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FACING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

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## **FACING GLOBAL CHALLENGES**

Petrozavodsk  
2018

Министерство образования и науки Российской Федерации  
Федеральное государственное бюджетное  
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ПЕТРОЗАВОДСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ

О. М. Шерехова

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*Учебное электронное пособие для обучающихся  
по направлению подготовки бакалавриата  
«История международных отношений»*

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# **UNIT 1. WHAT ARE THE 10 BIGGEST GLOBAL CHALLENGES?**

## **Pre-reading task**

**Discuss the following questions:**

1. What can be called a global issue? Can you name any?
2. Most countries today face serious social and environmental issues. List as many social and environmental problems as you can.
3. List two serious social and two serious environmental issues the place where you live faces today. For each, explain one cause and one effect of that issue.
4. Give an example of how people's wants and needs can conflict with protecting the environment.
5. List three characteristics of a developing nation.
6. What are the characteristics of a developed country? List 3.

## **Vocabulary to study**

**Try to explain the meaning of the following words and phrases in English. Translate them into Russian:**

*Spread of diseases, reduction of greenhouse emissions, to go green, to encourage reforestation, to have access to clean water, sewage, industrial waste, to be enrolled in smth, preventable problem, vicious cycle of poverty, to erode political and economic development, detrimental, persistent issue, innocent people, feel defenseless.*

## **Reading**

Among all the good in the world, and all the progress being made in global issues, there is still much more to be done. Given the overwhelming disasters that nations have been or still are going through, it is important to be aware of the most pressing global issues.

**Read the text and rank the global issues in importance to you. Explain your choice.**

## **Top 10 Current Global Issues**

### **1. Climate Change**

The global temperatures are rising, and are estimated to increase from 2.6 degrees Celsius to 4.8 degrees Celsius by 2100. This would cause more

severe weather, crises with food and resources and the *spread of diseases*. The reduction of *greenhouse emissions* and the spreading of education on the importance of *going green* can help make a big difference. Lobbying governments and discussing policies to reduce carbon emissions and encouraging *reforestation* is an effective way of making progress with climate change.

## **2. Pollution**

Pollution is one of the most difficult global issues to combat, as the umbrella term refers to ocean litter, pesticides and fertilizers, air, light and noise pollution. Clean water is essential for humans and animals, but more than one billion people don't *have access to clean water* due to pollution from toxic substances, *sewage* or industrial waste. It is of the utmost importance that people all over the world begin working to minimize the various types of pollution, in order to better the health of the planet and all those living on it.

## **3. Violence**

Violence can be found in the social, cultural and economic aspects of the world. Whether it is a conflict that has broken out in a city, hatred targeted at a certain group of people or sexual harassment occurring in the street, violence is a preventable problem that has been an issue for a long time. With continued work on behalf of the governments of all nations, as well as the individual citizens, the issue can be addressed and reduced.

## **4. Security and Wellbeing**

The U.N. is a perfect example of preventing the lack of security and wellbeing that is a serious global issue. Through its efforts with regional organizations and representatives that are skilled in security, the U.N. is working toward increasing the wellbeing of people throughout the world.

## **5. Lack of Education**

More than 72 million children throughout the globe that are of the age to be in primary education are not *enrolled in school*. This can be attributed to inequality and marginalization as well as poverty. Fortunately, there are many organizations that work directly with the issue of education in providing the proper tools and resources to aid schools.

## **6. Unemployment**

Without necessary education and skills for employment, many people, particularly 15- to 24-year olds, struggle to find jobs and create a proper

living for themselves and their families. This leads to a lack of necessary resources, such as enough food, clothing, transportation and proper living conditions. Fortunately, there are organizations throughout the world teaching people in need the skills for jobs and interviewing, helping to lift people from the *vicious cycle of poverty*.

### **7. Government Corruption**

Corruption is a major cause of poverty considering how it affects the poor the most, eroding *political and economic development and democracy*. Corruption can be *detrimental* to the safety and wellbeing of citizens living within the corrupted vicinity, and can cause an increase in violence and physical threats without as much regulation in the government.

### **8. Malnourishment & Hunger**

Currently there are 795 million people who do not have enough food to eat. Long-term success to ending world hunger starts with ending poverty. With fighting poverty through proper training for employment, education and the teaching of cooking and gardening skills, people who are suffering will be more likely to get jobs, earn enough money to buy food and even learn how to make their own food to save money.

### **9. Substance Abuse**

The United Nations reports that, by the beginning of the 21st century, an estimated 185 million people over the age of 15 were consuming drugs globally. The drugs most commonly used are marijuana, cocaine, alcohol, amphetamine stimulants, opiates and volatile solvents. Different classes of people, both poor and rich, partake in substance abuse, and it is a *persistent issue* throughout the world. Petitions and projects are in progress to end the global issue of substance abuse.

### **10. Terrorism**

Terrorism is an issue throughout the world that causes fear and insecurity, violence and death. Across the globe terrorists attack *innocent* people, often without warning. This makes civilians *feel defenseless* in their everyday lives. Making national security a higher priority is a key in combating terrorism, as well as promoting justice in wrongdoings to illustrate the enforcement of the law and the serious punishments for terror crimes.

As there are so many current global issues that require immediate attention, it is easy to get discouraged. However, the amount of progress that organizations have made in combating these problems is admirable,

and the world will continue to improve in the years to come. By staying active in current events, and standing up for the health and safety of all humans, everyone is able to make a difference in changing the fate of our world.

(by Chloe Turner adopted from «The Top 10 Most Important Current Global Issues». URL: <https://borgenproject.org/top-10-current-global-issues/>) [1].

**Exercises:**

**1. Complete the following sentences:**

1. More than one billion people don't have access to clean water due to \_\_\_\_\_.

2. It is of the utmost importance that people all over the world begin working to minimize \_\_\_\_\_.

3. The problem of violence can be reduced with \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Without the necessary education and skills for employment, many people struggle to \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Poor people will be more likely to get jobs, earn enough money to buy food and even learn how to make their own food to save money if \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Terrorists attack innocent people without warning and it makes \_\_\_\_\_.

7. It is easy to get discouraged as \_\_\_\_\_.

**2. Work in pairs. Translate the following words and phrases into Russian and ask your partner to translate them back into English:**

Be malnourished/undernourished, to cause hunger, access to food/water, to increase, natural disasters	Недостаточно питающийся, вызывать голод, доступ к еде/воде, увеличиваться, природные катастрофы
To purchase basic food, to suffer from, to affect/influence something, obesity, renewable resources	Покупать основную еду, страдать от, влиять на что-то, ожирение, возобновляемые ресурсы
Income level, available, deplete the ozone layer, to go extinct, global warming and climate change	Уровень дохода, доступный, разрушать озоновый слой, находиться на грани исчезновения, глобальное потепление и климатические изменения

Die of hunger/starvation, lack of access to clean water, homeless people, to be endangered, to live below the poverty line	Умирать от голода, отсутствие доступа к чистой воде, бездомные, быть в опасности, жить за чертой бедности
To preserve and protect the environment, to make ends meet, welfare programs, irreparable damage, harmful to the environment	Охранять и защищать окружающую среду, сводить концы с концами, социальные программы, невосполнимый ущерб, вредный для окружающей среды

**Video:** Watch the video «What Are The World's Biggest Problems»?  
[\(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YY9nxG2ZQ7w&t=2s>\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YY9nxG2ZQ7w&t=2s)

**While watching the video focus on the following questions:**

1. When did the UN launch 15 year plan to make the world a better place?
2. What are the 17 sustainable goals focused on?
3. What exactly are the world's biggest problems?
4. Where do the poorest people live?
5. What issue is closely tied to poverty?
6. How many people don't have access to enough food to live healthy and active life?
7. Do you know the number of people lack access to water?
8. How is the problem of illiteracy connected with the problem of poverty?
9. Why has land distribution become a relevant issue?
10. How does the UN work on these global issues?

