

Discussing and predicting



Image 1

Task 1:

Take some time to read [this short discussion](#) between two New York Times columnists. Are you familiar with the concept of the universal basic income? Discuss how the views of the two journalists differ.

You can find out some more about the topic [here](#). Do you agree more with Porter or Manjoo? Try to use a few of the phrases below, some of which are taken from the discussion in the newspaper. With your partner, add some phrases to each list.

Phrases for introducing opinions:

I should start by saying/by arguing ...

This brings to mind ...

In my view ...

I would argue that ...

To my mind ...

Phrases for agreeing:

I would echo what you said earlier ...

You are right to say that ...

I know what you mean when you say that ...

I guess it's true that ...

Phrases for disagreeing:
I don't think that's quite right.
I'm not so sure that ...
It's not necessarily the case that ...
Actually, I think ...

Task 2:

Practice making predictions and speculating about the future.



Image 2

Do you think there will be enough work in the future, or will robots and other forms of mechanisation replace most jobs?

Do you think some countries will institute a universal basic income? What social, political and economic consequences would it have?

Phrases for making predictions:
I think that's likely/unlikely to happen.
I foresee ...
(Jobs) are bound to ...
(Robots) might well ...
A policy like that would cause/provoke/prompt ...

Task 3:

Are any big changes to political or economic policy under consideration in your country? What are they? Who is proposing them? What is your opinion of them? What effects would they have? What do your countries have in common in this sense? Tell your partner.

Sources

- Image 1 <http://www.caclubindia.com/articles/cci-in-an-exclusive-interaction-with-icai-president-ca-m-devaraja-reddy-27358.asp>
- Text 1 <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/09/business/economy/a-future-without-jobs-two-views-of-the-changing-work-force.html>
- Text 2 <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/feb/01/the-guardian-view-on-basic-income-a-worthwhile-debate-not-yet-a-policy>
- Image 2 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Float_Glass_Unloading.jpg