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Level 6 – 23rd January, 2019

World's 26 richest as rich as poorer half of world

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

The combined fortune of 26 of the world's richest people is equal to the total wealth of the 3.8 billion poorest people. This startling disparity in wealth is according to a report from the charity Oxfam. It reported that since the global financial crisis in 2008, the number of billionaires in the world has doubled. They are also getting \$2.5 billion richer every day. This is in stark contrast to the world's less fortunate - the poorest half of the planet is seeing its wealth slowly shrink as prices of commodities increase, wages are squeezed and land prices and rents rise. Oxfam's report highlights the growing gap between the world's rich and poor and the ever-widening gap in wealth inequality.

The report says that most of the world's mega-wealthy have made their huge fortunes from technology companies like Amazon, Microsoft and Facebook. The world's richest person is Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos. His amassed \$100 billion fortune is 100 times greater than the annual health budget of Ethiopia. Oxfam said it was time to try and redress the imbalance in wealth. It recommended taxing income at fairer levels, increasing tax on personal earnings and corporate profits, and eliminating tax avoidance schemes commonly used by companies and the super-rich. It said: "In many countries, a decent education or quality healthcare has become a luxury only the rich can afford."

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/01/20/business/oxfam-billionaires-davos/index.html>
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/01/oxfam-world-richest-26-wealth-poorest-190121054249908.html>
<https://japantoday.com/category/world/world's-26-richest-own-same-as-poorest-half-of-humanity-oxfam>

WARM-UPS

1. WEALTH: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about wealth. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

fortune / richest people / equal / disparity / wealth / billionaire / wages / rents / gap / technology / Amazon / \$100 billion / tax / tax avoidance / education / healthcare

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. EQUALITY: Students A **strongly** believe all people should be made equal financially via the tax system; Students B **strongly** believe this would be terrible. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. \$100 BILLION: What would you do if you had \$100 billion? Why? How would it change your life? Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners often.

	What you would do	Why?	What it would change
House			
Hobby			
English			
Shopping			
Travel			
Friends			

5. RICH: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "rich". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. AMASSING FORTUNES: Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways of becoming rich at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Working hard
- Inheritance
- Stocks and shares
- Starting a tech company
- Winning the lottery
- Property
- Investing in art
- Saving hard

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. combined | a. Very surprising, astonishing, or remarkable. |
| 2. startling | b. A time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger. |
| 3. disparity | c. Had a damaging or restricting effect on. |
| 4. crisis | d. A very, very big difference. |
| 5. stark | e. Become or make smaller in size or amount; contract or cause to contract. |
| 6. shrink | f. Joined together. |
| 7. squeezed | g. Severe. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 8. mega | h. A large-scale systematic plan or arrangement for getting something or putting a particular idea into effect. |
| 9. huge | i. Gathered together or accumulate (a large amount or number of valuable material or things) over a period of time. |
| 10. amassed | j. Of an acceptable standard; satisfactory. |
| 11. redress | k. Completely removing or getting rid of something. |
| 12. eliminating | l. Make an undesirable or unfair situation fair again. |
| 13. avoidance | m. Very very big. |
| 14. decent | n. The action of keeping away from or not doing something. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The world's 26 richest people have the same wealth as 3.8 billion. **T / F**
- b. The figures in the article come from the World Bank. **T / F**
- c. The world's richest are getting \$2.5 million richer every day. **T / F**
- d. The poor are getting poorer because rents and prices are rising. **T / F**
- e. Most of the mega-rich are wealthy because of technology companies. **T / F**
- f. Amazon's CEO gave \$1 billion to help Ethiopia's health service. **T / F**
- g. A charity wants higher taxes on personal earnings. **T / F**
- h. The charity said only the rich can get quality healthcare in many nations. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. combined | a. enormous |
| 2. disparity | b. satisfactory |
| 3. stark | c. blessed |
| 4. fortunate | d. even up |
| 5. gap | e. sharp |
| 6. huge | f. removing |
| 7. amassed | g. amalgamated |
| 8. redress | h. accumulated |
| 9. eliminating | i. imbalance |
| 10. decent | j. chasm |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. This startling disparity in | a. education |
| 2. the number of billionaires in | b. squeezed |
| 3. the poorest half | c. rich can afford |
| 4. wages are | d. the world has doubled |
| 5. the ever- | e. the imbalance |
| 6. made their huge fortunes | f. of the planet |
| 7. the annual health | g. wealth |
| 8. redress | h. budget of Ethiopia |
| 9. a decent | i. widening gap |
| 10. a luxury only the | j. from technology |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

