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## **Level 3**

# **250 million children cannot read or write**

**2nd February, 2014**

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

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

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

A new report from the United Nations says more than 250 million children of primary school age cannot read or write. It said they could also not do basic mathematics. The report said that 120 million children have spent little or no time in school. The researchers said children not going to school means countries lose money. Each year, governments lose up to \$130 billion. Vibeke Jensen, a U.N. spokeswoman, said there was a global "learning crisis". She said this was because there were not enough well-trained teachers in poor areas. She said that in a third of countries, 75 per cent of primary school teachers do not have enough training. She added: "The issue now is to put the focus on quality."

The report said that most of those not going to school were girls. It said it was important that developing countries educate girls. Sending girls to school can increase a country's wealth by 25 per cent over 40 years. The report said that almost two-thirds (66%) of girls in Arab countries and sub-Saharan Africa would never go to school. In Yemen, just 36 per cent of young women 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" There was some good news. 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.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/>

# WARM-UPS

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

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*United Nations / primary school / mathematics / learning / teachers / poor / quality / developing countries / girls / wealth / literate / good news / in the last 5 years*

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

**3. SCHOOL:** Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners often.

Subject	How good were you?	How important is it?	What was difficult?
English			
Maths			
Art			
Sports			
History			
Literature			

**4. READING:** Students A **strongly** believe reading is more important than writing; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. SCHOOL SUBJECTS:** Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- literature
- English
- maths
- art
- geography
- science
- history
- sports

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

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. A U.N. report says 250 million children cannot do basic mathematics.      | T / F |
| b. 120 million primary-school-age children have never been to school.        | T / F |
| c. Countries lose \$130 billion a year when children do not go to school.    | T / F |
| d. The U.N. says there are not enough well-trained teachers.                 | T / F |
| e. Educating girls can increase a country's wealth by a quarter.             | T / F |
| f. Three-quarters of girls in Arab countries might never go to school.       | T / F |
| g. The article says it will take some nations 100 years to achieve literacy. | T / F |
| h. The number of Vietnamese not going to school fell by 85% in 5 years.      | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. basic      | a. as much as |
| 2. little     | b. present    |
| 3. up to      | c. growing    |
| 4. global     | d. educated   |
| 5. enough     | e. worldwide  |
| 6. developing | f. elementary |
| 7. literate   | g. dropped    |
| 8. current    | h. sufficient |
| 9. achieve    | i. not much   |
| 10. fell      | j. reach      |

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

- |                                       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. they could also not do             | a. to \$130 billion           |
| 2. governments lose up                | b. countries                  |
| 3. a U.N. spokeswoman, said there was | c. focus on quality           |
| 4. teachers do not have               | d. 25% over 40 years          |
| 5. The issue now is to put the        | e. enough training            |
| 6. developing                         | f. continue                   |
| 7. increase a country's wealth by     | g. basic mathematics          |
| 8. sub-                               | h. in the last five years     |
| 9. If current trends                  | i. a global "learning crisis" |
| 10. fell by 85 per cent               | j. Saharan Africa             |

# GAP FILL

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

A new report from the United Nations says more than 250 million children of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ school age cannot read or write. It said they could also not do (2) \_\_\_\_\_ mathematics. The report said that 120 million children have spent (3) \_\_\_\_\_ or no time in school. The researchers said children not going to school means countries lose money. Each year, governments lose (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to \$130 billion. Vibeke Jensen, a U.N. spokeswoman, said there was a global "learning (5) \_\_\_\_\_". She said this was because there were not enough well-trained teachers in poor (6) \_\_\_\_\_. She said that in a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of countries, 75 per cent of primary school teachers do not have enough training. She added: "The issue now is to put the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ on quality."

*areas*  
*up*  
*basic*  
*focus*  
*primary*  
*third*  
*little*  
*crisis*

The report said that most of those (9) \_\_\_\_\_ going to school were girls. It said it was important that developing countries educate girls. Sending girls to school can increase a country's (10) \_\_\_\_\_ by 25 per cent over 40 years. The report said that almost two-thirds (66%) of girls in Arab countries and (11) \_\_\_\_\_ -Saharan Africa would never go to school. In Yemen, just 36 per cent of young women are (12) \_\_\_\_\_. The Reuters news agency said: "If current (13) \_\_\_\_\_ continue, the poorest part of the young female (14) \_\_\_\_\_ in developing countries won't achieve literacy until 2072" There was some good news. In Laos, Rwanda and Vietnam, the (15) \_\_\_\_\_ of children not going to school (16) \_\_\_\_\_ by 85 per cent in the last five years.

