



Lumina Language School | AI-Proof Skills Reading Lesson

B2/C1 Reading, vocabulary, grammar and discussion lesson based on workplace skills likely to remain valuable as AI develops.

Future of work

AI-proof skills

B2/C1

Before you read

AI is changing the workplace, but some human skills may become more valuable rather than less important. This lesson explores which skills are likely to stay useful as technology improves.



Warm-up questions

Discuss these questions with a partner.

1. Which workplace skills do you think AI can copy easily?
2. Which skills still need human judgement, trust or leadership?
3. How could students or professionals prepare for an AI-shaped job market?

1 Read

The rapid development of artificial intelligence has made many workers wonder which abilities will still matter in the future. Career expert Benjamin Todd argues that some skills are more resistant to automation because they are transferable, human-centred and useful across many types of work.

01 COMMUNICATION

AI can produce content quickly, but people still need to decide what should be created, how it should be framed and whether the final result is good enough. In this sense, judgement about quality may become more important than simply producing more material.

02 SOCIAL SKILL

Even if AI becomes more powerful, most jobs still involve working with other people. Building rapport, understanding what others want, recognising emotions and resolving conflict are likely to remain valuable because workplaces depend on trust and cooperation.

03 LEADERSHIP

As AI automates routine tasks such as organising information or preparing basic drafts, the key question becomes what is worth doing in the first place. People able to set priorities, guide teams and make responsible decisions may become harder to replace.

04 OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

AI may reduce some administrative work, but organisations still need people responsible for coordinating complex projects, solving interpersonal problems and keeping work on track as teams grow.

05 AI IMPLEMENTATION

This means using AI tools to do real work, understanding their strengths and weaknesses, writing clear instructions, checking for errors and knowing when human review is necessary.

The article does not suggest that technology should be ignored. Instead, it suggests that workers should combine technical awareness with skills that depend on judgement, relationships and responsibility. In an AI-shaped workplace, the most valuable people may be those able to work with technology while still offering the human insight machines cannot fully provide.

Comprehension questions

- 1 Why are some skills described as more resistant to automation?
- 2 Why is communication still important when AI can create content quickly?
- 3 Why are social skills likely to remain valuable?
- 4 How does AI make leadership and decision-making more important?
- 5 What does operations management involve?
- 6 What does it mean to develop AI-implementation skills?

2 Vocabulary practice

WORD BANK

implementation

human review

rapport

operations management

transferable

routine tasks

Exercise 1 · Match the words to the definitions

Write the correct word or phrase next to each definition.

- 1 Able to be used in different jobs, roles or situations. _____
- 2 A positive relationship based on trust and understanding. _____
- 3 Regular or repeated jobs that do not require much new thinking. _____
- 4 The coordination of people, processes and projects inside an organisation. _____
- 5 The process of putting a plan, tool or system into practical use. _____
- 6 A person checking, judging or improving automated output. _____

PHRASE BANK

keep on track

check for

work with

depend on

fill in

get started

Exercise 2 · Phrasal verbs from the reading

Complete each sentence with one phrase from the phrase bank.

- 1 In an AI-shaped workplace, people need to _____ technology rather than ignore it.
- 2 Many workplaces _____ trust, cooperation and human connection.
- 3 Operations managers help teams _____ when projects become complex.
- 4 Effective AI users must _____ errors before accepting automated output.
- 5 A human-in-the-loop can _____ the gaps that AI tools still struggle with.
- 6 To build AI-implementation skills, workers can _____ by using AI in an area they already know.

3 Reduced relative clauses

EXAMPLE FROM THE TEXT

People able to set priorities, guide teams and make responsible decisions may become harder to replace.

At B2/C1 level, writers often use reduced relative clauses to make career and business writing more concise.

PATTERN	EXAMPLE
noun + adjective phrase	skills useful across many industries
noun + able to + verb	people able to set priorities
noun + responsible for + noun phrase	managers responsible for complex projects
noun + focused on + noun phrase	roles focused on human connection
noun + trained to + verb	employees trained to review AI output

PHRASE BANK

useful across many industries | able to judge quality | focused on human connection | responsible for complex projects | trained to review AI output

Exercise 1 · Complete the sentence

Use one reduced relative phrase from the phrase bank.

- Employers value skills _____.
- Teams need communicators _____.
- Roles _____ may become more valuable.
- Managers _____ must keep people aligned.
- A human-in-the-loop is someone _____.

4 Discuss

- 1 Which of the five AI-proof skills do you think is the most important? Why?
- 2 Can AI help people develop communication or leadership skills, or are these mainly learned through experience?
- 3 Which skill would you personally like to improve over the next year?
- 4 How should schools and companies prepare people for an AI-shaped workplace?

Useful language

Giving an opinion	I would argue that...
Adding nuance	It depends on the type of work because...
Comparing skills	X may be easier to automate than Y because...
Predicting	Over the next few years, I expect...
Challenging an idea	I see your point, but I'm not sure that...

FINAL SPEAKING TASK

Choose one AI-proof skill and explain why it may increase in value.

Use at least two phrases from the useful-language box.

SKILL	WHY IT MATTERS	EXAMPLE
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