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AI & WORK / VISUAL INTELLIGENCE

# When AI Saves Time, Who Gets It?

Faster drafting is only one part of a working day. Count the checking, then ask where the gain goes.

Inside: a whole-task comparison, a trial record and questions for a fairer conversation.



Editorial illustration: colleagues discussing work, not a documented meeting.

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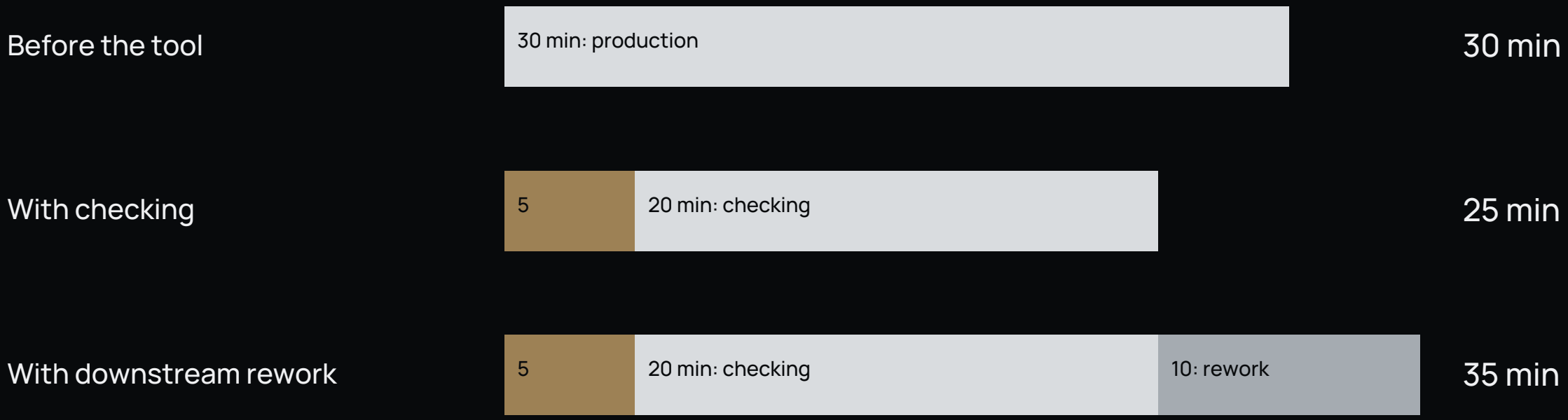
# A five-minute draft can still take 35 minutes

Illustrative example. All three rows describe the same completed outcome.




Brass = generation. Platinum = production/checking. Grey = later correction.

The first trial saves 5 minutes. Add 10 minutes of later correction and it takes 5 minutes longer than the original.

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# More output is not the same as more free time

A productivity gain creates a choice. It does not make that choice for the workplace.



Editorial illustration: a team examining how work is organised.

ILO empirical review, 1 June 2026

## Output

Clear a backlog, improve service or produce more. Specify the quality standard.

## Time

Protect breaks, shorter hours or time to learn. Make the change explicit.

## Money

Discuss pay or shared rewards. Faster work does not automatically increase wages.

Evidence remains uneven: reported time saved is not the same as demonstrated gains in output, earnings or employment.

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# Compare completed work, not first drafts

Use this record for a small, authorised trial. Keep confidential material inside approved tools.

| Record the same outcome | Before | With the tool | Who did the work? |
|---|---|---|---|
| Preparation + production | Record here | Record here | Record here |
| Checking + later rework | Record here | Record here | Record here |
| Total elapsed work time | Record here | Record here | Record here |
| Quality / errors / exceptions | Record here | Record here | Record here |
| Where any saved time went | Record here | Record here | Record here |

Include handoffs and work done by colleagues. Record awkward cases as well as easy ones; one successful example is not proof for every task.

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# Ask four questions before scaling the trial

The aim is a clear agreement about quality, responsibility and the use of any genuine gain.

01 **What got better?**
Name the outcome and the standard, not just the speed.

02 **Who absorbed the checking?**
Count review, correction and extra coordination.

03 **What learning must remain?**
Protect practice and feedback for newer colleagues.

04 **Who benefits, and how?**
Agree where time or money goes and when to review it.



Editorial illustration: experienced and newer colleagues inspecting a component.

A record supports a conversation. It does not guarantee job security, a pay rise or a particular employment outcome.

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# Time saved is a result to share, not just a number

The useful question is whether the entire working system improves.

## Start with one recurring task. Measure it end to end. Make checking visible. Then agree what happens to the gain before faster work becomes a new expectation.

### Evidence and limits

ILO: impact of GenAI on jobs, productivity and work organisation

Published 1 June 2026. Review of emerging empirical evidence; not a forecast for every worker or organisation.

Evidence reviewed 8 November 2026. Recheck source updates before publication.



Editorial illustration: colleagues leaving work together.

The chart is a hypothetical worked example, not a measured workplace result. Practical tools here are editorial aids, not legal or employment advice.