*population*  
*wealth*  
*fell*  
*literate*  
*not*  
*number*  
*sub*  
*trends*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) It said they could also not do \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. basics mathematics
  - b. bay sick mathematics
  - c. basic mathematics
  - d. base sick mathematics
- 2) The researchers said children not going to school means countries \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. gain money
  - b. invest money
  - c. lose money
  - d. find money
- 3) a U.N. spokeswoman, said there was a global \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. "leaning crisis"
  - b. "yearning crisis"
  - c. "learn in crisis"
  - d. "looming crisis"
- 4) 75 per cent of primary school teachers do not have \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. enough train in
  - b. enough trainers
  - c. enough training
  - d. enough tray ning
- 5) The issue now is to put the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. focus on quantity
  - b. focus on qualities
  - c. focus on quarterly
  - d. focus on quality
- 6) It said it was important that developing countries \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. educates girls
  - b. educated girls
  - c. education girls
  - d. educate girls
- 7) Sending girls to school can increase a country's \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. wealth by 25%
  - b. wealthy by 25%
  - c. well the by 25%
  - d. wells by 25%
- 8) In Yemen, just 36 per cent of young women \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. are literacy
  - b. are literate
  - c. are litter rat
  - d. are reiterate
- 9) The Reuters news agency said: "If current \_\_\_\_\_..."
  - a. friends continue
  - b. trains continue
  - c. treads continue
  - d. trends continue
- 10) the number of children not going to school \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. fall by 85%
  - b. fell by 85%
  - c. full by 85%
  - d. fill by 85%

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

A new report from the United Nations (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 250 million children of primary school age cannot read or write. It said they could also not (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The report said that 120 million children have spent little or no time in school. The researchers said children not going to school (3) \_\_\_\_\_ money. Each year, governments lose up to \$130 billion. Vibeke Jensen, a U.N. spokeswoman, said there was a (4) \_\_\_\_\_. She said this was because there were not enough well-trained teachers in poor areas. She said (5) \_\_\_\_\_ countries, 75 per cent of primary school teachers do not have enough training. She added: "The (6) \_\_\_\_\_ put the focus on quality."

The report said that most of (7) \_\_\_\_\_ school were girls. It said it was important that developing countries educate girls. Sending girls to school (8) \_\_\_\_\_ country's wealth by 25 per cent over 40 years. The report said that (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (66%) of girls in Arab countries and sub-Saharan Africa would never go to school. In Yemen, just 36 per cent of young (10) \_\_\_\_\_. The Reuters news agency said: "If current trends continue, the poorest part of the young female population in developing countries (11) \_\_\_\_\_ until 2072" There was some good news. In Laos, Rwanda and Vietnam, the number of children not going to school fell by 85 per cent (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What else could the children not do besides read and write?

---

2. How much time do 120 million children spend in school?

---

3. How much money do countries lose by not educating children?

---

4. What kind of crisis did a UN spokeswoman talk of?

---

5. What did the woman say countries should focus on?

---

6. How much richer could a country get by educating girls?

---

7. What proportion of girls in Arab countries may not go to school?

---

8. In what country can only 36% of girls read and write?

---

9. When might developing countries achieve literacy?

---

10. How much did the rate of children not going to school fall by in Laos?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

1. What else could the children not do besides read and write?
  - a) speak English
  - b) do maths
  - c) cook
  - d) sew
2. How much time do 120 million children spend in school?
  - a) 50 hours a week
  - b) 7 hours a day
  - c) 4 days a week
  - d) little or no time
3. How much money do countries lose by not educating children?
  - a) \$130 billion
  - b) \$13,000,000
  - c) \$130,288,634,722.99
  - d) \$130 million
4. What kind of crisis did a UN spokeswoman talk of?
  - a) a not-so-serious one
  - b) a humanitarian one
  - c) a learning crisis
  - d) an urgent one
5. What did the woman say countries should focus on?
  - a) English
  - b) quality
  - c) science
  - d) quantity
6. How much richer could a country get by educating girls?
  - a) 25% richer
  - b) 40% richer
  - c) 66% richer
  - d) 85% richer
7. What proportion of girls in Arab countries may not go to school?
  - a) four-fifths
  - b) three-quarters
  - c) two-thirds
  - d) nine-tenths
8. In what country can only 36% of girls read and write?
  - a) Yemen
  - b) USA
  - c) Madagascar
  - d) Bhutan
9. When might developing countries achieve literacy?
  - a) 2072
  - b) never
  - c) 2280
  - d) the end of this year
10. How much did the rate of children not going to school fall by in Laos?
  - a) 82%
  - b) 83%
  - c) 84%
  - d) 85%

