

In Focus 1 - Speed Reading Unit 8

UBI

Let's imagine a world where every month, every single person gets some money, just enough to buy what they need like food, clothes, and maybe enough money for a new book or visit to a restaurant or movie. This special money is for everyone—kids, parents, grandparents—no matter if they have a job or not. This idea is called Universal Basic Income, or UBI for short. It's kind of like getting pocket money, but instead of coming from your family, it comes from the government, and it's given to everyone!

Why Do We Need Universal Basic Income? Sometimes, people might not have a job or might lose the one they have. UBI is a way to make sure they still have money to buy what they need, like food and clothes. But there's an even bigger reason why people are talking about UBI these days, and it's because of robots and something called AI, which stands for Artificial Intelligence.

Today, robots can do surprising things. They can build things, like cars, and they can even help clean the house! Robots and AI are getting so good that they can do jobs usually done by people, like driving cars, working in shops, or even creating art!

This is cool, but it also means there might be fewer jobs for people since robots can work all the time without stopping. This is a big reason why some people think UBI is a good idea. With UBI, even if robots are doing these jobs, people would still have money to live their lives.

Imagine UBI as a huge jar of cookies. Every month, everyone gets to take a cookie out of it. The money to fill the jar comes from different places, like tax, which is money that people pay for things we all use, like roads, schools, and hospitals. With UBI, some of this money would also go into filling the jar for everyone.

UBI makes sure everyone has all the things they need to live their lives. If people don't have to worry too much about money, they're usually happier and in better health. With UBI, people might have more time to follow their dreams, like making art, creating cool things, or spending more time with family and friends.

However, UBI also has some challenges. Perhaps the biggest challenge is how to keep the jar full. The government needs to make sure there's enough for everyone without running out. Also, some people might wonder if it's fair for everyone to get the same amount of money, even if some work harder than others.

UBI is like an experiment to see if we can create a world where no one has to worry about having enough basics. As robots and AI do more jobs, it's an idea that's growing. It's like playing a team game where we make sure everyone is included and happy. UBI could help ensure that everyone in our big family, called a country, is taken care of.

When you have finished, write your time in the box.

Now, go to the next page and answer the questions. **Do NOT look back at the text.**

Now, let's test your understanding of the text with some questions.

1. What is Universal Basic Income (UBI)?
 - A) A one-time payment for emergencies
 - B) A monthly amount of money for select individuals
 - C) A financial aid for students
 - D) A regular payment to all individuals
2. Why is UBI considered necessary?
 - A) Due to the rise in technological jobs
 - B) Because of natural disasters
 - C) Because of job loss due to AI and robots
 - D) To encourage people to work less
3. What analogy is used to describe UBI in the text?
 - A) A safety net
 - B) A jar of cookies
 - C) A golden ticket
 - D) A winning lottery ticket
4. How does the concept of UBI relate to robots and AI?
 - A) UBI compensates for jobs taken by AI.
 - B) It's unrelated.
 - C) It funds AI research.
 - D) It is a project developed by AI.
5. How is UBI funded?
 - A) Through private donations
 - B) By increasing sales prices
 - C) Through taxes
 - D) By cutting educational funding
6. What potential effect does UBI have on people?
 - A) Improves happiness and health
 - B) Increases stress over finances
 - C) Makes them less inclined to work
 - D) Decreases creativity
7. What challenge does UBI face?
 - A) Finding enough cookies for the jar
 - B) Ensuring equal distribution of wealth
 - C) Keeping the fund sustainable
 - D) Preventing inflation
8. What concern do some people have about UBI?
 - A) It could cause overpopulation.
 - B) It's unfair to those who work harder.
 - C) It will devalue currency.
 - D) It may lead to a decline in education.
9. What is a goal of UBI?
 - A) To eliminate all jobs
 - B) To ensure no one worries about basic needs
 - C) To make everyone wealthy
 - D) To stop technological advancement
10. How is UBI like a team game according to the text?
 - A) It promotes competition.
 - B) It ensures everyone is included and happy.
 - C) It selects only the best players.
 - D) It encourages individualism.