### **Reading**

**Read the text and find the equivalents for the following words and phrases:** *gases that heat up the atmosphere; oil, coal, and natural gas; energy sources that do not pollute the environment; outside the dominant society and culture; changes in the earth's temperature and weather patterns; elements like water and air, which can be re-used; poor families and situations; die from not having enough food; programs that give money to poor people; not enough food.*

### **Global Issues**

One critical issue is preserving and protecting the environment. The burning of fossil fuels produces greenhouse gases that deplete the ozone layer and result in global warming and climate change.

Some scientists believe that we have already done irreparable damage to the planet, and now we are suffering the consequences of rising sea levels and increasingly frequent natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and tornados. A number of animal species have gone extinct, and many more are endangered.

To reverse this trend, we must invest in clean energy with renewable resources and utilize manufacturing methods that are not harmful to the environment.

There are still many regions of the world where children die of hunger/starvation. Unfortunately, extreme poverty is common in the rural areas of developing countries, where the population often suffers from food shortages and lack of access to clean water.

In the cities, homeless people sleep on the streets if there is not enough room in local homeless shelters. There are also many families on the margins of society who are living below the poverty line and struggle to make ends meet every month.

Although many governments create welfare programs to alleviate poverty, the widening gap between rich and poor suggests that poverty may never be completely eradicated.

Poverty and underdevelopment contribute to a host of additional problems as well. For example, many people die of preventable diseases because they have no access to the safe and effective vaccines that exist. A number of large corporations use child labor in the manufacturing of their products, as poor families may feel they have no other option for survival.

In addition, young women from disadvantaged backgrounds are prime targets for human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

(from «*Vocabulary: English Expressions For Global Problems*». URL: <https://www.espressoenglish.net/vocabulary-english-expressions-for-global-problems/>) [2].

### Exercises:

**1. Look through the text again and find English equivalents for the following expressions:** охранять окружающую среду, умирать от голода, детский труд, глобальное потепление, разрушать озоновый слой, предотвратимая болезнь, жить за чертой бедности, отсутствие доступа к чистой воде, находиться в опасности, вредный для окружающей среды, природные катаклизмы.

**2. Work in small groups and answer the questions related to the articles. Initiate discussion.**

1. Why is it important to be aware of the most pressing global issues?
2. Is climate change the same thing as global warming?
3. Why is climate change happening? What can we do to stop climate change?
4. Explain how economic crises in single countries affect the global economy.
5. How can contemporary poverty be eradicated?
6. What are some of the main effects of poverty in developing countries?
7. What wars and conflicts are going on in the world? What are their causes? Do you think such problems can be solved peacefully?
8. Discuss the consequences of economic development on the environment.
9. Should we help people from other countries facing their own social issues or natural disasters? Why/why not? If yes, how could we help them?

**What are the Sustainable Development Goals?**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

These 17 Goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities.

- ◆ Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- ◆ Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- ◆ Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.
- ◆ Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- ◆ Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- ◆ Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- ◆ Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- ◆ Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- ◆ Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

- ◆ Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- ◆ Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- ◆ Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- ◆ Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- ◆ Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- ◆ Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
- ◆ Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- ◆ Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

The goals are interconnected — often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another.

The SDGs came into effect in January 2016, and they will continue to guide UNDP policy and funding until 2030. As the lead UN development agency, UNDP is uniquely placed to help implement the Goals through our work in some 170 countries and territories.

Our strategic plan focuses on key areas including poverty alleviation, democratic governance and peacebuilding, climate change and disaster risk, and economic inequality. UNDP provides support to governments to integrate the SDGs into their national development plans and policies. This work is already underway, as we support many countries in accelerating progress already achieved under the Millennium Development Goals.

Our track record working across multiple goals provides us with a valuable experience and proven policy expertise to ensure we all reach the targets set out in the SDGs by 2030. But we cannot do this alone.

Achieving the SDGs requires the partnership of governments, private sector, civil society and citizens alike to make sure we leave a better planet for future generations [Sustainable development goals] [3].

Read for further information about Sustainable development goals here: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

**Choose one of the goals and comment on it. Do you think it is possible to reach it? Do we have any chances to improve life for future generations?**

**Test yourself**

1. The protection of the natural environment from destruction can be called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. erosion
  - b. conservation
  - c. deforestation
2. When land is used for subsistence farming \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Farmers grow only enough crops to feed their own families.
  - b. Farmers must move around often to find food and water for their animals.
  - c. Farmers raise crops or livestock to sell.
  - d. Farms are owned by large multinational corporations.
3. Which one is characterized by high population growth rate, extreme poverty and agricultural economy?
  - a. developing country
  - b. hunter-gather period
  - c. developed country
  - d. Industrial Revolution
4. The action of replanting/replacing any trees that a company cuts down for timber.
  - a. Sustainable Forestry
  - b. Forestry and Agriculture
  - c. Aquaculture
  - d. Plantation Farming
5. Choose two resources from the list below that are considered renewable resources.
  - a. plastic
  - b. trees
  - c. gold
  - d. coal
  - e. water
6. Which of the following is a nonrenewable resource?
  - a. fertile soil
  - b. fresh water

- c. fossil fuels
  - d. trees
7. Why is soil erosion a major ecological problem?
- a. It affects agricultural productivity
  - b. It destroys buildings
  - c. They can lead to earthquakes
  - d. All of the above
8. Planting new trees would be an example of what?
- a. Conservation
  - b. Recycling
  - c. Biological Resource
  - d. Fertile Soil
9. \_\_\_\_\_ happens when human waste, industrial waste and biological waste is dumped into the water.
- a. water pollution
  - b. air pollution
10. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a formal agreement among nations.
- a. Constitution
  - b. Petition
  - c. Treaty
  - d. Conflict
11. Deforestation is a process that \_\_\_\_\_
- a. helps the planet's oxygen level
  - b. allows humans to produce goods
  - c. clears large areas of forests
  - d. gives back to the community
12. During this stage, birth rates have fallen back into balance with death rates and the population stabilizes.
- a. pre-industrial
  - b. early transition
  - c. post-industrial
  - d. industrial
13. How many planes did the terrorists use on 9/11?
- a. 2
  - b. 4
  - c. 5
14. Developing countries tend to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. younger, poor, growing
  - b. younger, wealthy, shrinking

- c. older, wealthy, growing  
d. older, wealthy, shrinking
15. Developed countries tend to be \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. older, wealthy, shrinking  
b. younger, wealthy, shrinking  
c. older, poor, growing  
d. older, poor, shrinking
16. What are two ways to conserve natural resources?  
a. use as much of them as you can and recycle them  
b. dig deep into the earth and use less of them  
c. recycle them and dig oil wells  
d. use less of them and recycle them
17. Terrorism can be used to cause Fear.  
a. True  
b. False
18. Coral reefs are called the rain forest of the ocean because \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. they prevent erosion  
b. they prevent the removal of forest trees  
c. they are the homes of Corals.
19. The chemical that causes the destruction of the ozone layer is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Chlorofluoro carbon dioxide  
b. Chlorofluoride carbons  
c. Chlorofluoro carbons
20. During this stage there are food shortages, malnutrition, poor sanitation, and death rates are high.  
a. pre-industrial  
b. early transition  
c. late transition  
d. post-industrial
21. Which country is the biggest energy user in the world?  
a. China  
b. U.S.A  
c. Australia  
d. Africa
22. The clearing of the forest that has devastating effects on animal habitats is called?  
a. vegetation regeneration