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – Literature**

You think literature is the most important school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): science, art or sports.

## **Role B – Science**

You think science is the most important school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): literature, art or sports.

## **Role C – Art**

You think art is the most important school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): science, literature or sports.

## **Role D – Sports**

You think sports is the most important school subject. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): science, art or literature.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

<b>read</b>	<b>write</b>
-------------	--------------

- 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"><li>• age</li><li>• 120</li><li>• 130</li><li>• crisis</li><li>• 75</li><li>• issue</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• educate</li><li>• 25</li><li>• two-thirds</li><li>• 36</li><li>• 2072</li><li>• 85</li></ul>
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# LITERACY SURVEY

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

Write five GOOD questions about literacy 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.

# LITERACY DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the phrase 'read and write'?
- c) How good was your school?
- d) How important is reading and writing?
- e) What can we do to help children get to school?
- f) Some children in rich countries hate school and misbehave? Why?
- g) What's the best way to teach children to read and write?
- h) What is the "global learning crisis"?
- i) Were all your teachers well-trained and good at teaching?
- j) Should parents teach children to read and write?

*250 million children cannot read or write – 2nd February, 2014*  
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# LITERACY DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What would life be like if you couldn't read or write?
- c) How has technology helped with literacy skills?
- d) Why do so few girls go to school in some countries?
- e) Malala Yousafzai said: "One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world." Is this true?
- f) How do you think it feels to not be able to go to school?
- g) How has your education helped you?
- h) Malcolm X said: "People don't realize how a man's whole life can be changed by one book." Do you agree
- i) Do you prefer reading or writing? Why?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the writer of the report?

# 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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140202-literacy.html>

A new report from the United Nations says more than 250 million children of primary school (1) \_\_\_\_\_ cannot read or write. It said they could also not do basic mathematics. The report said that 120 million children have (2) \_\_\_\_\_ little or no time in school. The researchers said children not going to school (3) \_\_\_\_\_ countries lose money. Each year, governments lose (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to \$130 billion. Vibeke Jensen, a U.N. spokeswoman, said there was a global "learning crisis". She said this was because there were not enough (5) \_\_\_\_\_-trained teachers in poor areas. She said that in a third of countries, 75 per cent of primary school teachers do not have enough training. She added: "The issue now is to put the focus (6) \_\_\_\_\_ quality."

The report said that most of those not going to school were girls. It said it was important that developing countries (7) \_\_\_\_\_ girls. Sending girls to school can increase a country's wealth (8) \_\_\_\_\_ 25 per cent over 40 years. The report said that almost two-thirds (66%) of girls in Arab countries and (9) \_\_\_\_\_-Saharan Africa would never go to school. In Yemen, just 36 per cent of young women are literate. The Reuters news agency said: "If current (10) \_\_\_\_\_ continue, the poorest part of the young female population in developing countries won't achieve (11) \_\_\_\_\_ until 2072" There was some good news. In Laos, Rwanda and Vietnam, the number of children not going to school (12) \_\_\_\_\_ by 85 per cent in the last five years.

