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Level 2 – 3rd April 2025

Generation Z is facing a 'career apocalypse'

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2504/250403-career-apocalypse-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2504/250403-career-apocalypse-2.html>

It is hard for young people and university graduates looking for work. It is becoming difficult for Generation Z (or Gen Zers) to find a job. A Gen Zer is born between the mid-to-late 1990s and early 2010s. Aki Ito, writing for the "Business Insider" website, warned of a "career apocalypse". She said uncertainty in the world means graduates must "prepare for the worst". A British journalist said one reason is that people are studying for "worthless degrees". He said young people would "be much better off" if they became plumbers or electricians.

There are over 4 million Gen Zers not in school or work in the USA. In the UK, there were 987,000 young people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment, or training last year. Many people cannot find jobs because of AI, which is replacing an increasing number of jobs. There are fears that teachers, accountants, lawyers, writers, and other jobs could disappear. However, some people say many graduates do not want to do "entry-level" jobs. Instead, they want to enter a company at a management level. They want to be well paid in their very first job.

Sources: <https://fortune.com/2025/03/25/gen-z-neet-not-in-education-employment-training-higher-ed-worthless-degrees-college/>
<https://www.msn.com/en-za/news/other/peter-hitchens-hammers-worthless-gen-z-degrees-in-new-podcast/ar-AA1BkYkw>
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/corporate-america-failing-gen-z-110037849.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2504/250403-career-apocalypse-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. It is hard | a. in the world |
| 2. university | b. better off |
| 3. looking for | c. graduates |
| 4. between the mid-to-late 1990s | d. work |
| 5. uncertainty | e. degrees |
| 6. graduates must prepare | f. for young people |
| 7. people are studying for worthless | g. and early 2010s |
| 8. young people would be much | h. for the worst |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. young people | a. level |
| 2. people cannot find | b. of jobs |
| 3. an increasing number | c. first job |
| 4. other jobs could | d. jobs |
| 5. graduates do not want | e. paid |
| 6. enter a company at a management | f. aged 16 to 24 |
| 7. They want to be well | g. to do entry-level jobs |
| 8. in their very | h. disappear |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2504/250403-career-apocalypse-2.html>

It (1) _____ young people and university graduates looking for work. It is (2) _____ Generation Z (or Gen Zers) to find a job. A Gen Zer is born between the mid-to-late 1990s (3) _____. Aki Ito, writing for the "Business Insider" website, (4) _____ "career apocalypse". She said uncertainty in the world means graduates must "prepare for the worst". A British journalist said (5) _____ that people are studying for "worthless degrees". He said young people would "be (6) _____" if they became plumbers or electricians.

(7) _____ 4 million Gen Zers not in school or work in the USA. In the UK, there were 987,000 (8) _____ 16 to 24 not in education, employment, or training last year. Many people cannot find jobs because of AI, (9) _____ an increasing number of jobs. There are fears that teachers, accountants, lawyers, writers, (10) _____ could disappear. However, some people say many graduates do not want to do "entry-level" jobs. Instead, they want (11) _____ company at a management level. They want to be (12) _____ their very first job.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2504/250403-career-apocalypse-2.html>

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CAREERS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2504/250403-career-apocalypse-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about careers in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

