

Activity Name	“SKILLS FOR THE 21st CENTURY” (READING)
Language	English
Level	Intermediate-Advanced (6 th to 9 th semester)
Objective	Analyze information about some skills for the 21 st century workplace.
Linguistic Competence to Develop	Reading Comprehension Vocabulary
Strategies	-Analyze information from a text to answer some true / false questions. -Based on the reading identify specific vocabulary to complete some sentences.
Activities	1. Before reading complete the paragraph with the words from the box. 2. Read the text and compare it with the statements to decide if they are true or false. 3. Read the text again and complete the sentences with the words from the box.
Feedback	When you finish go to the “Answer key” and check your answers. Keep your worksheet in your portfolio of evidence.

A. Complete the sentences.

age of technology	problem solving	communicate well
good at making decisions	analyze information	the 21 st century

We are living in _____. Some people call it the _____.

We need to learn skills such as _____ and we need to be able to _____ with other people around the world. Employers are looking for people who can _____ well, people who are able to recognize whether information is reliable or not. They also like people who are _____ without asking for help.

B. Read the text.

Skills for the 21st-century workplace

We need to develop all kinds of skills to survive in the 21st century. Some, like ICT skills and knowledge of the digital world, are taught explicitly in schools in the UK. Here are five less obvious ones for you to think about. These are the sorts of skills that employers may ask you questions about in interviews, so it's a good idea to think about how good you are in these areas. What are your strengths and weaknesses?

Imagination

In the age of technology that we are living in now, it is no longer enough to keep on making the same products. Employers need people who can imagine new approaches and new ideas.

Think: Think of an object or gadget you use every day. How could it be improved? Can you think of three improvements?

Problem solving

Employers will value workers who are able to see problems before they happen and come up with creative solutions.

Think: Imagine you are organizing an end-of-term social event at school. Think of some problems that you could face. Can you think of any solutions?

Communication skills

Workers will have to be good communicators. They will have to be able to negotiate and discuss key issues and also write in a clear way without using too many words.

Think: How do people communicate with each other in the 21st century?

Critical analysis

Employers want workers who are able to recognize the difference between information that can be believed and false information.

Think: Use the internet to find out three facts about a celebrity or famous figure. Can you verify the information by checking other websites?

Decision making

Individual workers have a growing amount of responsibility. It is important to be able to evaluate a situation and be confident in making a decision.

Think: Which three things could you do to (a) be healthier (b) do better at school and (c) help others? Make a decision now to do at least one of these things. Then ... just do it!

C. Circle *true* or *false*.

1. 21st-century skills are not taught in schools in the UK.

True False

2. Employers like workers to be imaginative.

True False

3. Employers want workers to think about possible problems.

True False

4. Employers like workers to be original when solving problems.

True False

5. Future workers will need to be able to write concisely.

True False

6. People communicate with each other less in the 21st century.

True False

7. Employers believe it is useful to know a lot of information about celebrities.

True False

8. Employers don't want workers to make decisions without asking them.

True False

D. Complete the sentences with the words from the box.

solve make have teach value discuss develop differentiate

1. UK schools and colleges _____ ICT skills.
2. Employers _____ people with ideas for new approaches.
3. Employers like workers who can _____ problems.
4. Workers need to be able to _____ their work with their team.
5. Workers need to _____ their writing skills.
6. It is important that workers can _____ between truth and lies.
7. Employees in the 21st century _____ more responsibility.
8. Employers like their workers to _____ decisions.

ANSWER KEY

A. Complete the paragraph.

We are living in the 21st century ✓. Some people call it the age of technology ✓. We need to learn skills such as problem solving ✓ and we need to be able to communicate well ✓ with other people around the world. Employers are looking for people who can analyse information ✓ well, people who are able to recognise whether information is reliable or not. They also like people who are good at making decisions ✓ without asking for help.

C. Circle *true* or *false*.

1. FALSE
2. TRUE
3. TRUE
4. TRUE
5. TRUE
6. FALSE
7. FALSE
8. FALSE

D. Complete the sentences with the words from the box.

1. UK schools and colleges teach ✓ ICT skills.
2. Employers value ✓ people with ideas for new approaches.
3. Employers like workers who can solve ✓ problems.
4. Workers need to be able to discuss ✓ their work with their team.
5. Workers need to develop ✓ their writing skills.
6. It is important that workers can differentiate ✓ between truth and lies.
7. Employees in the 21st century have ✓ more responsibility.
8. Employers like their workers to make ✓ decisions.