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

- |     |               |               |                |                 |
|-----|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) aged      | (b) age       | (c) aging      | (d) ageist      |
| 2.  | (a) spends    | (b) spent     | (c) spending   | (d) spend       |
| 3.  | (a) same      | (b) equal     | (c) is         | (d) means       |
| 4.  | (a) over      | (b) up        | (c) along      | (d) down        |
| 5.  | (a) good      | (b) well      | (c) fine       | (d) average     |
| 6.  | (a) by        | (b) at        | (c) on         | (d) in          |
| 7.  | (a) education | (b) educating | (c) educate    | (d) educational |
| 8.  | (a) as        | (b) at        | (c) by         | (d) for         |
| 9.  | (a) cub       | (b) dub       | (c) tub        | (d) sub         |
| 10. | (a) trends    | (b) fronds    | (c) glands     | (d) blends      |
| 11. | (a) literacy  | (b) literate  | (c) illiterate | (d) illiteracy  |
| 12. | (a) stumbled  | (b) tripped   | (c) fell       | (d) sank        |

# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. prairym school
2. do basic casamtmthie
3. enenotsgmvr lose up to \$130 billion
4. a global learning ssrcii
5. in a hirtd of countries
6. focus on aqtuily

## Paragraph 2

7. egvldnpieo countries
8. edtecau girls
9. increase a country's aewlth by 25 per cent
10. just 36 per cent of young women are etrtelia
11. current dsertn
12. female anpulotoip



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) Africa would never go to school. In Yemen, just 36 per cent of young women are literate. The Reuters news
- ( ) agency said: "If current trends continue, the poorest part of the young female population in developing
- ( ) spokeswoman, said there was a global "learning crisis". She said this was because there were not enough well-
- ( ) countries educate girls. Sending girls to school can increase a country's wealth by 25 per cent
- ( ) The report said that most of those not going to school were girls. It said it was important that developing
- ( ) means countries lose money. Each year, governments lose up to \$130 billion. Vibeke Jensen, a U.N.
- ( ) age cannot read or write. It said they could also not do basic mathematics. The report
- ( ) said that 120 million children have spent little or no time in school. The researchers said children not going to school
- ( ) over 40 years. The report said that almost two-thirds (66%) of girls in Arab countries and sub-Saharan
- ( ) trained teachers in poor areas. She said that in a third of countries, 75 per cent of primary school teachers do not have enough
- ( ) countries won't achieve literacy until 2072" There was some good news. In Laos, Rwanda and Vietnam,
- ( **1** ) A new report from the United Nations says more than 250 million children of primary school
- ( ) training. She added: "The issue now is to put the focus on quality."
- ( ) the number of children not going to school fell by 85 per cent in the last five years.

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. children of primary school age 250 . million

---

2. they not mathematics said also basic It could do.

---

3. school lose Children to countries going means money not.

---

4. there was a global learning crisis A UN spokeswoman said.

---

5. is to put the focus on quality The issue now.

---

6. those to girls of going were Most not school.

---

7. to increase wealth girls can country's Sending school a.

---

8. Just cent women per young literate 36 of are.

---

9. 2072 until literacy achieve won't countries Developing.

---

10. five years Fell by 85 per cent in the last.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

A new report from the United Nations says *more / over* than 250 million children of primary school age cannot read or write. It said they could also not do *basic / basically* mathematics. The report said that 120 million children have *spending / spent* little or *no / none* time in school. The researchers said children not going to school means countries *losing / lose* money. Each year, governments lose *down / up* to \$130 billion. Vibeke Jensen, a U.N. spokeswoman, said there was a global "learning *crash / crisis*". She said this was because there were not *plenty / enough* well-trained teachers in poor areas. She said that in a *third / thirdly* of countries, 75 per cent of primary school teachers do not have enough training. She added: "The issue now is to put the focus *in / on* quality."

The report said that most of *those / them* not going to school were girls. It said it was *importance / important* that developing countries educate girls. Sending girls to school can increase a country's *health / wealth* by 25 per cent over 40 years. The report said that *most / almost* two-thirds (66%) of girls in Arab countries and sub-Saharan Africa would never *gone / go* to school. In Yemen, just 36 per cent of young women are *literacy / literate*. The Reuters news agency said: "If *current / currant* trends continue, the poorest part of the young female *populated / population* in developing countries won't *achieve / achievement* literacy until 2072" There was some good news. In Laos, Rwanda and Vietnam, the number of children not going to school *fell / fall* by 85 per cent in the last five years.

