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Level 2

250 million children cannot read or write

2nd February, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140202-literacy-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140202-literacy-2.html>

A United Nations report says more than 250 million children of primary school age cannot read or write. They could also not do basic maths. The report said 120 million children have spent little or no time in school. The researchers said countries lose money when children do not go to school. Each year, governments lose up to \$130 billion. A U.N. spokeswoman said there was a global "learning crisis". This is because in a third of countries, 75 per cent of primary school teachers do not have enough training. The spokeswoman said: "The issue now is to put the focus on quality."

Most children not going to school are girls. Developing countries can get richer if they send girls to school – up to 25 per cent richer in 40 years. Almost two-thirds (66%) of girls in Arab countries and sub-Saharan Africa may never go to school. In Yemen, just 36 per cent of girls are literate. The Reuters news agency said: "If current trends continue, the poorest part of the young female population in developing countries won't achieve literacy until 2072" The good news is that in Laos, Rwanda and Vietnam, the number of children not going to school fell by 85 per cent in the last five years.

Sources: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/29/kid-literacy-rate_n_4691196.html?utm_hp_ref=world
<http://www.dw.de/unesco-report-higher-illiteracy-rate-more-waste-in-education-than-previously-believed/a-17393234>
<http://www.trust.org/item/20140130051043-gzad3/>
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/efareport/reports/2013/>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140202-literacy-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. children of primary | a. time in school |
| 2. basic | b. have enough training |
| 3. spent little or no | c. up to \$130 billion |
| 4. countries lose money when | d. the focus on quality |
| 5. governments lose | e. school age |
| 6. in a | f. children do not go to school |
| 7. teachers do not | g. third of countries |
| 8. The issue now is to put | h. maths |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Most children not going | a. continue |
| 2. get richer if they | b. in 40 years |
| 3. up to 25 per cent richer | c. to school fell by 85% |
| 4. In Yemen, just 36 per cent | d. send girls to school |
| 5. If current trends | e. of girls are literate |
| 6. the young female population in | f. to school are girls |
| 7. won't achieve literacy | g. developing countries |
| 8. the number of children not going | h. until 2072 |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140202-literacy-2.html>

A United Nations report says more than 250 million children of primary (1) _____ read or write. They could also not do basic maths. The report said 120 million children have spent (2) _____ school. The researchers said countries lose money when children do not go to school. Each year, governments (3) _____ billion. A U.N. spokeswoman said there was a (4) _____. This is because (5) _____, 75 per cent of primary school teachers do not have enough training. The spokeswoman said: "The issue now is to put (6) _____."

Most children not going (7) _____. Developing countries can get richer if they send girls to school – up to 25 per cent richer in 40 years. (8) _____ (66%) of girls in Arab countries and sub-Saharan Africa may never go to school. In Yemen, just 36 per cent of (9) _____. The Reuters news agency said: "If (10) _____, the poorest part of the young female population in developing countries won't (11) _____ 2072" The good news is that in Laos, Rwanda and Vietnam, the number of children not going to school fell by 85 per cent (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140202-literacy-2.html>

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140202-literacy-2.html>

Write about **literacy** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.
