

**Exercise 1: Listen to four people talking about their jobs. Match statements A–E with speakers 1–4. There is one extra statement.**

**The speaker**

- A is concerned about some elderly people he/she meets at work.
- B says that technology has replaced parts of the jobs in his/her industry.
- C thinks that it's better to do an apprenticeship than go to university.
- D has a hobby that has taught him/her skills that are relevant for his/her job.
- E thinks technology allows for more efficiency in his/her job.

**Exercise 2: Listen again and answer the questions.**

1. What makes law such a stable profession?
2. Why are law firms now offering apprenticeships?
3. How have dental patients benefited from medical advances?
4. Why is it useful to have good interpersonal skills as a shop assistant?
5. What qualifications and skills do you need to be a wind turbine technician?

**ANSWER KEY**

Exercise 1:

Speaker 1-B      Speaker 2-E      Speaker 3-A      Speaker 4-D

Exercise 2:

1. Laws don't change fast.
2. So that trainees can start work and earn a salary while training.
3. There's less pain.
4. To handle difficult customers.
5. A two-year course in applied science; to be good with your hands and to have some experience of mechanics.

**TRACK 01**

Presenter: Welcome back to our programme exploring the future of work. We asked four people their thoughts on their careers and where they saw them in the future. Our first speaker is Julie Robinson, a lawyer.

Julie: A career in law is stable because laws don't tend to change fast. It's challenging and potentially well-paid if you get a high-powered job in a top law firm. However, I believe there's been a sharp drop in law graduates recently because it's so expensive to study law at university for six years. Some law firms are offering apprenticeships so that trainees can start work and earn a salary while they're training. Technology has had an effect on our profession – some of the jobs that lawyers used to do can now be done online. Fortunately, these tend to be tedious tasks that nobody liked doing. On the whole, being a lawyer can be an extremely rewarding and lucrative career.

Presenter: Our second speaker is Geoffrey Smith, a dentist.

Geoffrey: My dental practice is always busy, and I can't see that changing in the future. As far as clients are concerned, I've noticed a marked increase in elderly patients who want to keep their teeth in good condition. Technology has changed the way I work and will probably continue to make my job easier. There have been great advances in the medication we use to manage pain, so my patients can relax a bit more. I know people hate coming to see me! I don't blame them, but I don't think they'd be any happier if I was replaced by a robot.

Presenter: Our third speaker is Angie Walters, a shop assistant.

Angie: The supermarket where I work is always busy, so it's hard to believe my job is going to disappear. If you ask me, people want to see what they're buying – I do! But the experts say that there will be a gradual decline in supermarket sales, and so my job isn't secure. I'd hate to lose my job because I think I've got great interpersonal skills and I'm quite good at handling difficult customers. Some people think my job's monotonous, but I find this human contact with the customers very fulfilling. If we close down, I worry that some of my elderly customers will never go out and see anyone. That's not progress, is it?

Presenter: Finally, our fourth speaker is Mark Pomroy, a wind turbine technician.

Mark: I'm working in the alternative energy industry. To work with wind turbines, you need to do a two-year course in applied sciences and this will teach you the basic technology. The skills you need are to be good with your hands, and it helps to have some experience in mechanics. In my free time I enjoy taking car engines apart and putting them back together, so that helps. After studying the basics, I did an apprenticeship with a company and learnt on the job. My job's demanding, but I think it will be an important career in the near future.

Presenter: Well thank you to our four speakers. It's interesting to hear ...