- b. deforestation
  - c. land clearing
  - d. endangered area
23. Globalization is the movement toward a more integrated and inter-dependent world economy.
- a. True
  - b. False
24. What's the correlation between life expectancy and GDP?
- a. As GDP goes up, life expectancy goes up.
  - b. As GDP goes up, life expectancy goes down.
  - c. As GDP goes down, life expectancy goes up.
  - d. None of these choices.
25. During this stage access to food and medicine improve, leading to rapid drops in death rates.
- a. pre-industrial
  - b. early transition
  - c. late transition
  - d. industrial
26. People in third world countries have
- a. the best jobs
  - b. little education
  - c. a higher literacy rate
  - d. a greater standard of living
27. What has caused the death rates to increase in Kenya, as well as life expectancy to drop to 49 years?
- a. starvation
  - b. lack of water
  - c. AIDS
  - d. genetic disease
28. Innovations in technology, such as the \_\_\_\_\_, contribute to the global flow of information, capital, goods, and services.
- a. Internet
  - b. light bulb
  - c. microwave
  - d. automobile
29. Worldwide markets in which the buying and selling of goods and services by all nations takes place is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. public economy
  - b. trading economy

- c. national economy
  - d. global economy
30. Why is it important to conserve fuels?
- a. Conserving fuels helps scientists find new sources of energy.
  - b. Once fuel is recycled, it can ever be used again.
  - c. There are so many fuels that it is not possible to use them up.
  - d. Fuels are natural resources that can become used up.
31. Who is affected first by carbon dioxide pollution?
- a. healthy adults
  - b. children and the elderly
  - c. farmers along Lake Maracaibo
  - d. fishermen along the Caribbean coast
32. One natural resource that is very important for human survival is \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. gold
  - b. fertile soil
  - c. coal
  - d. natural gas
33. Rapid population growth is now occurring mostly in \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. industrialized nations
  - b. the Northern Hemisphere
  - c. Europe
  - d. developing nations
34. Which of following does NOT describe a way to protect natural resources?
- a. mining Earth to bring fossil fuels to the surface
  - b. using recycled motor oil as industrial fuel oil
  - c. using solar energy to heat homes and water
  - d. planting new trees to replace those cut down
35. What does the word recycle mean?
- a. trash
  - b. not to touch
  - c. reuse
  - d. get rid of
36. Who started the International Red Cross?
- a. Henry Dumont
  - b. Clara Barton
  - c. Florence Nightingale
  - d. U. S. Grant

37. Some countries fear the development of a single world culture, or
- 
- a. interdependence.
  - b. tariffs.
  - c. specialization
  - d. globalization.
38. Ocean resources are
- a. infinite
  - b. finite
39. Fertile land turning into desert is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. mineral
  - b. desertification
  - c. apartheid
  - d. famine
40. Which of the following statements is FALSE?
- a. Recycling increases the amount of trash.
  - b. America's landfills are growing higher and higher.
  - c. Factories and vehicles in the United States cause acid rain.
  - d. Americans generate huge amounts of trash.
41. To reduce the amount of garbage, people practice the three R's: reduce, reuse, recycle. Which category of Human Geography would this be an example of?
- a. Humans adapting to their surroundings
  - b. Humans spreading ideas and information
  - c. Preserving and restoring
  - d. Human movement
42. What is a major concern of those who oppose urban sprawl?
- a. loss of habitat
  - b. affordable housing
  - c. subsistence farming
  - d. pollution of rivers
43. When regions depend on one another, they are economically
- 
- a. free enterprise system
  - b. globalization
  - c. interdependent

(from [https://www.helpteaching.com/questions/Global\\_Issues](https://www.helpteaching.com/questions/Global_Issues)) [4].

# **UNIT 2. WHY IS WORLD HUNGER STILL A PROBLEM?**

## **Pre-reading task**

Have You Ever Wondered...

- ◆ Why world hunger is still a problem?
- ◆ How much food is wasted around the world each year?
- ◆ Why we throw away so much food?

**Vocabulary to study:** Words to know when talking about hunger.

**Read the words and their definitions. Translate them from English into Russian. Add some more words on the topic to this list.**

Hunger	A condition in which people do not get enough food to provide the nutrients for fully productive, active and healthy lives
Malnutrition	A broad term for a range of conditions that hinder good health, caused by inadequate or unbalanced food intake or from poor absorption of food consumed
Food security	Assured access to enough nutritious food to sustain an active and healthy life, including: food availability (adequate food supply); food access (people can get to food); and appropriate food use (the body's absorption of essential nutrients)
Food insecurity	The limited or uncertain availability or ability to acquire safe, nutritious food in a socially acceptable way. Exists when people lack access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food, and therefore are not consuming enough for an active and healthy life. This may be due to the unavailability of food, inadequate purchasing power, or inappropriate utilization at household level

Chronic symptoms	The limited or uncertain availability or ability to acquire safe, nutritious food in a socially acceptable way. This may be due to the unavailability of food, inadequate purchasing power, or inappropriate utilization at household level
Acute symptoms	Sharp, severe, intense; usually short term
Poverty	The lack of basic human needs, such as clean and fresh water, nutrition, health care, education, clothing and shelter, because of the inability to afford them
Non-Profit Organizations	Philanthropic organizations that provide goods or services to a special interest group
Philanthropy	The desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes
Gross domestic product	The value of U.S. dollars of all goods and services produced within a country in one year (its gross domestic product), divided by its population. It is one way to gauge a nation's wealth
Human development index	This number measures economic and human well-being on a scale of 0–1. It combines life expectancy, literacy, and purchasing power into one figure
Life expectancy rate literacy rate	The age to which a newborn can expect to live. The percent of people who can read and write
Population growth (increase)	The birth rate minus the death rate of a country
Population	The number of people living in a country

Population density	The population of a country divided by the area of the country (average number of people who live on each square mile of land)
Economy	Way of producing goods
Economics	How people use limited resources to produce, distribute, and consume goods and services
Natural resources	Materials from the earth that people use to meet their needs
Renewable resources	Natural resources that cannot be used up or that can be replaced
Nonrenewable resources	Natural resources that are finite or limited in supply; once humans use them up, they are gone

**You can listen how to pronounce all these words, phrases and their definitions here: <https://quizlet.com/59564547/world-hunger-vocabulary-flash-cards/> [7].**

### Reading

#### **Read the text, transcribe, translate and pronounce the words in italics:**

For breakfast, you might enjoy a bowl of *cereal* or *oatmeal*. At university, you eat a hot, *nutritious* lunch. After university, you probably gobble down a snack or two before doing something. When all members of your family get home, it's time for a delicious family dinner. Maybe it'll be one of your favorites, like spaghetti and meatballs, tacos, or pizza! You might finish your evening with a quick pre-bedtime snack, like an apple or an orange.

If you're like most teenagers, you don't worry much about what you're going to eat. There's always food in the cupboards and the refrigerator. Unfortunately, the reality for millions upon millions of people around the world is that they are *undernourished* or malnourished because they simply do not have any (or enough) food to eat.

