

B2 · WORKPLACE SKILLS · ≈ 27 MIN

AI and the Future of Work — *practice on paper*

You have built the lesson — now lock the ladder in on paper. New sentences, same rule: the certainty usually sits in a fixed verb block.

Pick the **rung** before you pick the verb: is bound to · is likely to · may well · **is unlikely to**

NAME

DATE

YOUR BUILD

1 · SORTING

2 · FILL-IN

3 · CORRECT

4 · WRITE

BRICK 1 · SORT BY CERTAINTY · APPROX. 4 MIN

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Read each sentence quietly. Is the speaker leaning in — near-certain or probable? Left column. Holding back — open or improbable? Right column.

Onboarding forms are bound to go digital.

The audit may well take longer.

Forecasts are likely to get sharper.

Coaching sessions are unlikely to move online.

Payroll probably won't be touched for now.

Shift planning will certainly switch to the new tool.

The helpdesk will probably take fewer calls.

A tool could take over the supplier emails.

Expense checks are bound to be phased out.

Contract review could shift to legal.

CONFIDENT

CAUTIOUS

BRICK 2 · FILL IN THE BLOCK · APPROX. 6 MIN

○○●

Fill each gap with one block from the pool — **use each exactly once**: are bound to · is likely to · may well · is unlikely to · augment · free up · reskill · phase out. The bracket names the rung or the meaning.

- 01 Duplicate invoices _____ be caught from day one — the check is already built. (near-certain)
- 02 Minute-taking _____ be handed to the tool this year — our best guess, not a promise. (probable)
- 03 Chat support _____ move to the tool in the autumn — the pilot shows no lean either way. (open)
- 04 The night shift _____ be cut — the volumes are far too high for that. (improbable)
- 05 The dashboard is _____ the planners — they still make every call, just with better numbers. (the person there to stays, the tool makes them better)
- 06 The new export should _____ a couple of afternoons a week for the sales team. (give the time back)
- 07 We would rather _____ the back-office team for the client desk than let them go. (train for a new role)
- 08 We plan to _____ the paper forms department by department. (stop something gradually)

YOUR BUILD

1 · SORTING

2 · FILL-IN

3 · CORRECT

4 · WRITE

BRICK 3 · FIND AND CORRECT THE MISTAKE · APPROX. 7 MIN



Each sentence hides exactly one mistake — a broken block, a wrong frame or a German word that travelled across. Write the whole corrected sentence on the line below.

01 A handful of workplaces in dispatch are unlikely to survive the rollout.

.....

02 On the one side, the tool drafts the replies in seconds; on the other, every reply now needs a second pair of eyes.

.....

03 The customer calls won't probably be handed to a tool, whatever the vendor says.

.....

04 The scheduling tool is unlikely replace the team leads who set the rota.

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05 The review process may well to change once the legal team has tested the tool.

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06 The paper timesheets are bound to being phased out before the audit.

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BRICK 4 · WRITE YOUR OWN SENTENCES · APPROX. 8 MIN



Write one sentence for each prompt, from your own working week. Pick the rung before the verb — and no blanket "will" for a forecast.

01 Status meeting: name one task that is near-certain to be automated. Use "is bound to" or "are bound to".

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02 Interview: "Will AI replace your role?" Answer with "is likely to" and "is unlikely to" in one sentence.

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03 Client email: say what the tool does to the work — with "augment" or "free up" and with "rather than replacing ...".

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04 Two sides: describe one change with "in the short term ... in the long run".

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MINI-CHECK – CAN I DO THIS YET?

- ☐ I pick the rung before the verb: is bound to · is likely to · may well · is unlikely to.
- ☐ I tell "automate" (the system takes the task) from "augment" (the person stays) — and know "free up", "phase out", "reskill".
- ☐ I answer in balance: "on the one hand ... on the other", "in the short term ... in the long run", "rather than replacing ...".
- ☐ I say "jobs" (not "workplaces"), "on the one hand" (not "side"), "probably won't" — and keep "will" for decisions.

