NEWS LESSON

Would You Leave a Job Because of AI?



BEFORE YOU READ

1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. What part of your work or studies do you enjoy most?
2. Have you ever thought about changing to a completely different job?
3. What would you be happy to let a computer do for you?

2 Key words

These words are in the article. Write the letter of the meaning (A to H) in each box.

1	**tool**	☐	A	very large and involving a lot of people
2	**disappeared**	☐	B	went away and could not be seen or found any more
3	**engineer**	☐	C	told someone that something bad might happen
4	**advertising**	☐	D	making things that make people want to buy a product
5	**warned**	☐	E	something you use to do a job
6	**producer**	☐	F	afraid that something bad will happen
7	**mass**	☐	G	a person who builds machines or computer programs
8	**worried**	☐	H	a person in charge of making an advert, film or show

3 Read

Read the article and underline the key words from task 2. The paragraphs are numbered.

Some workers are walking away from careers they spent years building. Nobody has taken their jobs away. The jobs simply stopped feeling the same.

1 Imagine you are good at your work. You have spent ten years learning to do it well. Then a new tool arrives, and within a few months the job feels like something else. You still have it. You still get paid. But the part you used to enjoy has quietly disappeared.

2 That is the situation described by several workers in a report in The Guardian. Nobody made them redundant. They all chose to leave.

3 Chris, who did not want his real name printed, spent more than ten years as a software engineer. He said artificial intelligence had taken a lot of the thinking and the fun out of writing code, and he was worried about being replaced. He left and joined the police in a large American city. Working directly with people in his community, he said, gives him a satisfaction he never found in engineering.

4 Kara, who also used a different name, was an advertising producer. Her company told her team to use AI tools and, in the same conversation, warned them about the legal dangers. She was the person responsible for checking that everything was allowed. The stress never stopped. She left to concentrate on acting and took a job in a coffee shop, and she said the change made her feel lighter.

5 Another worker, Hanna Horvath, left an editing job to work for herself. She made an important point. AI does not have to take your job in order to change how you feel about it. Many editors, she said, had stopped editing and had become managers of work that a machine produced.

6 It is worth being careful with the numbers. There is no evidence that AI is causing mass job losses. The Economist reports that AI has created about a million jobs in the United States, against about 200,000 job losses blamed on it. But 71% of Americans told the Pew Research Center that they expect AI to mean fewer jobs over the next twenty years.

7 So these workers are not only responding to what has happened. They are responding to what they have been told will happen.

Sources: The Guardian, Fearing AI disruption, white-collar workers are quitting their jobs. Picture: .

4 True, false or not given

Circle **T** (true), **F** (false) or **NG** (the article does not say).

1. Chris joined the police. T F NG
2. The workers in the report were made redundant. T F NG
3. The article says which coffee shop Kara works in. T F NG
4. The Economist says AI has created about a million jobs in the United States. T F NG
5. Hanna Horvath left an editing job. T F NG

5 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed.

careers	colleague	community	legal	replaced	salary	stress

1. Many people spend years building their _____ and then change direction.
2. After leaving his old job, Chris enjoys helping people in his local _____ .
3. A lawyer can explain the _____ risks of copying someone's voice with AI.
4. Too much _____ at work can make you tired and unhappy.
5. Workers are afraid of being _____ by machines.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. They all _____ to leave. (CHOOSE)
2. You still _____ paid. (GET)
3. Her company _____ her team to use AI tools. (TELL)
4. The stress never _____ . (STOP)
5. 71% of Americans _____ AI to mean fewer jobs. (EXPECT)

7 Language focus: phrasal verbs

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. A phrasal verb is a verb plus a small word. The small word changes the meaning, so learn the whole phrase.

along	away	back	out	over	through	up

1. Chris decided to give _____ writing code and join the police.
2. Some workers are walking _____ from careers they spent years building.
3. Kara's boss told her team to try _____ new AI tools.
4. Hanna did not want to go _____ to editing, so she works for herself.
5. A new manager took _____ the team last month.

SPEAK

8 Talk about it

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

1. Would you leave a job if the enjoyable part disappeared?
2. Chris became a police officer. What job would you try instead of your own?
3. Do you think AI will create more jobs or fewer?

9 Role-play: the new AI tool

Work in pairs. Read your card, then have the conversation. Swap roles and do it again.

Student A · the manager

Next month your team must start using a new AI tool. It will save time and money. Explain why it is a good idea. Ask your employee how they feel. Try to find a plan you both accept.

Student B · the employee

You love the creative part of your job, and the new AI tool will do most of it. You are worried. Say how you feel, ask to keep some of the work, and say what you might do if nothing changes.

Useful phrases

I'd like to talk about the new tool.
It's going to save us a lot of time.
I'm worried it'll take the best part of my job.
What's your biggest concern?
Couldn't I keep some of the work myself?
I'd hate to leave, but I might have to.

Afterwards, tell the class: did you find a plan, or did the employee decide to leave?

ANSWER KEY

2 Key words

1 E · 2 B · 3 G · 4 D · 5 C · 6 H · 7 A · 8 F

4 True, false or not given

1 T · 2 F · 3 NG · 4 T · 5 T

5 Vocabulary

1 careers · 2 community · 3 legal · 4 stress · 5 replaced

6 Verb forms

1 chose · 2 get · 3 told · 4 stopped · 5 expect

7 Language focus

1 up · 2 away · 3 out · 4 back · 5 over

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