# FILE 13 The ongoing revolution

## EXPLORE AI and the world of work

TB → p. 114 (doc 1) DIFFÉRENCIATION

*Senior officer McLeish is briefing Detective Inspector Kat Frank about an innovative tool being introduced into the police.*

McLeish leaned forward. "Because I have actually got the perfect job for you. Have you met the new Home Secretary?" He didn't wait for an answer, because of course she hadn't. "She's nice enough, but totally deluded. Thinks there are 'efficiency' gains that have somehow evaded all her predecessors."

Kat shrugged. All politicians made bold promises to cut police numbers and 'waste' before their feet were under the ministerial table.

"This one's different," said McLeish, reading her face. "She's got a background in IT, and she's convinced that the solution to rising crime is not more police, but more AIDEs."

"More what?'

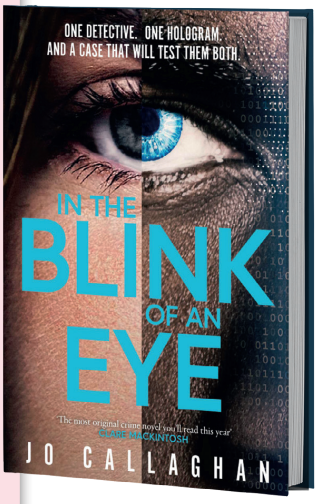
"AIDEs. Artificially Intelligent Detecting Entities." He made a dismissive[1] gesture with his hand. 'Basically, some sort of glorified Alexa that can crunch data and allegedly[2] solve more crimes at a fraction of the cost of a real copper[3].'

"Are you serious?"

"I'm afraid she's deadly serious." McLeish stood up, crossed the room and picked up a report off his desk. 'According to a study the minister commissioned, a person goes missing every ninety seconds in the UK, generating over three hundred thousand cases a year. That takes up a lot of police time—fourteen per cent, to be precise—at an estimated cost of two thousand five hundred pounds per case. That's four times more expensive than the average burglary[4]. This report concludes that a lot of the grunt work in missing persons—reviewing interviews, records, CCTV[5], phones and whatever—can be done by AIDEs, leading to 'significant' savings in police time and costs."

Kat snorted[6] and rose to her feet. [...] "Maybe AI can help with data collection, but they can't make judgements, they can't be *detectives*."

Jo CALLAGHAN, *In the Blink of an Eye*, 2023




1. *méprisant* 2. supposedly
3. police officer 4. *cambriolage*
5. video surveillance technology
6. expressed anger

### WAY 1

**1. a. Read** the text and **identify** the type of document: ❑ fiction ❑ article

**b. Name** the characters present: .....

**c. Pick** the best definition of AIDEs.

❑ Voice-activated smart home assistants similar to Alexa, designed to help with everyday household tasks.
❑ AI-powered law enforcement tools designed to analyse data and detect crime more cost-effectively than human officers.
❑ Robots programmed to replace police officers entirely and carry out arrests autonomously.

**2.** True or false? **Pick** a quote to justify your answer.

**a.** The new Home Secretary has previous experience in technology. ❑ True ❑ False

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**b.** McLeish agrees with the Home Secretary's approach. ❑ True ❑ False

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**c.** Missing persons cases represent the majority of police workload in the UK. ❑ True ❑ False

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**d.** Kat believes AI could have no useful role at all in police work. ❑ True ❑ False

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**3. Match** the verbs that show the characters' attitudes to their definition.

**a.** McLeish leaned forward (l.1)
**b.** Kat shrugged (l.5)
**c.** Kat snorted (l.24)
**d.** Kat [...] rose to her feet (l.24)

**1.** stand up abruptly, suggesting one is ready to leave
**2.** lift both shoulders briefly to show indifference or resignation
**3.** move one's body closer, showing interest
**4.** make a sharp noise through the nose to express surprise or disrespect

| a. ..... | b. ..... | c. ..... | d. ..... |
|---|---|---|---|

**4. Reorder** the sentences below to retell the key information from the passage:

- ☐ **a.** The Home Secretary believes AIDEs could solve more crimes while reducing costs.
- ☐ **b.** Kat is sceptical, though she admits AI might help with data collection.
- ☐ **c.** McLeish tells Kat about the new Home Secretary's plans.
- ☐ **d.** According to a report, missing persons cases make up fourteen per cent of police workload.
- ☐ **e.** The Home Secretary wants to introduce AI tools called AIDEs instead of hiring more officers.

**5. Answer** this question: Who do you agree with more: the Home Secretary or Kat? Why?
Keywords: *savings* • *crime* • *copper* • *trust* • *replace* • *assist* • *efficient* • *judgement*

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## WAY 2

**1. Read** the text and **answer** the following questions.

**a.** What type of document is this? **Justify** your answer using elements from the text.

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**b. Describe** the relationship between the two characters. What do we learn about each of them?

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**c.** In your own words, **explain** what AIDEs are and why they are being considered.

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**2. Take notes** on each character's attitude towards AIDEs.

| The Home Secretary | McLeish | Kat |
|---|---|---|
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| ..... | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | ..... | ..... |

**3.** **Fill in** the blanks.

**a.** The new Home Secretary has a background in ....., which leads her to believe that ..... could solve rising crime more efficiently.
**b.** Although McLeish presents the Home Secretary's case, his use of expressions like ..... and ..... suggests he is in fact ..... about AIDEs.
**c.** Missing persons cases account for ..... of police time, at a cost of ..... per case — ..... times more than the average burglary.
**d.** Kat does not dismiss AI entirely: she concedes it could help with ....., but argues that AIDEs cannot ..... or act as real detectives.

**4.** The following verbs show the characters' attitudes. For each one, **explain** what it suggests about the character's feelings at that moment.

**a.** McLeish leaned forward (l.1) .....
.....
**b.** Kat shrugged (l.5) .....
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**c.** Kat snorted (l.24) .....
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**d.** [Kat] rose to her feet (l.24) .....
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**5.** **Write** a short summary of the passage. It should cover: the context, the Home Secretary's proposal, the key statistics mentioned, and Kat's reaction.

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**6.** Based on this extract, do you think AIDEs would be a potential solution to help with crime? **Consider** both the arguments presented in the text and your own view.

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