs to be addressed within the tech industry itself. Many **prominent** tech companies have reported barely any increase in their number of female employees over the past couple of years, despite the fact that the industry has continued to surge in growth.

Read the text and summarize it.

Women in tech



Despite this, many people are **continually** trying to improve the gender bias **climate** by creating events and social groups to encourage women into the sector. There are even conferences, boot camps and summer camps available all over the world to assist women in the development of their technical careers. Many women find these events **life affirming** and **inspirational**.

In the UK, universities run **widening participation** events to encourage equality in science and technology courses. Their aim is to offer opportunities to **under-represented** groups in specific fields.

Mentorship schemes

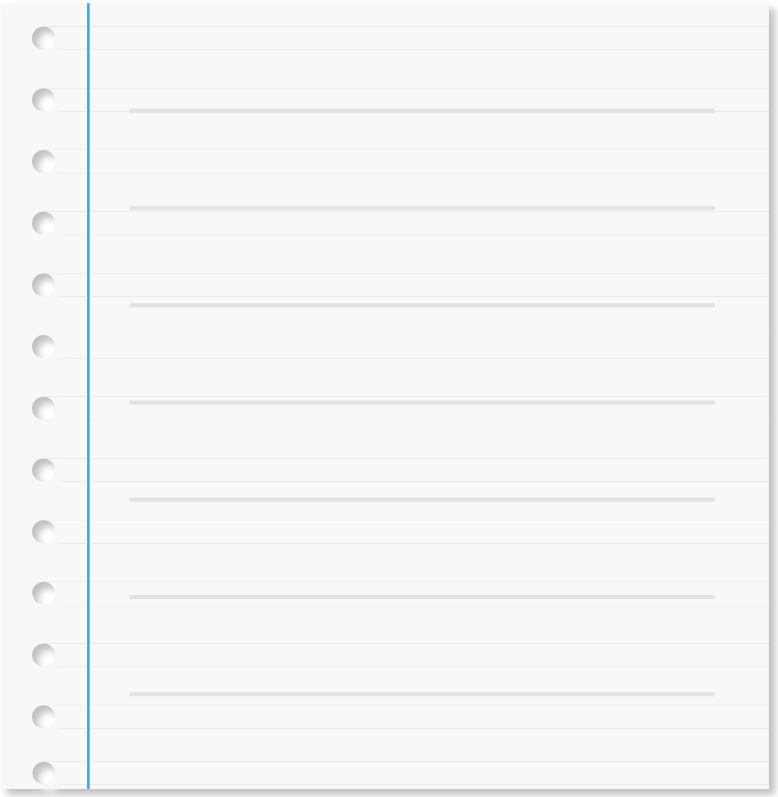
The text mentions the use of mentorship schemes to encourage more women to enter the field of technology. What is a mentorship scheme? How do they work?



Vocabulary review

Look at the words from the text on the cards below. Can you write your own definition of each?

lag	continually
address	engage
domain	portray



Why does the gender gap exist?



Why does the gender gap in the technology industry exist?

What has been done so far to address this gap?

Tackling the gender gap

Thinking about various gender gaps in the workplace.



1 Besides the technology industry, what other industries do you know of where there is a gender gap?

Tackling the gender gap

Think about the gender gap in the workplace



1 Besides the technology industry, what other industries do you know of where there is a gender gap?



2 What do you think could be done to tackle the gender gap in these industries? Can you see any similarities in terms of why these industries might have a gender gap?

Talk

Imagine you are the director of a top tech company. You are going to give a talk at a high school to encourage more women to pursue technology based qualifications and careers.

What points will you want to mention?

You want to motivate the students so you can use phrases like:

- I would encourage you to...
- We will support you by...
- You have our reassurance that...



Your personal experience



Think about your own study or work place.

What challenges do women face in this environment?

What could you do and what could be done in general to help combat these challenges?

Presentation

Research into famous women in technology. Pick one which interests you. Find some bullet points and then transform this into a short presentation.

Prepare a two-minute presentation about this woman. Include several reasons to support your point of view.

Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.