The fact that there are so many hungry people in the world today is *mind-boggling* when you think about it. We're well into the 21st century. We can communicate instantaneously with people all over Earth. Thanks to the Internet, the collected knowledge of humanity is at our fingertips

via the smartphones in our pockets. We can send probes to distant planets. How is world hunger still such a major problem?

Recent estimates from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization put the number of chronically undernourished people in the world at approximately 795 million. That means that about one in nine of the over seven billion people on Earth suffer from hunger regularly.

Nearly all of the world's undernourished people live in developing countries. In fact, about two out of three of the world's chronically-undernourished people live in Asia. Sub-Saharan Africa still remains the region with the worst hunger problems, where more than one in four people are undernourished.

Some people *assume* that world hunger is still a grave problem because there's simply not enough food to feed everyone. Scientists who have studied world hunger, however, will tell you that the world produces more than enough food to feed everyone on the planet. So what's the problem?

The main cause of hunger worldwide is poverty. Millions of people around the world are simply too poor to be able to buy food. They also lack the resources to grow their own food, such as *arable* land and the means to harvest, process, and store food.

There are many causes of poverty that contribute to the problem of world hunger. For example, conflicts around the world, including wars between countries, civil wars within countries, terrorism, and other violence, displace millions of people, leading to increased poverty and hunger.

Another contributing factor is hunger itself. Although it might seem odd to blame hunger for hunger, it's actually a reflection of the *vicious* cycle that hunger causes. When people are undernourished, they tend to be weak and unhealthy. If hunger makes it hard to grow and learn, it's no surprise when these people can't rise up to break the cycle of poverty and hunger.

When thinking of ways to fix world hunger, some people have started to focus on the issue of food waste. With nearly 800 million people in the world chronically undernourished and enough food produced worldwide to feed everyone, why is so much food wasted?

The United Nations estimates that the world wastes approximately 2.9 trillion pounds of food each year. That's enough to feed the world's undernourished more than twice over. To put things in perspective, that's about one-third of the world's food production wasted annually.

In the United States, the numbers are more staggering. Some experts estimate that as much as 40 % of the food produced in the U.S. is wasted. The problems with waste stem from every step in the food production, distribution, and consumption process.

Up to 20 % of fruits and vegetables never make it off the farm, because distributors and retailers have cosmetic standards that result in edible food with spots or blemishes getting thrown out. The food that does reach the grocery store often gets wasted if it's not sold in a timely manner. Consumers are also to blame, because restaurants and people at home throw out food on a regular basis.

Food waste also takes a toll on the environment and natural resources. In the United States, we spend over \$165 billion and use 25 % of our fresh water to produce the food we throw away. If we can develop ways to reduce food waste and improve food distribution worldwide, world hunger might one day finally become a problem of the past (from Wonderopolis. URL: <https://wonderopolis.org/wonder/why-is-world-hunger-still-a-problem>) [5].

### **Exercises:**

#### **1. Match the words with their definitions:**

1) malnourished	a) the action of using up a resource
2) consumption	b) the state of having little or no money and few or no material possession
3) approximately	c) serious problem
4) instantaneously	d) not being provided with adequate nourishment
5) grave problem	e) use or expend carelessly, extravagantly, or to no purpose
6) to waste	f) having a very powerful or overwhelming effect on the mind: amazingly or confusingly large, great, etc.
7) poverty	g) without any delay
8) mind-boggling	h) used to show that something is almost, but not completely, accurate or exact; roughly

#### **2. Look through the text again and give synonyms to the following: tasty, reason, strange, to find guilty, to cause damage, to decrease.**

**3. Decide whether the following statements are true or false. If a statement is false, provide a correct answer:**

1. Millions of people around the world are undernourished or malnourished because they simply do not have any (or enough) food to eat.
2. Nearly all of the world's undernourished people live in developed countries.
3. World hunger is still a grave problem because there's simply not enough food to feed everyone.
4. The main cause of hunger worldwide is war conflicts.
5. If we want to feed the world's undernourished we should stop wasting food.
6. The problem with waste is topical because restaurants and people at home throw out food on a regular basis.
7. Food waste also takes a toll on the environment and natural resources.

**More discussion points and information on World Hunger.**

**Read some more facts about hunger and poverty and be ready to discuss them.**

**Poverty:**

- ◆ Since 1990, the world has reduced the number of people who live in extreme poverty by over half. But that still leaves 767 million people living on the edge of survival with less than \$1.90 a day.
- ◆ Most of the extreme poor live in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Most live in rural areas, are poorly educated, and are employed in the agricultural sector. Over half are under 18 years old.
- ◆ To reduce hunger and poverty in the world, we have to improve the livelihoods of the poor. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to help smallholder family farmers improve their productivity and incomes.

**Hunger:**

- ◆ 66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone.
- ◆ Asia is the continent with the hungriest people — two thirds of the world's total. Southern Asia faces the greatest hunger burden, with about 281 million undernourished people.
- ◆ In sub-Saharan Africa the rate of undernourishment from 2014—2016 was almost 23 percent.

## **Nutrition:**

- ◆ Poor nutrition causes nearly half the deaths in children under five — 3.1 million children each year. When a child is undernourished her immune system is weakened and she can't fight off common, preventable illnesses like diarrhea or pneumonia.
- ◆ Since 1990, the world has reduced child mortality by more than half. That's great progress, but it still leaves 5.9 million children a year dying before they reach their 5th birthday. That's 11 children every minute!
- ◆ Globally, one in nine people in the world today (795 million) are undernourished. They get fewer than the minimum amount of calories needed for good health and growth (from Freedom from Hunger «World Hunger Facts». URL: <https://www.freedomfromhunger.org/world-hunger-facts>) [6].

## **Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions:**

1. How does hunger affect me personally?
2. How does hunger affect people in my country?
3. What impact does hunger have globally?
4. What can I do personally to help those affected by hunger?
5. Do you waste too much food at home?
6. What organizations exist in your city, county, or state to help those who are hungry?
7. Can science help end world hunger?

## **Reading**

**Read the text and define the words and phrases in *italics*, translate them into Russian.**

### **Reducing Wasted Food At Home**

Most people don't realize how much food they throw away every day — from uneaten *leftovers* to spoiled produce. About 94 percent of the food we throw away ends up in *landfills* or combustion facilities. In 2015, we *disposed* 37.6 million tons of food waste. By managing food sustainably and reducing waste, we can help businesses and consumers save money, provide a bridge in our communities for those who do not have enough to eat, and *conserve resources* for future generations.

### **Benefits of Reducing Wasted Food**

- ◆ **Saves money** from buying less food.

- ◆ **Reduces methane emissions** from landfills and lowers your carbon footprint.
- ◆ **Conserves energy and resources**, preventing pollution involved in the growing, manufacturing, transporting, and selling food (not to mention hauling the food waste and then landfilling it).
- ◆ **Supports your community** by providing donated untouched food that would have otherwise gone to waste to those who might not have a steady *food supply*.

### **Ways to Reduce Wasted Food**

Planning, prepping, and storing food can help your household waste less food. Below are some tips to help you do just that:

#### **Planning Tips**

By simply making a list with weekly meals in mind, you can save money and time and eat healthier food. If you buy no more than what you expect to use, you will *be more likely* to keep it fresh and use it all.