The (1) _____ fortune of 26 of the world's richest people is equal to the total wealth of the 3.8 billion poorest people. This startling (2) _____ in wealth is according to a report from the charity Oxfam. It reported that since the global financial (3) _____ in 2008, the number of billionaires in the world has (4) _____. They are also getting \$2.5 billion richer every day. This is in stark (5) _____ to the world's less fortunate - the poorest half of the planet is seeing its wealth slowly (6) _____ as prices of commodities increase, wages are (7) _____ and land prices and rents rise. Oxfam's report highlights the growing gap between the world's rich and poor and the ever-widening (8) _____ in wealth inequality.

crisis
shrink
doubled
gap
combined
squeezed
disparity
contrast

The report says that most of the world's (9) _____ - wealthy have made their (10) _____ fortunes from technology companies like Amazon, Microsoft and Facebook. The world's richest person is Amazon (11) _____ and CEO Jeff Bezos. His amassed \$100 billion fortune is 100 times greater than the (12) _____ health budget of Ethiopia. Oxfam said it was time to try and (13) _____ the imbalance in wealth. It recommended taxing income at fairer levels, increasing tax on personal (14) _____ and corporate profits, and eliminating tax avoidance (15) _____ commonly used by companies and the super-rich. It said: "In many countries, a (16) _____ education or quality healthcare has become a luxury only the rich can afford."

annual
huge
redress
schemes
mega
decent
founder
earnings

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

- 1) The combined fortune of 26 of the world's richest _____
 - a. people is equally
 - b. people is equality
 - c. people is equal
 - d. people is equalize
- 2) This startling disparity in wealth is according to a report from _____
 - a. the charitable Oxfam
 - b. the charities Oxfam
 - c. the charity Oxfam
 - d. the chastity Oxfam
- 3) since the global financial crisis in 2008, the number of billionaires in the _____
 - a. world was doublet
 - b. word has doubled
 - c. world was doubled
 - d. world has doubled
- 4) the poorest half of the planet is seeing its wealth slowly shrink as prices _____ increase
 - a. off commodities
 - b. at commodities
 - c. of commodities
 - d. as commodities
- 5) the growing gap between the world's rich and poor and the ever-_____ wealth
 - a. widen in gaping
 - b. widening in gap in
 - c. widening gap in
 - d. widening gapping
- 6) The report says that most of the world's mega-wealthy have made their _____
 - a. hug fortunes
 - b. huge for tunes
 - c. hug fort tunes
 - d. huge fortunes
- 7) The world's richest person is Amazon _____ CEO
 - a. flounder and
 - b. funder and
 - c. finder and
 - d. founder and
- 8) His amassed \$100 billion fortune is 100 times greater than the _____ budget
 - a. annual health
 - b. annually health
 - c. and you all health
 - d. and your health
- 9) taxing income at fairer levels, increasing tax on personal earnings and _____
 - a. corporate pro-fit
 - b. corporate profits
 - c. carp rate profits
 - d. carp irate profits
- 10) a decent education or quality healthcare has become a luxury only the _____
 - a. rich canner ford
 - b. rich can afford
 - c. richer can afford
 - d. richer can a ford

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

The combined fortune of 26 of the world's richest people (1) _____ the total wealth of the 3.8 billion poorest people. This startling (2) _____ is according to a report from the charity Oxfam. It reported that since the global financial crisis in 2008, the number of billionaires in the (3) _____. They are also getting \$2.5 billion richer every day. This is (4) _____ to the world's less fortunate - the poorest half of the planet is seeing its wealth slowly shrink as prices of commodities increase, (5) _____ and land prices and rents rise. Oxfam's report highlights the growing gap between the world's rich and poor and the (6) _____ in wealth inequality.

The report says that most of the world's (7) _____ made their huge fortunes from technology companies like Amazon, Microsoft and Facebook. The world's richest person is Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos. (8) _____ billion fortune is 100 times greater than the annual health budget of Ethiopia. Oxfam said it was time to (9) _____ the imbalance in wealth. It recommended taxing income (10) _____, increasing tax on personal earnings and corporate profits, and eliminating (11) _____ commonly used by companies and the super-rich. It said: "In many countries, (12) _____ or quality healthcare has become a luxury only the rich can afford."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

1. How many poor people have the same wealth as the world's richest?
2. Which charity highlighted the inequality in wealth?
3. How much richer are billionaires becoming each day?
4. What did the article say was being squeezed?
5. What did the charity say was growing?
6. What industry did the article say most of the mega-wealthy were from?
7. How much did the article say Jeff Bezos was worth?
8. What did the charity suggest taxing at fairer levels?
9. What schemes did the article say it wanted to eliminate?
10. Who did the charity say could afford a decent education?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

