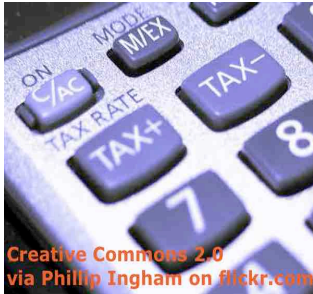


Millionaires say 'tax us more'

26th May, 2022



Times are hard for many people. Prices are rising around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic and Ukraine War have pushed up food and energy bills. In some countries, the price of energy has tripled. In other countries, food is 20 per cent more

expensive than a year ago. A group of wealthy business leaders who own multi-billion-dollar companies has asked their governments to tax them more. The leaders met at a meeting of global leaders in Davos, Switzerland. The group of multi-millionaires and billionaires actually protested in the streets. They called for governments to increase taxes for people like them. They marched in the streets with left-wing activists. The protestors wanted fairer tax systems.

The World Economic Forum has been held in Davos, Switzerland since 1971. World leaders meet there once a year to discuss global problems. The group of wealthy business people called themselves the Patriotic Millionaires. A UK millionaire said: "It's outrageous that our political leaders listen to those who have the most but know the least about the economic impact of this cost of living crisis." He said many super-rich people "pay infamously little in taxes". He added: "The only acceptable outcome from this conference is to tax the richest and tax us now." Another millionaire at the protest said: "We have hit the end of the line when another quarter of a billion people will be pushed into extreme poverty this year."

Sources: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) / [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) / [commondreams.com](https://www.commondreams.com)

Writing

The rich and big companies should pay much more tax immediately. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

times / prices / the world / pandemic / Ukraine / expensive / millionaire / tax / leaders / global problems / wealthy / leaders / cost of living / crisis / poverty

True / False

- 1) The article says many people are hard at times. T / F
- 2) Food prices went up by 20% in a year in some countries. T / F
- 3) A group of rich people wants governments to tax them more. T / F
- 4) Millionaires marched in the streets calling for higher taxes. T / F
- 5) World leaders meet at Davos every two years. T / F
- 6) A millionaire said the people who have the most know the least. T / F
- 7) A millionaire said rich people are famous for paying high taxes. T / F
- 8) A millionaire said a quarter of a billion people will experience poverty. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. hard | a. shocking |
| 2. pushed up | b. demonstrated |
| 3. wealthy | c. worldwide |
| 4. protested | d. rich |
| 5. activists | e. difficult |
| 6. global | f. very great |
| 7. outrageous | g. result |
| 8. impact | h. increased |
| 9. outcome | i. effect |
| 10. extreme | j. campaigners |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How patriotic are you?
- c) What do world leaders need to discuss?
- d) Do people who have the most know the least about life?
- e) What would make life better for you?
- f) What do you think of tax?
- g) Why do people live in poverty in the 21st century?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the Patriotic Millionaires?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Times are | a. billionaires |
| 2. the price of energy | b. of the line |
| 3. A group of wealthy | c. with left-wing activists |
| 4. multi-millionaires and | d. of living crisis |
| 5. They marched in the streets | e. business leaders |
| 6. World leaders meet there | f. a billion people |
| 7. the economic impact of this cost | g. hard for many people |
| 8. We have hit the end | h. poverty |
| 9. another quarter of | i. has tripled |
| 10. people will be pushed into extreme | j. once a year |

Discussion – Student B

- How hard is life for you?
- Is life getting harder or easier for you?
- What are food prices like in your country?
- What things do you not buy if you have little money?
- Should wealthy people pay more tax?
- Why do governments not tax wealthy people more?
- What do you think of the millionaires who want to pay more tax?
- What would make you march in the streets?

Spelling

- The COVID-19 emdcpnia
- the price of energy has eitplrd
- A group of eahytwl business leaders
- millionaires and irolsialben
- rsedttoep in the streets
- left-wing itvcasits
- sudicss global problems
- iopialctl leaders
- super-rich people pay flsuoayimn little
- The only bcpetcaela outcome
- another etarruq of a billion people
- pushed into emxeret poverty

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. d	4. b	5. j
6. c	7. a	8. i	9. g	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Bread

You think bread is the worst thing to increase in price. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't so bad if their things go up in price. Also, tell the others which is the least painful of these (and why): Internet fees, electricity or English lessons.

Role B – Internet

You think Internet fees are the worst things to increase in price. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't so bad if their things go up in price. Also, tell the others which is the least painful of these (and why): bread, electricity or English lessons.

Role C – Electricity

You think electricity is the worst thing to increase in price. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't so bad if their things go up in price. Also, tell the others which is the least painful of these (and why): Internet fees, bread or English lessons.

Role D – English Lessons

You think English lessons are the worst things to increase in price. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it isn't so bad if their things go up in price. Also, tell the others which is the least painful of these (and why): Internet fees, electricity or bread.

Speaking – Prices

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst things to increase in price at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| • Bread | • Books |
| • Internet | • Electricity |
| • Chocolate | • Water |
| • Coffee | • English lessons |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	T	4	T	5	F	6	T	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.