
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Rich and poor



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Transcript

The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer.

That's what **world leaders** who are gathering for the start of the World Economic Forum are being told this week.

The **charity** Oxfam says that by 2015, 50% of the world's wealth will be owned by the richest 1% of the population.

They say **urgent action** is needed to **narrow the gap** between the **global elite** and the other 99%.

Vocabulary

world leaders

presidents, prime ministers and other important people

charity

an organisation that helps people in need

urgent action

serious steps that need to be taken to solve a problem

narrow the gap

to bring two things closer together

global elite

the small group of people with the most power and money around the world

Watch the video online: Rich and poor <http://bbc.in/1AMwBZo>

Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports. Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

global elite / world leaders / narrow the gap / charity / urgent action

1. Growing scientific evidence of accelerating greenhouse gas emissions, melting icecaps and the shrinking capacity of "sinks" to absorb emissions means we need bold, _____ by government to drive down emissions to zero.
2. "We also recognise the importance of helping the lagging regions _____ in growth rates."
3. While _____ were formulating an international response to modern climate change, archaeologists were discussing a serious shift in climate that happened 2,500 years ago.
4. Stephen Sackur asks "is it time we challenged the power of the _____?"
5. Filmmakers and _____ workers are joining forces to raise awareness of the dangers of childbirth in Bangladesh.

Answers

1. Growing scientific evidence of accelerating greenhouse gas emissions, melting icecaps and the shrinking capacity of "sinks" to absorb emissions means we need bold, **urgent action** by government to drive down emissions to zero.

Source: Green movement forgets its politics

<http://tinyurl.com/6lzrua>

2. "We also recognise the importance of helping the lagging regions **narrow the gap** in growth rates."

Source: Labour 'fails on North-South gap'

<http://tinyurl.com/mbvvxfo>

3. While **world leaders** were formulating an international response to modern climate change, archaeologists were discussing a serious shift in climate that happened 2,500 years ago.

Source: The year 2014 in archaeology

<http://tinyurl.com/owm8qou>

4. Stephen Sackur asks "is it time we challenged the power of the **global elite**?"

Source: The Power of the Global Elite

<http://tinyurl.com/m8pgh2c>

5. Filmmakers and **charity** workers are joining forces to raise awareness of the dangers of childbirth in Bangladesh.

Source: Bangladesh drama breaks childbirth taboo

<http://tinyurl.com/qacfhbb>