



Title:	Redundancy	
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Text:	<p>Recently, one student talked about a major announcement at work that his company would be making 10,000 staff redundant from their global operations. The staff cuts are part of a program of streamlining, which is another way to say cost reduction.</p> <p>There could be a number of reasons for this, but in many industries it is due to new technology which is replacing human workers for reasons of speed, flexibility, accuracy and overall cost saving.</p> <p>Machines are capable of greater accuracy and don't need breaks. Also, they can work at any time of day...or night for no extra cost.</p> <p>As the application of AI (Artificial Intelligence) increases, manual operations in industry and many other areas of life are increasingly being replaced by automated devices. Many more consumer products, too, are automated these days.</p> <p>Experts predict that 30% of jobs could disappear over the next 10 years as automation takes over our working lives.</p> <p>Creativity and resourcefulness will be key to a successful career for many people growing up in the future.</p>
Discussion:	<p>Is the statement '30% of jobs could disappear over the next 10 years' accurate, do you think? Which industries will be most affected?</p>
Words and usage:	<p>Business speak.</p> <p>Organizations often use positively words and phrases to convey negative information. Streamlining and downsizing are such examples that actually tell us people will be losing their jobs as part of cost cutting measures.</p>
Resources:	<p>https://translate.weblio.jp</p> <p>Oxford Dictionaries. http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com</p> <p>The British Council website. https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org</p>
Practice idea:	<p>Write about what new technology you would like to use in your job.</p>
Listening link:	<p>Redundancy - audio</p> 
Quiz Me! Conversation card:	<p>Card number C5 below is from the Business Starter pack 1, available at englishbooks.jp, Amazon and Rakuten</p>

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What changes
have you had
at work
in the past year?

quizme.jp