- 1) How many poor people have the same wealth as the world's richest?
 - a) 3.8 billion
 - b) 380,000,000
 - c) 38 billion
 - d) 3,800,000
- 2) Which charity highlighted the inequality in wealth?
 - a) WWF
 - b) Médecins Sans Frontières
 - c) Oxfam
 - d) Action Against Poverty
- 3) How much richer are billionaires becoming each day?
 - a) \$2.6 billion
 - b) \$2.5 billion
 - c) \$2.7 billion
 - d) \$2.2 billion
- 4) What did the article say was being squeezed?
 - a) lemons
 - b) flesh
 - c) cheeks
 - d) wages
- 5) What did the charity say was growing?
 - a) the gap between the world's rich and poor
 - b) the world population
 - c) money
 - d) wealth
- 6) What industry did the article say most of the mega-wealthy were from?
 - a) manufacturing
 - b) investment
 - c) banking
 - d) technology
- 7) How much did the article say Jeff Bezos was worth?
 - a) \$100 million
 - b) \$100 billion
 - c) \$100,000,000,000,000
 - d) \$10,000,000,000
- 8) What did the charity suggest taxing at fairer levels?
 - a) property
 - b) investments
 - c) profits
 - d) income
- 9) What schemes did the article say it wanted to eliminate?
 - a) colour schemes
 - b) pension schemes
 - c) tax avoidance schemes
 - d) savings schemes
- 10) Who did the charity say could afford a decent education?
 - a) anyone and everyone
 - b) only the rich
 - c) the elite
 - d) billionaires

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

Role A – Working Hard

You think working hard is the best way to get rich. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): starting a tech company, investing in art or winning the lottery.

Role B – Starting a Tech Company

You think starting a tech company is the best way to get rich. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): working hard, investing in art or winning the lottery.

Role C – Investing in Art

You think investing in art is the best way to get rich. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): starting a tech company, working hard or winning the lottery.

Role D – Winning the Lottery

You think winning the lottery is the best way to get rich. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): starting a tech company, investing in art or working hard.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'wealth' and 'inequality'.

wealth	inequality
---------------	-------------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• combined• since• day• half• rise• ever	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• mega• founder• annual• levels• used• decent
---	--

WEALTH SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

Write five GOOD questions about wealth in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WEALTH DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'wealth'?
3. How important is wealth?
4. What do you think of wealth inequality?
5. Is it right that one person can be so rich?
6. Should governments try to redistribute wealth?
7. What's the best way to be wealthy?
8. What problems does wealth inequality create?
9. Can you survive on your wealth?
10. What is the wealth gap like in your country?

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WEALTH DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'inequality'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What would you do with \$1 billion?
15. What can anyone do with \$100 billion?
16. Should billionaires help the poor in their countries?
17. Should big companies pay a lot more tax?
18. What do you think of tax avoidance schemes?
19. What happens when a decent education is only for the rich?
20. What questions would you like to ask a billionaire?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

The combined (1) _____ of 26 of the world's richest people is equal to the total wealth of the 3.8 billion poorest people. This (2) _____ disparity in wealth is according to a report from the charity Oxfam. It reported (3) _____ since the global financial crisis in 2008, the number of billionaires in the world has (4) _____. They are also getting \$2.5 billion richer every day. This is in stark contrast to the world's less fortunate - the poorest half of the planet is seeing its wealth slowly shrink as prices of (5) _____ increase, wages are squeezed and land prices and rents rise. Oxfam's report highlights the (6) _____ gap between the world's rich and poor and the ever-widening gap in wealth inequality.

