

Generation Z is facing a 'career apocalypse'

3rd April 2025



Times are hard for young people looking for work. It is becoming more and more difficult for Generation Z (or Gen Zers) to find a job. A Gen Zer is someone born between the mid-to-late 1990s and early 2010s. Students who have just graduated from university cannot

find employment. Aki Ito, chief correspondent for the "Business Insider" website, warned of a "career apocalypse". She said uncertainty in the world has "taught today's graduates to prepare for the worst". The British journalist and writer Peter Hitchens 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 is a similar problem. There were 987,000 young people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment, or training in December of last year. This has risen by over 100,000 in the past year. Many people cannot find jobs because of artificial intelligence (AI). An increasing number of jobs are now being done by AI. There are fears that teachers, accountants, lawyers, writers, and other jobs could completely disappear. However, some people say many graduates no longer want to do "entry-level" jobs. Instead, they want to enter a company at a management level and get well paid in their very first job.

Sources: fortune.com / msn.com / yahoo.com

Writing

Artificial intelligence is a good thing for jobs and careers. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

hard times / young people / Generation Z / university / career / apocalypse / degree / school / work / education / employment / artificial intelligence / fears / teachers / paid

True / False

- 1) It is difficult for young people to find a job today. T / F
- 2) People in Generation Z were all born in the early part of this century. T / F
- 3) A journalist said an uncertain world is preparing graduates for the worst. T / F
- 4) Another journalist said being a plumber is better than getting a degree. T / F
- 5) More than 14 million Gen Zers in the US do not have a job. T / F
- 6) The article said AI is taking away people's jobs. T / F
- 7) The article said jobs like lawyers and teachers could disappear. T / F
- 8) Young people are happy to do any kind of job, even if it's poorly paid. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. hard | a. worries |
| 2. employment | b. get ready |
| 3. correspondent | c. comparable |
| 4. prepare | d. gone up |
| 5. worthless | e. difficult |
| 6. similar | f. vanish |
| 7. risen | g. useless |
| 8. fears | h. work |
| 9. disappear | i. join |
| 10. enter | j. reporter |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What is the perfect job for you?
- c) What do you think of your education?
- d) What do you think of artificial intelligence?
- e) What do you think of AI taking over people's jobs?
- f) What would you think if AI took over from teachers?
- g) What do you think of a 'career apocalypse'?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a young job hunter?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Times are hard for young people | a. late 1990s |
| 2. It is becoming more and more difficult Z | b. disappear |
| 3. the mid-to- | c. degrees |
| 4. taught today's graduates to | d. management level |
| 5. people are studying for worthless | e. for Generation |
| 6. In the UK, there is a | f. by over 100,000 |
| 7. This has risen | g. number of jobs |
| 8. An increasing | h. looking for work |
| 9. other jobs could completely | i. prepare for the worst |
| 10. enter a company at a | j. similar problem |

Discussion – Student B

- What career do you want?
- How many careers do you think you will have?
- What jobs have you done?
- Do you worry about finding work?
- Why is it harder for young people to find work?
- What degrees might be 'worthless'?
- What advice do you have for people looking for a job?
- Would you rather be a plumber or an electrician?

Spelling

- nieertango Z (or Gen Zers)
- aegrtadud from university
- cannot find nlyoptmeme
- The British jt Saulrnio and writer
- studying for worthless dgreese
- plumbers or ectcraelisni
- there is a mairisl problem
- This has iensr by over 100,000
- ifiraatcli intelligence
- sawyelr, writers, and other jobs
- other jobs could completely seaapprdi
- at a maanengtem level

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. e | 2. h | 3. j | 4. b | 5. g |
| 6. c | 7. d | 8. a | 9. f | 10. i |

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions. (Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

| | |
|-----|---|
| 1. | What is it difficult for young people to find? |
| 2. | Who is born between the mid-to-late 1990s and early 2010s? |
| 3. | What did a journalist say young people are being taught to prepare for? |
| 4. | What degrees did a journalist say some people were studying for? |
| 5. | What did a journalist say people could work as besides being a plumber? |
| 6. | How many Gen Zers in the USA are not in school or work? |
| 7. | What is an increasing number of jobs now being done by? |
| 8. | What do people worry might happen to jobs in law and accountancy? |
| 9. | What kinds of jobs do many graduates not want to do? |
| 10. | Where in a company do many young people want to start working? |

Speaking – Degrees

Rank these with your partner. Put the most useful degrees at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| • Anime studies | • Medicine |
| • Engineering | • Philosophy |
| • Computer coding | • Music |
| • Maths | • Law |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | T | 2 | F | 3 | T | 4 | T | 5 | F | 6 | T | 7 | T | 8 | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.