

Working in Logistics

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Common verbs, predictions using "will" and "going to"

Reading and listening comprehension

Activity One - Icebreaker

1. **Are you optimistic about the future, or pessimistic?**
2. **Do you think your job will change 10 years from now?**
3. **If so, how? If not, why not?**
4. **How has the pandemic affected your work?**
5. **Are you a technophile or a technophobe?**

Activity Two - Common verbs

There's around 429K warehouse workers in the United States alone. Amazon, amongst others, are rapidly expanding automation and it's easy to imagine a not too distant future where the bulk of warehouse work is automated. Some forecasts say that demand for robots in warehouses will increase by a factor of 15 over the next 4 years.

Handle, a Boston Dynamics robot, looks keen to pick up some orders:

Introducing Handle - Watch the video and use the words below to describe what the robot is doing.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7xvqQeoA8c&list=RDCMUC7vVhkEfw4nOGp8TyDk7RcQ&ab_channel=BostonDynamics

to go backwards	to turn (in circles)	to jump	a warehouse
a ramp	an endpoint control	a workshop	to lift
to weigh	to bend down	a load	to go down
to go out	a parking lot	outside	to jump over
floor	hill	agile	AI

Activity Three - Making predictions using the future tense

There are 2 ways of making predictions - we can use "going to" or "will" - both refer to the future and there is a slight difference between the two though in many cases they can be used interchangeably with little difference in meaning. Even if you misuse them, a native speaker is going to understand you without any problems

We use **to be + going to + infinitive** when we make a prediction based on evidence we have now.

Examples:

- (The news reports that there is a traffic jam) Oh no, my delivery is going to be late!
- Based on recent progress, technology is going to get more and more powerful
- The driver just called me, the delivery is going to be on time
- According to this video, Big Data is going to have a huge affect on logistics

We use **will + infinitive** when we make a prediction which is only a guess or an opinion of ours.

Examples:

- In the future, customers will be able to receive deliveries in minutes
- I don't think robots will be able to do most jobs
- Big Data will make a big difference to the field of logistics, in my opinion.

Activity Four - Listening comprehension

The 'Future of Logistics', Frost and Sullivan– Watch the video and answer the questions.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wto68yhR0Bo

1. What is Big Data being referred to for the future?
2. How is logistics starting to anticipate shipping for the future, what methods?
3. What is contributing to the growth of on-line sales?
4. How do they predict that every customer purchase will start in the future?
5. What is urban logistics?
6. Is the current transport system sustainable?
7. The transportation industry is one of the last industries to be interrupted by digitalization, Why do you think?
8. What 3 markets are leading the race for global autonomy in logistics?
9. What are truck platoons and what are their benefits?
10. What is the difference between an LTL and an FTL?
11. Can you explain what intelligent transportation solutions are and could be in your opinion?

Activity Five - Practise

WIth a partner or with your teacher, prepare answers to the questions below (make sure to use "going to" if you have evidence, and "will" for your thoughts and opinions!)

Based on the information in the video what **is going to** happen in the future of logistics as a whole?

In your opinion, what **will** happen in the future of your job?

Activity Six - Reading Comprehension

Read the text and answer the comprehension questions below:

Logistics as a Job of the Future:

It is undeniable that logistics forms an essential part of any business supply chain, ensuring that products arrive safely and in a timely manner. Not only this, but logistics allows businesses to provide better and more competitive customer service and availability, as well as helping to reduce and manage changing costs. With the rise of globalisation and the need to

distribute goods worldwide with equally high customer expectations, it is not surprising that the logistics industry is projected to grow, with some estimating that the logistics market could be worth $12 trillion globally. In the US, there has been a 180% increase in warehousing and storage jobs since 1990, and in 2018, US Business logistics costs reached $1.6 trillion. In France, the freight and logistics market has been on a constant rise and is estimated to expand by 4.5% in coming years. Especially during the covid-19 crisis, logistics providers have stepped up to confront continuing changes in customer demand and ecommerce and there is clearly a newfound recognition for the importance of the supply of goods that will surely last into the future.

What does the future of logistics look like?

Like many other industries, the growth of the logistics market is also leading to the development of technology that could have an impact in the logistics world. One of the most significant technological developments is the Internet of Things, or IOT, which could create constant communication between devices connected to the internet and logistics providers, allowing routes to be optimised or alerts over what orders need to be picked and packed to be sent. Another self-driving vehicles. Since, according to Business Insider, the transportation of goods to the final destination from a hub accounts for 53% of all transportation costs, self-driving vehicles could be a way to create more cost-effective and environmentally-friendly routes, in addition to supporting drivers on longer journeys. Finally, there is huge potential for an expansion in the use of artificial intelligence, as 4/5 of warehouses are currently operated manually. According to the International Federation of Robotics, it was predicted that 485,000 units could be sold worldwide from 2019-2021, primarily to facilitate work in warehouses and storage facilities. Though this rapid rise in the use of technology does pose a potential threat to manual jobs especially, 28% of businesses predicted that they would need to extend the workforce to cater for these developments. Indeed, collaboration between automation and human input will be necessary to manage the increasing demand for more complex logistics and could free employees to undertake more high-value activities. Either way, one thing is for certain and that is the expansion of product availability worldwide and the high complexity of supply chains means that there is enormous potential in skilled logistics positions for the future.

The impact of Covid-19:

One thing that has definitely shown the importance of human flexibility and problem solving to logistics and the supply chain is the covid-19 pandemic, as it caused an enormous change in course for some of the predictions for the 2020 and 2021 years. Though it most certainly has brought challenges to the sector, the inevitable shift to ecommerce and the emphasis now placed on transparency in supply chain has made logistics and management more key than ever to businesses everywhere. The pandemic has made the everyone everywhere realise that there would have been absolutely no way to get through the past year without robust and adaptable logistics strategies. It's clear that the role of supply chain management and logistics in better forecasting of risks and demand, as well as stopping overdependence on single regions is going to move the forefront of the minds of many business owners. As such, even though covid has been a testing time, there is no doubt that because of it, logistics is most certainly cemented as a job of the future. Indeed, businesses everywhere have to have confidence that the great worldwide network of logistics will help us all to get back on the right road again.

Questions

1. What reasons does she give for logistics being important to the supply chain? Give 2 reasons
2. How much do some estimate the logistics market to be globally?
3. How much is the market expected to grow in France in coming years?
4. What has the Covid-19 crisis caused a change in?
5. How could the Internet of Things help logistics providers? Give 2 areas
6. What percentage of transportation costs does the transportation of goods to the final destination account for?
7. How many units could be sold worldwide 2019-2021?
8. Why is collaboration needed between automation and human input?
9. What did covid-19 pandemic show the importance of with regards to humans?
10. How is the logistics industry going to be increasingly important because of covid-19? Give 2 reasons

Activity Seven - Role plays

You are a robotics entrepreneur, and you have invented the most useful robot! Explain to the CEO of a logistics company what it can do and how it will change the world.

You have a problem with a delivery, and you ask your coworker for help. Explain to your coworker what is going to happen, and create a plan for how you will resolve the issue together.

After the pandemic, your coworker thinks that everything will go back to how it was before. You think that things will be different. Try to convince your coworker of your views.

Activity Eight -

With your partner or teacher, make predictions about the following.

Air travel

Drones for deliveries

Artificial Intelligence used for logistics

Robots used for picking in warehouses

Amazon losing popularity

Physical shops being replaced by all online sales

Small companies being able to use the services of big logistics platforms

People turning against big businesses and preferring to buy from small local stores for a face-to-face experience.

Add some more predictions of your own!

