



140. An automated world

W: Nowadays manual jobs are few and far between in some sectors. How could you explain that Sarah?

Sarah: Well for me we live in a technology-driven world where robots and computers have transformed the way we live and work, and often save men from stultifying chores.

W: Yes, carry on, investigate further please.

Sarah: Being able to use a computer is an absolute necessity today, were it only to send an e-mail. But with the advent of modern technology some workers feel as if they have outlived their usefulness.

W: Exactly. One of the dangers of excessive automation is the dehumanization of society. As a matter of fact, robots take no coffee breaks, do not call in sick on Mondays, do not go on strike and do not take holidays. Plus, they can do men's work faster, better, more cheaply, tirelessly for twenty four hours a day and do not qualify for pension, so what will men do then?

Sarah: seen from this perspective, nothing. But to me it looks as if domestic robots are unlikely to do the tedious household chores for some time to come.

W: Don't be so sure of that Sarah, progress in this world is very fast.

Sarah: So what? Will machines be the servants of men or will we be the servants of machines?



GLOSSARY:

An automated world: un monde automatisé	Excessive automation : l'automatisation à outrance
To be few and far between: se faire rare	Dehumanization: la déshumanisation
To transform: transformer	Coffee breaks: des pauses café
To save: sauver, ici éviter	Holidays: les vacances
To stultify : abrutir	Pension: la retraite
To carry on : continuer	Domestic robots : les robots domestiques
To investigate : enquêter, explorer	tedious household chores: les corvées ménagères fastidieuses
To send : envoyer	Progress : le progrès
To outlive : survivre à	The servants : les esclaves
To call in sick : se faire porter pale, malade	Further : plus loin, plus avant
To go on strike: faire la grève	Faster : plus vite
To qualify to: pouvoir bénéficier, avoir le droit de	Better: mieux
See/saw/seen : voir	More cheaply: moins cher, meilleur marché
To look as if : sembler	Tirelessly : sans relâche
Manual jobs: les métiers manuels	Unlikely : peu probable
Some sectors : certains secteurs	for some time to come: avant un certain temps
A technology-driven world: un monde mû par la technologie	
Robots and computers: les robots et les ordinateurs	
stultifying chores: des corvées, des tâches abrutissantes	
An absolute necessity : une nécessité absolue	
The advent : l'avènement	
Workers : des ouvriers	
Usefulness : utilité	
The dangers : les dangers	