- ◆ Keep a running list of meals and their ingredients that your *household* already enjoys. That way, you can easily choose, shop for and prepare meals.
- ◆ Make your shopping list based on how many meals you'll eat at home. Will you eat out this week? How often?
- ◆ Plan your meals for the week before you go shopping and buy only the things needed for those meals.
- ◆ Include quantities on your shopping list noting how many meals you'll make with each item *to avoid* overbuying. For example: salad greens — enough for two lunches.
- ◆ Look in your refrigerator and cupboards first to avoid buying food you already have, make a list each week of what needs to be used up and plan upcoming meals around it.
- ◆ Buy only what you need and will use. *Buying in bulk* only saves money if you are able to use the food before it *spoils*.

#### **Storage Tips**

It is easy to overbuy or forget about fresh fruits and vegetables. Store fruits and vegetables for maximum freshness; they'll taste better and last longer, helping you to eat more of them.

- ◆ Find out how to store fruits and vegetables so they stay fresh longer inside or outside your refrigerator.

- ◆ Freeze, preserve, or *can* surplus fruits and vegetables — especially abundant seasonal produce.
- ◆ Many fruits give off natural gases as they ripen, making other nearby produce spoil faster. Store bananas, apples, and tomatoes by themselves, and store fruits and vegetables in different bins.
- ◆ Wait to wash berries until you want to eat them to *prevent* mold.
- ◆ If you like to eat fruit at room temperature, but it should be stored in the refrigerator for maximum freshness, take what you'll eat for the day out of the refrigerator in the morning.

### **Prep Tips**

Prepare *perishable* foods soon after shopping. It will be easier to whip up meals or snacks later in the week, saving time, effort, and money.

- ◆ When you get home from the store, take the time to wash, dry, chop, dice, slice, and place your fresh food items in clear storage containers for snacks and easy cooking.
- ◆ Befriend your freezer and visit it often. For example,
  - ▷ Freeze food such as bread, sliced fruit, or meat that you know you won't be able to eat in time.
  - ▷ Cut your time in the kitchen by preparing and freezing meals ahead of time.
  - ▷ Prepare and cook perishable items, then freeze them for use throughout the month.
  - ▷ For example, bake and freeze chicken breasts or fry and freeze taco meat.

### **Thriftiness Tips**

Be *mindful* of old ingredients and leftovers you need to use up. You'll waste less and may even find a new favorite dish.

- ◆ Shop in your refrigerator first! Cook or eat what you already have at home before buying more.
- ◆ Have produce that's past its prime? It may still be fine for cooking. Think soups, casseroles, stir fries, sauces, baked goods, pancakes or smoothies.
- ◆ If safe and healthy, use the edible parts of food that you normally do not eat. For example, stale bread can be used to make croutons, beet tops can be sautéed for a delicious *side dish*, and vegetable scraps can be made into stock.

- ◆ Learn the difference between «sell-by», «use-by», «best-by», and *expiration dates*.
- ◆ Are you likely to have leftovers from any of your meals? Plan an «eat the leftovers» night each week.
- ◆ Casseroles, stir-fries, frittatas, soups, and smoothies are great ways to use leftovers too. Search for websites that *provide suggestions* for using leftover ingredients.
- ◆ At restaurants, order only what you can finish by asking about portion sizes and be aware of side dishes included with entrees. Take home the leftovers and keep them for or to make your next meal.
- ◆ At *all-you-can-eat buffets*, take only what you can eat [8].

**Complete the following sentences:**

1. By managing food sustainably and reducing waste, we can help \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Planning, prepping, and storing food can help \_\_\_\_\_.

3. You can save money and time and eat healthier food simply by \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Fruit and vegetables will taste better and last longer if \_\_\_\_\_.

5. If you prepare perishable foods soon after shopping you \_\_\_\_\_.

6. You'll waste less and may even find a new favorite dish \_\_\_\_\_.

**Look through the text again and add your own tips on how to reduce wasted food at home. What are the benefits of reducing wasted food?**

**Video**

**Watch the video and listen to «World Hunger Speech by Gabrielle LeRette» (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJXAMhufAQA>).**

While watching the video focus on the question: How can we help children who are suffering from hunger?

**Then, watch a video entitled «Ending hunger now» in which Josette Sheeran shares her worries and concerns about the problem of starvation ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdxVbUja\\_pY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdxVbUja_pY)). While watching the video focus on the question: How can the world put an end to starvation? Be ready to express your opinions.**

Before you start watching the video make sure that you understand what these expressions mean. Be ready to define them: vulnerability, to obtain, negotiable, famine, to nurse a baby, outrage, irreversible, to neglect, hardship, to breastfeed, remote village, available, compassion.

## Project

**Choose one of the following topics, make a presentation (about 8 slides) and report it to your groupmates:**

1. Poverty is the main cause of hunger, and hunger is a cause of poverty.
2. The world produces enough food to feed all 7 billion people who live in it, but those who go hungry either do not have land to grow food or money to purchase it.
3. Hunger takes a toll on our mood, our focus, and our sense of physical well-being.
4. Malnutrition — a problem too great to be ignored.
5. Hunger is not just a third world problem.
6. It is important to acknowledge that there are people in our communities for whom hunger is a very real problem.
7. Global hunger now afflicts nearly a billion people worldwide.
8. Hunger can be overcome by redistributing food from areas where there is a surplus to areas where there is a shortage.
9. More than 60 % of the world's chronically hungry are women.
10. Hunger kills more people every year than AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined.

# **UNIT 3. ‘ENDING WORLD POVERTY IS AN UNREALISTIC GOAL’?**

## **Pre-reading task**

**Work in pairs. Read some famous quotes about poverty, discuss them and exchange your ideas with your groupmates.**

1. «Extreme poverty anywhere is a threat to human security everywhere». — Kofi Annan, Seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. «Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime». — Aristotle, Greek philosopher.

3. «Poverty is the worst form of violence». — Mahatma Gandhi, Indian political and spiritual leader.

4. «Poverty is like punishment for a crime you didn’t commit». — Eli Khamarov, writer.

5. «In a country well governed, poverty is something to be ashamed of. In a country badly governed, wealth is something to be ashamed of». — Confucius, Chinese teacher and philosopher.

6. «An imbalance between rich and poor is the oldest and most fatal ailment of all republics». — Plutarch, Greek historian.

7. «Some people think luxury is the opposite of poverty. It is not. It is the opposite of vulgarity». — Coco Chanel, French fashion designer.

8. «When a poor person dies of hunger, it has not happened because God did not take care of him or her. It has happened because neither you nor I wanted to give that person what he or she needed». — Mother Teresa, Roman Catholic nun.

9. «There is enough in the world for everyone’s need, but not for everyone’s greed». — Frank Buchman, Protestant evangelist.

10. «Poverty is a very complicated issue, but feeding a child isn’t». — Jeff Bridges, actor.

11. «As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality exist in our world, none of us can truly rest». — Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa.

12. «You can’t get rid of poverty by giving people money». — P. J. O’Rourke, political satirist (from Famous Quotes About Poverty).

URL: <https://www.compassion.com/poverty/famous-quotes-about-poverty.htm> [10].

