Student Book: How AI Affects Business, Politics, and Everyday Life

SECTION: Business & Banking

Reading Exercise:

Mr. Sato, a senior Japanese banker, welcomed Mr. Johnson, an American client, into his office.
“Based on your risk profile,” Mr. Sato began, “I would recommend a diversified portfolio that balances equities and bonds.
This way, we reduce volatility while still aiming for growth.”

Mr. Johnson leaned back. “That sounds good, but can you give me a ballpark figure for the expected return?”

“Certainly,” replied Mr. Sato. “If the market remains steady, you could expect around six to seven percent annually.
Of course, AI-driven regulations and automated trading systems may increase short-term swings, so we must plan carefully.”

Mr. Johnson nodded. “I can live with some risk, but I definitely don’t want to end up in the red.”

“Understood,” Mr. Sato said politely. “That’s why we’ll include defensive assets to protect your capital. At the same time,
certain companies in your portfolio will remain cash cows, generating consistent returns year after year.”

Mr. Johnson smiled. “That’s reassuring. And the institutions you work with—they’re too big to fail, right?”

Mr. Sato hesitated before answering. “While they are very stable, no bank is beyond risk. However, AI tools now monitor compliance,
detect fraud in real time, and benchmark portfolios against global standards. This keeps us ahead of the curve.”

As the meeting closed, both men agreed they were on the same page. For Mr. Johnson, it wasn’t just about numbers—it was about
trust in a banker who could explain risk clearly and still speak the language of opportunity.

Idioms:

- Ballpark figure
- In the red
- Cash cow
- Too big to fail

- By the book

Industry Jargon:

- Portfolio diversification
- Risk tolerance
- Equity
- Volatility
- Defensive assets

SECTION: U.S. Politics & Economics

Reading Exercise:

Lisa and Mark met regularly at a café after work. Lisa was a Democrat; Mark a Republican.
Their conversations were spirited but friendly. One afternoon, the topic turned to the 2024 election.

"Did you see how campaigns used AI this time?" Lisa asked. "In swing states like Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, algorithms predicted
exactly which voters were persuadable. It was a game changer."

Mark shook his head. "Yes, but the deepfakes were a double-edged sword. Some people believed completely fake videos.
At the end of the day, that raises the stakes for democracy."

Lisa sipped her coffee. "True, but politicians did try to work across the aisle to pass new regulations on AI in political ads.
For once, there was bipartisan agreement."

"Maybe," Mark replied, "but those bills were packed with pork barrel spending. Washington never changes."

"Well," Lisa said with a smile, "the buck stops here. Leaders have to take responsibility. AI isn't going away, so we have to manage it."

Mark leaned forward. "Still, I wonder if AI gives too much power to campaigns. Imagine every voter reduced to data points—lobbying
and policy platforms driven entirely by predictive analytics."

Lisa countered, "But isn't that already happening with big data in business? Politics is just catching up."

Their debate ended with laughter, not anger. Both realized that while they disagreed, the conversation itself—open, opinionated,
but respectful—was the real victory.

Idioms:

- Across the aisle
- Pork barrel
- Swing state
- The buck stops here
- Raise the stakes

Industry Jargon:

- Deepfake

- Campaign targeting
- Electoral college
- Lobbying
- Policy platform

SECTION: Cross-Cultural Communication

Reading Exercise:

Mr. Brown, an American client, sat down with Mr. Sato in Tokyo.
“So,” Mr. Brown began, “let’s cut to the chase. What’s the ROI on this product?”

Mr. Sato blinked. “Excuse me, cut to the chase?”

“It means, let’s get straight to the point,” Mr. Brown explained.

“Ah, I see,” said Mr. Sato. “The return on investment will be around five percent.”

Mr. Brown nodded, then added, “But I don’t want to be left holding the bag if the AI market crashes.”

Mr. Sato paused again. “Holding the bag?”

“Yes—it means being stuck with the losses,” Mr. Brown clarified.

Now understanding, Mr. Sato smiled politely. “Thank you for explaining. We will structure your portfolio carefully to avoid
unnecessary risk exposure. We follow strict compliance and due diligence procedures. At the end of the day, our goal is to keep your investments safe.”

As the meeting continued, Mr. Brown said, “It sounds like some new opportunities are already in the pipeline.
Are you benchmarking against U.S. competitors?”

“Exactly,” Mr. Sato answered. “And by doing so, we make sure we are on the same page with global standards.”

The conversation revealed not only the challenge of idioms but also the importance of patience and clarity in cross-cultural communication.
For both banker and client, learning to bridge misunderstandings built a stronger business relationship.

Idioms:

- Cut to the chase
- Holding the bag
- In the pipeline
- At the end of the day
- On the same page

Industry Jargon:

- ROI
- Compliance

- Due diligence
- Risk exposure
- Benchmarking

Confused Vocabulary:

- Economic vs. Economical
- Policy vs. Politics
- Price vs. Cost vs. Value
- Borrow vs. Lend
- Affect vs. Effect

SECTION: Future with AI

Reading Exercise:

In the coming decade, AI is expected to transform nearly every aspect of business and society.
In investing, robo-advisors already use predictive analytics to recommend trades, scanning millions of data points in seconds.
Some believe this will level the playing field, while others fear it could raise the stakes by making markets more volatile.

In politics, AI-driven campaigns will continue to micro-target voters. The sky's the limit for personalization, but it may also become
a double-edged sword, blurring the line between persuasion and manipulation. Swing states could be decided by algorithms more than human debates.

Business leaders are also preparing for a brave new world. Middle managers may see roles automated, replaced by dashboards and neural networks.
At the same time, entirely new industries will emerge around ethical AI, compliance, and quantum computing.

Even leisure activities may be changed. In golf, smart clubs could analyze swings in real time, while AI caddies offer precise recommendations.
Professional tournaments may eventually need to ban AI-enhanced equipment to keep the game fair.

At the end of the day, AI will not only change how we invest, vote, and play—it will raise the bar for how humans and machines work together.
The challenge is ensuring the technology serves society, not the other way around.

Idioms:

- Brave new world
- Change the game
- Double-edged sword
- The sky's the limit
- Raise the bar

Industry Jargon:

- Predictive analytics
- NLP
- Neural networks
- Quantum computing
- Ethical AI