**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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140202-literacy.html>

\_ n\_ w\_ r\_ p\_ rt\_ fr\_ m\_ th\_ \_ n\_ t\_ d\_ N\_ t\_ \_ ns\_ s\_ ys\_ m\_ r\_ th\_ n\_ 250\_ m\_ ll\_ \_ n\_ ch\_ ldr\_ n\_ \_ f\_ pr\_ m\_ ry\_ sch\_ \_ l\_ \_ g\_ c\_ nn\_ t\_ r\_ \_ d\_ \_ r\_ wr\_ t\_ . \_ t\_ s\_ \_ d\_ th\_ y\_ c\_ \_ ld\_ \_ ls\_ n\_ t\_ d\_ b\_ s\_ c\_ m\_ th\_ m\_ t\_ cs. Th\_ \_ r\_ p\_ rt\_ s\_ \_ d\_ th\_ t\_ 120\_ m\_ ll\_ \_ n\_ ch\_ ldr\_ n\_ h\_ v\_ \_ sp\_ nt\_ l\_ ttl\_ \_ r\_ n\_ t\_ m\_ \_ n\_ sch\_ \_ l\_ . Th\_ \_ r\_ s\_ \_ rch\_ rs\_ s\_ \_ d\_ ch\_ ldr\_ n\_ n\_ t\_ g\_ \_ ng\_ t\_ sch\_ \_ l\_ m\_ \_ ns\_ c\_ \_ ntr\_ \_ s\_ l\_ s\_ m\_ n\_ y. \_ \_ ch\_ y\_ \_ r\_ , g\_ v\_ rnm\_ nts\_ l\_ s\_ \_ p\_ t\_ \$130\_ b\_ ll\_ \_ n\_ . V\_ b\_ k\_ J\_ ns\_ n\_ , \_ \_ .N. sp\_ k\_ sw\_ m\_ n\_ , s\_ \_ d\_ th\_ r\_ w\_ s\_ \_ gl\_ b\_ l\_ "l\_ \_ rn\_ ng\_ cr\_ s\_ s". Sh\_ s\_ \_ d\_ th\_ s\_ w\_ s\_ b\_ c\_ \_ s\_ th\_ r\_ w\_ r\_ n\_ t\_ \_ n\_ \_ gh\_ w\_ ll\_ -tr\_ \_ n\_ d\_ t\_ \_ ch\_ rs\_ \_ n\_ p\_ \_ r\_ \_ r\_ s. Sh\_ s\_ \_ d\_ th\_ t\_ \_ n\_ \_ th\_ rd\_ \_ f\_ c\_ \_ ntr\_ \_ s\_ , 75\_ p\_ r\_ c\_ nt\_ \_ f\_ pr\_ m\_ ry\_ sch\_ \_ l\_ t\_ \_ ch\_ rs\_ d\_ n\_ t\_ h\_ v\_ \_ n\_ \_ gh\_ tr\_ \_ n\_ ng. Sh\_ \_ dd\_ d: "Th\_ \_ ss\_ \_ n\_ w\_ \_ s\_ t\_ p\_ t\_ th\_ f\_ c\_ s\_ \_ n\_ q\_ \_ l\_ ty."