## Vocabulary to study

**Words to know when talking about poverty.**

**Read the words and their definitions. Translate them from English into Russian. Add some words on this topic to this list.**

Poverty	A situation where people's needs are not met. These needs can be for food, water and shelter, but they can also be for self-esteem, companionship and happiness
Absolute poverty	Inability to meet the basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing necessary for survival
Human poverty	Conditions of the poor that can't be measured in terms of money. For example, illiteracy, poor health, lack of security
Relative poverty	When a person is unable to enjoy the normal standard of living for the society in which he or she lives. For example, a person is relatively poor if he or she cannot afford a television
National poverty line	Level of income within a specific country below which people are considered to be poor. For example, in the USA, the level of \$12.00 per day is used
Working poor	People who have jobs and generally work full time but cannot make enough money to pay their basic expenses, such as food and shelter
Illiterate	Unable to read or write
Self-esteem	A measure of how much you value, respect, and feel confident about yourself
Companionship	Friendship; company
Shelter	Anything that covers or protects; a structure that provides privacy and protection from danger; a house
Inequality	A situation where income, resources, quality of life and opportunities (school, work, etc) are not shared equally among a population; disparity
Resources	Things that are available for use
Quality of life	The degree of overall satisfaction that a person gets from life; more than just the material things of life, including security, health care, education, friends, social activity, and basic human rights

Less developed world	Developing nations in which many people are poor and industry is growing. Sometimes called the Third World or Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDC)
More developed world	Countries with advanced levels of industrialization and generally high incomes; usually the world's richest nations including Japan, North America, and most nations in Europe among others. Also called More Economically Developed Countries (MEDC)
Globalization	Term used to describe the increased connections between different parts of the world through communications (for example, the internet) and greater international trade
Ethnic minority	A group of people whose origins are different from the majority of the population
Infrastructure	Basic facilities and services needed for the functioning of a community such as roads, water, electricity and schools
Human rights	The rights that are considered by most societies to belong automatically to all people, including the rights to justice, freedom, and equality
Development	A process of change and growth. It usually involves an improvement in people's lives, so that they become better, happier and freer

You can listen how to pronounce all these words, phrases and their definitions here: <https://quizlet.com/18602112/poverty-vocabulary-flash-cards/> [9].

### Reading

Read the text and define the words and phrases in italics.

#### **What's it like to be really poor?**

More than 3 billion people live on less than \$2.50 a day and an estimated 1.3 billion live in *extreme poverty*, making do with \$1.25 or less daily.

Can you imagine what it's like to not have enough food to eat and go to bed hungry at night?

Poverty is still a big problem in the world today, as you can see from the numbers. This is in spite of the progress that you see around you. The

good news is that in 2010, only 18 % of the world's population was living way below the poverty line as compared to 36 % in 1990. It's a small victory, but the progress is slow.

The World Bank aims to reduce global poverty to 9 % by 2020 and to 3 % by 2030. They plan to do this by focusing more on promoting *income growth* for the bottom 40 % of the population and boosting shared *prosperity*. It's a *herculean task*.

### **How is poverty measured?**

The problem with poverty is that the causes are extremely complicated with different factors contributing to the problem. Ending it requires more than just economic growth. «Developed» countries with strong economies still have a *significant* number of people who are struggling to survive.

How do we even measure poverty? The state of poverty is not the same for everybody. A person may be earning \$3 a day but their *financial capability* still needs to be compared to the rest of the population. So, a poor person in the US has a different poverty level than a poor person in Sub-Saharan Africa.

### **Quick Facts on Global Poverty**

- ◆ According to UNICEF, around 22,000 children die each day due to poverty. Hunger, lack of sanitation and access to clean water and lack of resources for proper health care are the main reasons.
- ◆ Back in 2011, 165 million children *were stunted* due to malnutrition.
- ◆ Around 1 billion people welcomed the 21<sup>st</sup> century not knowing how to read and write.
- ◆ *Infectious diseases* continue to cause the deaths of the poor people around the world. Diarrhea causes the death of 1.8 million children each year.
- ◆ Although poverty has been *declining* for the last 3 decades, the poor people in Sub-Saharan Africa continued to increase between 1981 and 2010. It went up from 205 million to 414 million.
- ◆ Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 1/3 of the world's poorest people, another 1/3 comes from India and then China, contributing 13 % to the global poverty statistics.
- ◆ In 2010, the average income of the poor people in developing countries increased from 74 cents to 87 cents per day. But the income of

the extreme poor in Sub-Saharan Africa remained *flat* at less than half of \$1.25 per day.

- ◆ Around 1.1 billion people in developing countries don't have access to water and 2.6 billion live in poor conditions lacking basic sanitation.
- ◆ 1.6 billion people live without electricity.

### **Ending Poverty**

Studies show that the more developed a country becomes, the larger the income *gap* grows. We can see from these numbers that a country's economic growth does not guarantee that its citizens will be lifted out of poverty. What needs to be solved is the inequality that develops.

If you can imagine, a poor person in an industrialized country will find it harder to interact within their society, than a poor person in a poor country. The *disparity* will be more obvious when there is a wider income gap between the rich and the poor. Due to this inequality, the *instances* of crime can increase when people find themselves looked down upon and *disrespected*. They feel the injustice of their situation even more.

No one wants to be poor. Sometimes you are born to it and your *circumstances* give you fewer options. You spend your days trying your best to *survive*, with no energy left to think about being creative and being concerned about the things that you and I think about daily.

What are the solutions being proposed to solve the problem of poverty around the world?

1. Bring education to the extremely poor to enable them to have better jobs.
2. Give them Health Care to improve their physical conditions and make them more competitive.
3. Use the budget *allocated* for War and Weapons to stop Global Hunger.
4. Governments should invest in programs and projects that will be beneficial to improving the lives of the poor — to open opportunities for them to lift themselves out of poverty. More schools, better sanitation, a cleaner environment and more income opportunities.
5. Give people living without electricity access to renewable energy.

Reducing poverty is doable. Now more than ever, we have the technology and the tools we need to end it. What we need is to increase our efforts and support current initiatives. With everyone's help and the willingness of our poor population, we might just succeed (from Poverty in the World

today What's it like to be poor [http://www.theworldcounts.com/stories/  
Poverty-in-the-World-Today](http://www.theworldcounts.com/stories/Poverty-in-the-World-Today)) [11].

### **Exercises**

#### **1. Look through the text again and give synonyms to the following:**

Reasons, complex, to be in need of, shortage, to cooperate, evident, choice, to better, offer an opportunity, within one's powers.

#### **2. Decide whether the following statements are true or false. If a statement is false, provide a correct answer:**

1. In spite of the progress that you see around you poverty is a grave problem in the world today.

2. The World Bank plans to reduce global poverty by focusing more on producing food.

3. Developed countries with strong economies don't have any poor people who are struggling to survive.

4. All people in the world have the same poverty level.

5. According to UNICEF hunger is the main reason of child mortality.

6. Studies show that the more developed a country becomes, the larger the income gap grows.

7. Poor people spend their days trying their best to survive, they don't have enough energy to think about being creative.

#### **3. Say what these numbers stand for:**

1.1 billion, 9 %, 2.50, 36 %, 22,000, 1.25, 1 billion, 165 million.

#### **4. Translate the following sentences using active vocabulary from the text:**

1. Несмотря на развитие новых технологий, бедность остается самой большой проблемой на сегодняшний день.

2. Более трех миллиардов человек живут менее чем на 2 с половиной доллара в день.

3. Развитые страны с высоким уровнем экономики все еще не смогли преодолеть проблему бедности.

4. Несмотря на то что уровень бедности снижается последние три десятилетия, в мире остается большое количество людей, которые вынуждены бороться за свое существование.

5. Голод, отсутствие доступа к чистой воде, плохие санитарные условия являются основными причинами бедности в развивающихся странах.