The report says that most of the world's (7) _____-wealthy have made their huge fortunes from technology companies like Amazon, Microsoft and Facebook. The world's richest person is Amazon (8) _____ and CEO Jeff Bezos. His amassed \$100 billion fortune is 100 times greater than the (9) _____ health budget of Ethiopia. Oxfam said it was time to try and redress the imbalance in wealth. It recommended taxing income at fairer levels, increasing tax on personal (10) _____ and corporate profits, and eliminating tax avoidance schemes commonly used by companies and the super-rich. It said: "In many countries, a (11) _____ education or quality healthcare has become a luxury only the rich can (12) _____."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) fortunately | (b) fortune | (c) fortunate | (d) fortuitous |
| 2. | (a) sparkling | (b) startling | (c) spanking | (d) starting |
| 3. | (a) then | (b) which | (c) what | (d) that |
| 4. | (a) twice | (b) doubled | (c) two-fold | (d) binary |
| 5. | (a) oddities | (b) commodities | (c) commodores | (d) remedies |
| 6. | (a) growth | (b) grown | (c) growing | (d) grew |
| 7. | (a) supra | (b) nova | (c) mega | (d) lava |
| 8. | (a) grinder | (b) meander | (c) founder | (d) shudder |
| 9. | (a) annum | (b) century | (c) year | (d) annual |
| 10. | (a) interests | (b) ratings | (c) winnings | (d) earnings |
| 11. | (a) decent | (b) nascent | (c) scented | (d) ascent |
| 12. | (a) buffer | (b) border | (c) afford | (d) coast |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

Paragraph 1

1. The combined ufernot
2. This startling rtidipas in wealth
3. a report from the tahycri Oxfam
4. This is in stakr contrast to...
5. prices of miocoietsdm increase
6. wages are qezsudee

Paragraph 2

7. His smdasae \$100 billion
8. redress the lbaecaimn
9. increasing tax on personal sgianrne
10. tax avoidance mcehsse
11. a ncdeet education
12. a urxlyu only the rich can afford

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () doubled. They are also getting \$2.5 billion richer every day. This is in stark contrast to the world's less
- () companies like Amazon, Microsoft and Facebook. The world's richest person is Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos. His amassed
- () \$100 billion fortune is 100 times greater than the annual health budget of Ethiopia. Oxfam said it was time to
- (**1**) The combined fortune of 26 of the world's richest people is equal to the total wealth of the 3.8 billion
- () and land prices and rents rise. Oxfam's report highlights the growing gap between
- () schemes commonly used by companies and the super-rich. It said: "In many countries, a
- () The report says that most of the world's mega-wealthy have made their huge fortunes from technology
- () poorest people. This startling disparity in wealth is according to a report from the charity Oxfam. It reported
- () that since the global financial crisis in 2008, the number of billionaires in the world has
- () the world's rich and poor and the ever-widening gap in wealth inequality.
- () fortunate - the poorest half of the planet is seeing its wealth slowly shrink as prices of commodities increase, wages are squeezed
- () decent education or quality healthcare has become a luxury only the rich can afford."
- () on personal earnings and corporate profits, and eliminating tax avoidance
- () try and redress the imbalance in wealth. It recommended taxing income at fairer levels, increasing tax

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

1. poorest The 3.8 the people . wealth of total billion
2. number doubled . in world the billionaires The of
3. getting day . are They richer every \$2.5 billion
4. slowly commodities as shrink increase . Wealth prices of
5. growing gap rich The between and poor . the
6. huge have The their world's fortunes. made mega-wealthy
7. the and wealth . redress imbalance Try in
8. taxing It recommended levels . income fairer at
9. commonly used by Eliminating avoidance tax schemes companies.
10. only luxury can the rich A afford .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

The combined *fortunate / fortune* of 26 of the world's richest people is equal to the total wealth of the 3.8 billion poorest people. This *startling / sparkling* disparity in wealth is according to a report from the *charitable / charity* Oxfam. It reported that since the *globally / global* financial crisis in 2008, the number of billionaires in the world *was / has* doubled. They are also getting \$2.5 billion richer every day. This is in *stark / spark* contrast to the world's less fortunate - the poorest half of the planet is *seeing / seen* its wealth slowly shrink *as / was* prices of commodities increase, wages are squeezed and land prices and rents *raise / rise*. Oxfam's report highlights the growing gap between the world's rich and poor and the ever-widening gap *on / in* wealth inequality.

The report says that *mostly / most* of the world's mega-wealthy have made their huge *fortunes / fortunate* from technology companies like Amazon, Microsoft and Facebook. The world's richest person is Amazon *flounder / founder* and CEO Jeff Bezos. His amassed \$100 billion fortune is 100 times greater than the annual health *budgetary / budget* of Ethiopia. Oxfam said it was time to try and *redress / dress* the imbalance in wealth. It recommended taxing income *at / of* fairer levels, increasing tax on personal earnings and corporate profits, and eliminating tax *avoid / avoidance* schemes *commonly / common* used by companies and the super-rich. It said: "In many countries, a *decant / decent* education or quality healthcare has become a luxury only the rich can *affront / afford*."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

The combined fortune of 26 of the world's richest people equals that of the 3.8 billion poorest people. This startling finding suggests that the world's richest people are pulling away from the rest of the world. They are getting \$2.5 billion richer every day. This is a stark contrast to the world's less fortunate - the poorest half of the planet is suffering with slowly shrinking prospects of commodities and resources, wages are squeezed and living standards are falling. Oxford's report highlights the growing gap between the world's rich and poor and the widening gap in wealth inequality.