Th\_ \_ r\_ p\_ rt\_ s\_ \_ d\_ th\_ t\_ m\_ st\_ \_ f\_ th\_ s\_ \_ n\_ t\_ g\_ \_ ng\_ t\_ sch\_ \_ l\_ w\_ r\_ \_ g\_ rls. \_ t\_ s\_ \_ d\_ \_ t\_ w\_ s\_ \_ mp\_ rt\_ nt\_ th\_ t\_ d\_ v\_ l\_ p\_ ng\_ c\_ \_ ntr\_ \_ s\_ \_ d\_ c\_ t\_ g\_ rls. S\_ nd\_ ng\_ g\_ rls\_ t\_ sch\_ \_ l\_ c\_ n\_ \_ ncr\_ \_ s\_ \_ c\_ \_ ntry's\_ w\_ \_ lth\_ by\_ 25\_ p\_ r\_ c\_ nt\_ \_ v\_ r\_ 40\_ y\_ \_ rs. Th\_ \_ r\_ p\_ rt\_ s\_ \_ d\_ th\_ t\_ l\_ m\_ st\_ tw\_ -th\_ rds\_ (66%)\_ \_ f\_ g\_ rls\_ \_ n\_ \_ r\_ b\_ c\_ \_ ntr\_ \_ s\_ \_ nd\_ s\_ b\_ -S\_ h\_ r\_ n\_ \_ fr\_ c\_ w\_ \_ ld\_ n\_ v\_ r\_ g\_ \_ t\_ sch\_ \_ l\_ . \_ n\_ Y\_ m\_ n\_ , j\_ st\_ 36\_ p\_ r\_ c\_ nt\_ \_ f\_ y\_ \_ ng\_ w\_ m\_ n\_ \_ r\_ l\_ t\_ r\_ t\_ . Th\_ \_ R\_ \_ t\_ rs\_ n\_ ws\_ \_ g\_ ncy\_ s\_ \_ d: "\_ f\_ c\_ rr\_ nt\_ tr\_ nds\_ c\_ nt\_ n\_ \_ , th\_ \_ p\_ \_ r\_ st\_ p\_ rt\_ \_ f\_ th\_ y\_ \_ ng\_ f\_ m\_ l\_ p\_ p\_ l\_ t\_ \_ n\_ \_ n\_ d\_ v\_ l\_ p\_ ng\_ c\_ \_ ntr\_ \_ s\_ w\_ n't\_ \_ ch\_ \_ v\_ l\_ t\_ r\_ cy\_ \_ nt\_ l\_ 2072" Th\_ \_ r\_ w\_ s\_ s\_ m\_ \_ g\_ \_ d\_ n\_ ws. \_ n\_ L\_ \_ s\_ , R\_ w\_ nd\_ \_ nd\_ V\_ \_ tn\_ m\_ , th\_ \_ n\_ mb\_ r\_ \_ f\_ ch\_ ldr\_ n\_ n\_ t\_ g\_ \_ ng\_ t\_ sch\_ \_ l\_ f\_ ll\_ by\_ 85\_ p\_ r\_ c\_ nt\_ \_ n\_ th\_ \_ l\_ st\_ f\_ v\_ \_ y\_ \_ rs.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

a new report from the united nations says more than 250 million children of primary school age cannot read or write it said they could also not do basic mathematics the report said that 120 million children have spent little or no time in school the researchers said children not going to school means countries lose money each year governments lose up to \$130 billion vikeke jensen a un spokeswoman said there was a global "learning crisis" she said this was because there were not enough well-trained teachers in poor areas she said that in a third of countries 75 per cent of primary school teachers do not have enough training she added "the issue now is to put the focus on quality"

the report said that most of those not going to school were girls it said it was important that developing countries educate girls sending girls to school can increase a country's wealth by 25 per cent over 40 years the report said that almost two-thirds (66%) of girls in arab countries and sub-saharan africa would never go to school in yemen just 36 per cent of young women 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" there was some good news in laos rwanda and vietnam the number of children not going to school fell by 85 per cent in the last five years

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

A new report from the United Nations says more than 250 million children of primary school age cannot read or write. It said they could also not do basic mathematics. The report said that 120 million children have spent little or no time in school. The researchers said children not going to school means countries lose money. Each year, governments lose up to \$130 billion. Vibeke Jensen, a U.N. spokeswoman, said there was a global "learning crisis". She said this was because there were not enough well-trained teachers in poor areas. She said that in a third of countries, 75 percent of primary school teachers do not have enough training. She added: "The issue now is to put the focus on quality." The report said that most of those not going to school were girls. It said it was important that developing countries educate girls. Sending girls to school can increase a country's wealth by 25 percent over 40 years. The report said that almost two-thirds (66%) of girls in Arab countries and sub-Saharan Africa would never go to school. In Yemen, just 36 percent of young women 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." There was some good news. In Laos, Rwanda and Vietnam, the number of children not going to school fell by 85 percent in the last five years.







# HOMework

**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 literacy. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

**4. ILLITERATE:** Write a magazine article about being illiterate. Include imaginary interviews with people who cannot read or write.

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 a literacy expert. Ask him/her three questions about literacy. Give him/her three ideas on how to help children who cannot read. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. basic      | a. elementary |
| 2. little     | b. not much   |
| 3. up to      | c. as much as |
| 4. global     | d. worldwide  |
| 5. enough     | e. sufficient |
| 6. developing | f. growing    |
| 7. literate   | g. educated   |
| 8. current    | h. present    |
| 9. achieve    | i. reach      |
| 10. fell      | j. dropped    |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Do basic maths
2. Little or no time
3. \$130 billion
4. A global learning crisis
5. Quality
6. 25% richer
7. two-thirds (66%)
8. Yemen
9. By 2072
10. 85%

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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