**5. Answer the following questions:**

1. How would you define poverty? What do you think causes it?
2. What do you think living below the poverty line is like?
3. Would people who are considered poor in one society be considered rich in another?
4. Is poverty different in rich countries than in poor ones?
5. Why does poverty exist in rich countries like the USA?
6. Do you think it's possible to eradicate poverty in the world? In your country?
7. What do you think of people who buy expensive brands when so much poverty exists in the world?
8. It is often said that the rich are growing richer, and the poor are growing poorer. Do you agree? If so, why is it happening?
9. Do you do anything to help reduce poverty?
10. Do you think there'd be no wars if there were no poverty?

**6. Work in pairs and discuss which of the following factors are most effective in the fight against poverty? Rank the factors from the most to the least important. Explain your choice. Exchange your ideas with the rest of your group.**

- ◆ Debt relief
- ◆ Development aid
- ◆ Economic growth
- ◆ Empowering women
- ◆ Fair trade
- ◆ Good governance
- ◆ Import substitution and export industries
- ◆ Land redistribution
- ◆ Microloans

**Video: Watch the video «Why Some Countries Are Poor and Others Rich?» Be ready to answer this question. Initiate Discussion (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-4V3HR696k>).**

# **UNIT 4. CAN CORRUPTION EVER BE ELIMINATED?**

## **Pre-reading task**

**Discuss these questions in small groups.**

1. Is there a lot of corruption in your country?
2. What businesses have the most corruption in your country?
3. What recent corruption scandal was in the news?
4. Has corruption ever affected your life personally? What happened?

## **Vocabulary to study**

**Words to know when talking about corruption.**

**Read the words and their definitions. Translate them from English into Russian. Add some more words on the topic to this list.**

Swindle	To cheat someone out of money
Conflict of interests	Situation where an individual or the entity for which they work, whether a government, business, media outlet or civil society organization, is confronted with choosing between the duties and demands of their position and their own private interests
Vice	Criminal activities involving prostitution, pornography or drugs
Embezzle	To steal money from your employer
Embezzlement	When a person holding office in an institution, organization or company dishonestly and illegally appropriates, uses or traffics the funds and goods they have been entrusted with for personal enrichment or other activities
Insider trading	When stockbrokers give information to someone about what stocks to buy
Money laundering	Financial transactions that are meant to transform illegally made money into legitimate money
Defraud	To trick or cheat someone or something in order to get money: to use fraud in order to get money from a person, an organization, etc
Extort	To get (something, such as money) from a person by the use of force or threats, similar to blackmail

Bribery	The act of offering someone money, services or other valuables, in order to persuade him or her to do something in return
Fraud	The term ‘fraud’ usually includes activities such as illegally transferring company money to your own or a friend’s bank account, pretending to have qualifications you do not have, pretending to have rendered a service that you have not rendered
Grease money	These are simply bribes, seen from the angle of the briber and alluding to the ‘drop of oil given to a squeaky wheel’ of excessive bureaucracy to make the things move smoothly again. Synonyms: softener, sweetener, gift
Petty corruption	Everyday abuse of entrusted power by public officials in their interactions with ordinary citizens, who often are trying to access basic goods or services in places like hospitals, schools, police departments and other agencies
Tax evasion	Illegal non-payment or under-payment of taxes, usually by deliberately making a false declaration or no declaration to tax authorities — such as by declaring less income, profits or gains than the amounts actually earned, or by overstating deductions
Tax avoidance	Legal practice of seeking to minimize a tax bill by taking advantage of a loophole or exception to the rules, or adopting an unintended interpretation of the tax code. It usually refers to the practice of seeking to avoid paying taxes by adhering to the letter of the law

## Reading

**Read the text and define the words in italics:**

**What is corruption?**

The simplest definition is:

Corruption is the misuse of public power (by elected politician or appointed civil servant) for private gain.

In order to ensure that not only public corruption but also private corruption between individuals and businesses could be covered by the same simple definition:

Corruption is the misuse of *entrusted power* (by heritage, education, marriage, election, appointment or whatever else) for private gain.

This broader definition covers not only the politician and the public servant, but also the CEO and CFO of a company, the notary public, the team leader at a workplace, the administrator or admissions-officer to a private school or hospital, the coach of a soccer team, etc.

A much more difficult, scientific definition for the concept ‘corruption’ was developed by Professor Dr. Petrus van Duyne:

Corruption is an *improbability* or *decay* in the decision-making process in which a decision-maker *consents* to deviate or demands deviation from the criterion which should rule his or her decision-making, *in exchange for* a reward or for the promise or expectation of a reward, while these motives influencing his or her decision-making cannot be part of the justification of the decision.

Major corruption comes close whenever major events involving large sums of money, multiple ‘players’, or huge quantities of products (think of food and pharmaceuticals) often in disaster situations, are *at stake*. Preferably, corruption *flourishes* in situations involving high technology (no one understands the real quality and value of products), or in situations that are chaotic. Think of Civil War: who is responsible and who is the rebel? Natural *disasters* like earthquakes, floods, droughts. The global community reacts quickly but local government might be disorganized and disoriented. Who *maintains* law and order? Or maybe the *purchase* of a technologically far advanced aircraft, while only a few can understand the technologies implied in development and production of such a plane. Mostly, the sums of money involved are huge, a relatively small amount of corrupt payment is difficult to attract attention. Or the number of actions is very large, for instance in betting stations for results of Olympic Games or international soccer-tournaments which can easily be manipulated.

Fighting corruption takes place in many ‘theaters’:

- ◆ political reforms, including the financing of political parties and elections;
- ◆ economic reforms, regulating markets and the financial sector;
- ◆ financial controls: budget, bookkeeping, reporting;
- ◆ Public supervision: media, parliament, local administrators and councils, registration;
- ◆ free access to information and data;
- ◆ maintaining law and order;
- ◆ improving and strengthening of the judicial system;

- ◆ institutional reforms: Tax systems, customs, public administration in general;
- ◆ whistleblowers and civil society organizations (NGO's).

We know that corruption will not disappear from society. Our efforts are meant to restrict corruption and to protect as much as possible the poor and weak in our societies (from «What is corruption». URL: <http://www.corruptie.org/en/corruption/what-is-corruption/>).

Around USD \$1 trillion a year, that's the amount of money that is (conservatively) estimated to be lost each year due to corruption, *fraud* and mismanagement. That's an *incomprehensible* number, but it's clear that this huge sum of money, if used effectively, could have a transformational *impact on* the world's economy, but especially for the poor. In fact, USD \$1 trillion is equivalent to the last 60 years development-related aid that has been transferred from rich countries to Africa — think about all the schools, free access to health care and clean drinking water that could be made *available* not only in Africa but globally from Armenia to the USA, if corruption was halved, or even *eradicated*!

We know that global corruption impacts poor people the most. History teaches us that corruption is not just a case of public officials *abusing* their positions of power for *private gain*, but business managers, heads of families, religious leaders, the list goes on and on, have taken opportunities to abuse the power given to them for private gain. So how do we solve a problem like corruption?

Reviewing the rise of the anti-corruption movement, there is a clear business case *supporting* reform, various international standards *implemented* and enforced as well as more recently pro-integrity, citizen driven initiatives designed to *combat corruption*. So what does history tell us about the anti-corruption movement? What is working in the global fight against corruption? Well firstly, it tells us that corruption by its very nature is complex, multi-faceted and *evolves* quickly, so it's a *tough challenge* to *embark* on. But one of the trends we see is that the most successful anti-corruption *efforts* have commitment from not only the politicians but also the general public. Anti-corruption initiatives where citizens, people like you and me, work together in partnership with government and corporations and take some responsibility for building integrity have a higher success rate in terms of systematically designing out corruption (from

«How do we solve problems like corruption?» by Joy Saunders <https://digitalimpact.org/how-do-we-solve-a-problem-like-corruption/>) [14].