The report says that most of the world's megawealthy have made their huge fortunes from technology companies like Amazon, Microsoft and Facebook. The world's richest person is Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos. His net worth is \$100 billion, fortune is 100 times greater than the next highest bidder of Ethiopia. Oxford said that what matters and redress the imbalance in wealth. It recommended taxing income at different levels, increasing tax on personal earnings and corporate profits, and limiting tax avoidance schemes commonly used by companies and the super-rich. It said: "In many countries, the dominant quality of the rich has become luxury only the rich can afford."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

the combined fortune of 26 of the worlds richest people is equal to the total wealth of the 38 billion poorest people this startling disparity in wealth is according to a report from the charity oxfam it reported that since the global financial crisis in 2008 the number of billionaires in the world has doubled they are also getting 25 billion richer every day this is in stark contrast to the worlds less fortunate the poorest half of the planet is seeing its wealth slowly shrink as prices of commodities increase wages are squeezed and land prices and rents rise oxfams report highlights the growing gap between the worlds rich and poor and the everwidening gap in wealth inequality

the report says that most of the worlds megawealthy have made their huge fortunes from technology companies like amazon microsoft and facebook the worlds richest person is amazon founder and ceo jeff bezos his amassed 100 billion fortune is 100 times greater than the annual health budget of ethiopia oxfam said it was time to try and redress the imbalance in wealth it recommended taxing income at fairer levels increasing tax on personal earnings and corporate profits and eliminating tax avoidance schemes commonly used by companies and the superrich it said in many countries a decent education or quality healthcare has become a luxury only the rich can afford"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190123-wealth-inequality.html>

The combined fortune of 26 of the world's richest people is equal to the total wealth of the 3.8 billion poorest people. This startling disparity in wealth is according to a report from the charity Oxfam. It reported that since the global financial crisis in 2008, the number of billionaires in the world has doubled. They are also getting \$2.5 billion richer every day. This is in stark contrast to the world's less fortunate - the poorest half of the planet is seeing its wealth slowly shrink as prices of commodities increase, wages are squeezed and land prices and rents rise. Oxfam's report highlights the growing gap between the world's rich and poor and the ever-widening gap in wealth inequality. The report says that most of the world's mega-wealthy have made their huge fortunes from technology companies like Amazon, Microsoft and Facebook. The world's richest person is Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos. His amassed \$100 billion fortune is 100 times greater than the annual health budget of Ethiopia. Oxfam said it was time to try and redress the imbalance in wealth. It recommended taxing income at fairer levels, increasing tax on personal earnings and corporate profits, and eliminating tax avoidance schemes commonly used by companies and the super-rich. It said: "In many countries, a decent education or quality healthcare has become a luxury only the rich can afford."

HOMWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. WEALTH: Make a poster about wealth. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. WAELTH INEQUALITY: Write a magazine article about making wealth inequality illegal. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on wealth. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how we can increase our wealth. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. f 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. g 6. e 7. c
8. m 9. h 10. i 11. l 12. k 13. n 14. j

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F b F c F d T e T f F g T h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. combined | a. accumulated |
| 2. disparity | b. imbalance |
| 3. stark | c. sharp |
| 4. fortunate | d. blessed |
| 5. gap | e. chasm |
| 6. huge | f. enormous |
| 7. amassed | g. amalgamated |
| 8. redress | h. even up |
| 9. eliminating | i. removing |
| 10. decent | j. satisfactory |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- 3.8 billion
- Oxfam
- \$2.5 billion richer
- Wages
- The gap between the world's rich and poor
- Technology
- \$100 billion
- Income
- Tax avoidance schemes
- Only the rich

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

- The total wealth of the 3.8 billion poorest people.
- The number of billionaires in the world doubled.
- They are getting \$2.5 billion richer every day.
- Wealth slowly shrink as prices of commodities increase.
- The growing gap between the rich and poor.
- The world's mega-wealthy have made their huge fortunes
- Try and redress the imbalance in wealth.
- It recommended taxing income at fairer levels.
- Eliminating tax avoidance schemes commonly used by companies.
- A luxury only the rich can afford.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. a 2. c 3. b 4. d 5. a 6. d 7. b 8. d 9. c 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)