Not every box ticked? Build the lesson once more and try this sheet again tomorrow.

Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why** — the rule matters more than the result.

BRICK 1 · SORTING

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| <p>01 confident — are bound to
<i>Top rung: near-certain, the signs point one way.</i></p> <p>02 cautious — may well
<i>Middle rung: neither promised nor ruled out.</i></p> <p>03 confident — are likely to
<i>Probable: your best estimate, with room for error.</i></p> <p>04 cautious — are unlikely to
<i>Bottom rung: not expected, but not ruled out.</i></p> <p>05 cautious — probably won't
<i>"Probably" before the negative "won't" — a cautious negative.</i></p> | <p>06 confident — will certainly
<i>"Will" plus "certainly" is the top rung in adverb form.</i></p> <p>07 confident — will probably
<i>In the positive the adverb follows the modal — probable.</i></p> <p>08 cautious — could
<i>"Could" keeps the outcome open, like "may well".</i></p> <p>09 confident — are bound to
<i>Near-certain — with the verb of change "phase out" behind it.</i></p> <p>10 cautious — could
<i>Open rung plus "shift to": the emphasis may move.</i></p> |
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BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

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| <p>01 Duplicate invoices are bound to be caught ...
<i>Near-certain — "bound to" is the top rung, and "are" agrees with the plural.</i></p> <p>02 Minute-taking is likely to be handed ...
<i>Best estimate with room for error: "is likely to".</i></p> <p>03 Chat support may well move ...
<i>Open — neither promised nor ruled out.</i></p> <p>04 The night shift is unlikely to be cut
<i>Bottom rung: not expected, but not ruled out.</i></p> | <p>05 there to augment the planners
<i>The person stays and the tool makes them better — that is "augment".</i></p> <p>06 should free up a couple of afternoons
<i>"Free up" gives back the time the task used to take.</i></p> <p>07 rather reskill the back-office team
<i>Train for a new role = "reskill"; "upskill" widens the current one.</i></p> <p>08 plan to phase out the paper forms
<i>Stop something step by step = "phase out".</i></p> |
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BRICK 3 · CORRECT

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| <p>01 A handful of jobs in dispatch ...
<i>"Arbeitsplätze" are positions = "jobs"; a "workplace" is the place, not the post.</i></p> <p>02 On the one hand, the tool drafts the replies ...
<i>The frame works with "hand": "on the one hand ... on the other".</i></p> <p>03 The customer calls probably won't be handed ...
<i>In the negative "probably" goes before "won't", not after it.</i></p> | <p>04 ... is unlikely to replace the team leads ...
<i>The block is "be + unlikely + to" — the "to" is part of it.</i></p> <p>05 ... may well change once the legal team ...
<i>"May well" is a modal block: the verb follows without "to".</i></p> <p>06 ... are bound to be phased out ...
<i>"Bound to" takes the infinitive: "to be", not "to being".</i></p> |
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BRICK 4 · WRITE

Model answers — yours may differ, as long as the rung matches your certainty and the block stays whole.

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|---|--|
| <p>01 Timesheet approvals are bound to be automated once the new finance system is live.
<i>Top rung plus a verb of change — and a reason why you are that sure.</i></p> <p>02 The data-cleaning part of my role is likely to shrink, but the negotiations are unlikely to leave my desk.
<i>Two rungs in one sentence: graded certainty sounds more credible than a yes or a no.</i></p> | <p>03 Rather than replacing your account team, the tool augments them and frees up the hours lost to manual checks.
<i>The frame corrects the absolute version before the client says it.</i></p> <p>04 In the short term the rollout is likely to slow us down; in the long run it may well give the team a day back.
<i>First the near view, then the long view — each on a rung, neither on a blanket "will".</i></p> |
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NEXT BRICKS — KEEP BUILDING FREE ONLINE

PREREQUISITE

Choosing Future Forms

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AI at Work Vocabulary

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