### Exercises

#### **1. Replace the words in brackets with their English equivalents.**

1. Corruption ( злоупотребление ) of public power by elected politician or appointed civil servant for private gain.
2. Corruption (процветает) in situations involving high technology.
3. Global corruption (оказывает влияние на) poor people the most.
4. Governments need to take effective action in the fight against (взяточничество) at the national level.
5. Governments, companies and civil society organizations must have efficient internal reporting channels and follow-up mechanisms to detect (мошенничество), corruption and gross mismanagement inside an organization.
6. Once a company bribes it can no longer maintain the position that it does not pay bribes and sets itself up for continuing (вымогательство).

#### **2. Work in pairs. Translate the following words and phrases into Russian and ask your partner to translate them back into English:**

To undermine political development, to flourish, to permeate through society, impact of corruption on, consumer and producer	Негативно сказываться на политическом развитии, процветать, распространяться в обществе, влияние коррупции на, потребитель и производитель
To exacerbate the conditions, to be involved in corruption, to bribe (to give or to take bribes), to gain export contracts	Ухудшать условия, быть вовлеченным в коррупцию, давать взятку, получить экспортный контракт
Enrich oneself at the expense of the common citizen, <i>abuse of entrusted power</i> , <i>private profit</i> , impose obligations upon the recipient	Обогащаться за счет обычных граждан, злоупотребление доверенными полномочиями (властью), личная выгода, налагать обязательства на получателя
Pay taxes, employee and the employer, erode political and economic development, improbity	Платить налоги, работник и работодатель, тормозить политическое и экономическое развитие, нечестность

**3. Read the following quotes about corruption and comment upon them. Decide whether you agree or disagree with them.**

1. Where do the evils like corruption arise from? It comes from the never-ending greed. The fight for corruption-free ethical society will have to be fought against this greed and replace it with ‘what can I give’ spirit (A. P. J. Abdul Kalam).

2. Corruption is a cancer: a cancer that eats away at a citizen’s faith in democracy, diminishes the instinct for innovation and creativity; already-tight national budgets, crowding out important national investments. It wastes the talent of entire generations. It scares away investments and jobs (Joe Biden).

3. We must listen to the concerns of our people without dismissing them. When people see something wrong, there is something wrong. When our people see corruption, it means there is corruption. When our people see that their resources are being stolen by certain people, it means this is happening, and we should listen (Cyril Ramaphosa).

4. Corruption is the enemy of development, and of good governance. It must be got rid of. Both the government and the people at large must come together to achieve this national objective (Pratibha Patil).

5. When someone talks about Western films, you probably think of those old black and white cowboy films your granddad likes. But the Western is a wonderful genre because it is usually a story of a lone hero fighting against corruption in a dangerous world (Caroline Lawrence).

6. Democracy must be built through open societies that share information. When there is information, there is enlightenment. When there is debate, there are solutions. When there is no sharing of power, no rule of law, no accountability, there is abuse, corruption, subjugation and indignation (Atifete Jahjaga). Read more at: <https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/corruption> [12].

**4. Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions:**

1. What are the best ways to solve the problem of corruption?

2. Is corruption ever justified?

3. Can a corrupt organization ever be more efficient than a less corrupt organization if they are about the same size and in the same industry?

4. If you were in a position of power, do you think you would be corrupt?

## **What can you do to fight corruption?**

It's a new year, and the fight against corruption goes on. It is tempting to feel discouraged, but if you thought there was nothing you as an individual could do, think again!

While the problem might be so deeply entrenched in the private and public workings of a country that people start thinking that corruption is «just a way of life», be aware that every society, sector and individual will benefit if you say «No more» to this crime.

Remember, if people refuse to allow corruption into their lives, there will be no opportunity for the corrupt to carry out their illegal deeds — so you as an individual most definitely can make a difference by breaking the chain of corruption in your life, which will have a knock-on effect down the line.

Whether you're a civil servant, a member of the media, a trade union member or official, a business person, an NGO worker, or an ordinary citizen, you CAN act against corruption, starting today! The benefits are better education, improved healthcare, a functioning justice system, enhanced development, strong democracy, and more prosperity for all.

What are you waiting for?

**5. Here are some strategies on how you can say no to corruption.**  
**Match them with the actions.**

- 1. Follow the money.**
- 2. Count supplies.**
- 3. Improve public health.**
- 4. Support education.**
- 5. Safeguard development.**
- 6. Bring prosperity.**
- 7. Promote justice.**

a) Ensure that companies providing healthcare follow international good practices to provide services and supplies that benefit all. Allowing fake medicines to enter the market for reasons of greed, for example, can endanger a whole society. Citizens must not turn a blind eye to corrupt private (or public) sector practices in favour of profit.

b) Enact policies covering gifts, supply chain, whistleblowers and other key corruption issues, and educate all employees about them. Employees will work better if they feel confident that they are operating in a fair and just environment.

c) Governments have vast sums of public money to spend and this can pose a serious corruption risk. By keeping tabs on government expenditure, you can help shed light on how your country's taxes are being spent and expose any abuses.

d) Adhere to rules on fair competition. Corruption can shield disreputable companies from fair competition, allowing inefficient firms to survive, and distorting the marketplace.

e) Schools receive lots of supplies from governments, like textbooks, lab equipment or other classroom necessities. It's not rocket science to keep track of this. It just takes commitment and transparency. Ask to see how many Bunsen burners are supposed to be in the biology labs and if the numbers don't add up — ask what's happened.

f) Fund education programs and ensure that they are fairly administered. Supporting a strong education system through donations and advocacy is a good investment for the future. Future prosperity depends on the quality and performance of the educational system. Ensuring that educational funds are administered in a fair and transparent manner protects a country's most valuable asset — its children.

g) By refusing to pay or accept bribes, facilitation fees or gifts. Rejecting illicit rewards for work done or to be done sends a strong message, not only to those who would attempt to solicit favours, but also to those working with them. (from «What Can You Do To Fight Corruption?» by Corruption Watch. URL: <https://www.corruptionwatch.org.za/what-can-you-do-to-fight-corruption/>) [15].

### **Translation**

#### **Translate from Russian into English:**

1. Сегодня есть много глобальных проблем, которые могут быть разделены на две категории: экологические проблемы и социальные, экономические и политические проблемы/вопросы.

2. Первая категория включает вопросы, относящиеся к экологическому разрушению, загрязнению и глобальному потеплению как результату.

3. Вторая категория глобальных проблем касается социальных, экономических и политических вопросов/тем.

4. Они включают глобальный терроризм, бедность, права человека, вопросы здоровья, расизм и многое другое.

5. Бедность — одна из самых серьезных глобальных проблем.  
Хуже всего ситуация в Африке, где люди (главным образом дети) умирают каждый день от голода.

6. Бедные люди имеют меньше возможностей доступа к здравоохранению, образованию и другому обслуживанию.

7. Неизлечимые болезни и эпидемии также являются глобальным вызовом/проблемой для человечества.

8. Есть много организаций, которые борются с социальными глобальными проблемами, но эта борьба будет длиться еще долгое время.

### Project

**Do some research and learn more about the social issues we are facing today. Find out how you can contribute to the efforts to make our world a better place. Make up a Power Point presentation (6—8 slides). Exchange your ideas with your groupmates.**

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