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Child poverty grows as cities expand

28th February, 2012

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1202/120228-child_poverty.html

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120228-child_poverty.html

A new report from the United Nations Children's Fund warns that hundreds of millions of children in the world's cities are living in poverty. UNICEF's "State of the World's Children Report" says a staggering proportion of children lack the most basic of services, including clean water, education, health, proper toilets. "Urbanization leaves hundreds of millions of children in cities and towns excluded from vital services," the Children's Fund said. The Fund also says these children are among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in the world because they live in fear of violence and exploitation on a daily basis. Millions of children are forced into child labour and the sex industry.

The report explains how the slums where children live have diseases such as pneumonia and diarrhoea, two of the biggest killers of children under five in the world. UNICEF spokeswoman, Marixie Mercado, says many children are disadvantaged from birth and are excluded from "normal" society in which richer children can thrive. She says: "One-third of children in urban areas are not registered at birth [and that] makes them much more vulnerable to exploitation throughout their lives." UNICEF executive director Anthony Lake added: "Children are vulnerable to...the injuries, illnesses and death that result from living in crowded settlements atop hazardous rubbish dumps or alongside railroad tracks."

WARM-UPS

1. CHILD POVERTY: Walk around the class and talk to other students about child poverty. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) 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.

report / world cities / basic services / proper toilets / vulnerable / child labour / fear / diseases / killers / pneumonia / disadvantaged / urban areas / vulnerable / dumps

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

3. VULNERABLE: How do we protect vulnerable children? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Protect from...	How	Problems / Barriers
disease		
violence		
child labour		
gangs		
crime		
drugs		

4. BETTER: Students A **strongly** believe conditions for the world's poor children will get better; Students B **strongly** believe they will get worse. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. BASIC SERVICES: Which are most important to you? Rank them and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- toilets
- education
- house
- Internet
- heat
- clean water
- hospitals
- police

6. POVERTY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'poverty'. 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/1202/120228-child_poverty.html

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

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. The article is about a WHO report on poor children. | T / F |
| b. Hundreds of millions of children are living without vital services. | T / F |
| c. The report says millions of poor children live in fear every day. | T / F |
| d. The report says millions of children volunteer to work. | T / F |
| e. Pneumonia & diarrhoea are among the deadliest diseases for children. | T / F |
| f. A UNICEF official said many children have a bad life from birth. | T / F |
| g. Around 33% of children born in urban areas are registered. | T / F |
| h. A UNICEF official said children are safer living on top of rubbish dumps. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. proportion | a. absence |
| 2. poverty | b. dangerous |
| 3. lack | c. hovels |
| 4. proper | d. impoverishment |
| 5. exploitation | e. denied access to |
| 6. slums | f. abuse |
| 7. excluded | g. built-up |
| 8. thrive | h. amount |
| 9. urban | i. real |
| 10. hazardous | j. do well |

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. lack the most basic | a. from vital services |
| 2. proper | b. in urban areas |
| 3. excluded | c. into child labour |
| 4. they live in fear | d. birth |
| 5. Millions of children are forced | e. children under five |
| 6. the biggest killers of | f. to exploitation |
| 7. disadvantaged from | g. of violence |
| 8. One-third of children | h. toilets |
| 9. much more vulnerable | i. settlements |
| 10. living in crowded | j. of services |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120228-child_poverty.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

A new report from the United Nations Children's Fund (1) _____ that hundreds of millions of children in the world's cities are living in poverty. UNICEF's "State of the World's Children Report" says a staggering proportion of children (2) _____ the most basic of services, including clean water, education, health, (3) _____ toilets. "Urbanization leaves hundreds of millions of children in cities and towns excluded from (4) _____ services," the Children's Fund said. The Fund also says these children are (5) _____ the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in the world because they live in (6) _____ of violence and exploitation on a daily (7) _____. Millions of children are (8) _____ into child labour and the sex industry.

forced
among
lack
basis
proper
warns
fear
vital

The report explains how the (9) _____ where children live have diseases such as pneumonia and diarrhoea, two of the biggest (10) _____ of children under five in the world. UNICEF spokeswoman, Marixie Mercado, says many children are disadvantaged from (11) _____ and are excluded from "normal" society in which richer children can (12) _____. She says: "One-third of children in (13) _____ areas are not registered at birth [and that] makes them much more vulnerable to exploitation throughout their lives." UNICEF executive director Anthony Lake added: "Children are (14) _____ to...the injuries, illnesses and death that (15) _____ from living in crowded settlements atop hazardous rubbish dumps or (16) _____ railroad tracks."

vulnerable
alongside
killers
result
thrive
slums
birth
urban

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120228-child_poverty.html

A new report from the United Nations Children's Fund _____ of millions of children in the world's cities are living in poverty. UNICEF's "State of the World's Children Report" says _____ of children lack _____ services, including clean water, education, health, _____. "Urbanization leaves hundreds of millions of children in cities and towns excluded _____," the Children's Fund said. The Fund also says these children are _____ disadvantaged and vulnerable in the world because _____ of violence and exploitation _____. Millions of children are forced into child labour and the sex industry.

The report explains how the slums where children live _____ as pneumonia and diarrhoea, two of _____ of children under five in the world. UNICEF spokeswoman, Marixie Mercado, says many children are _____ birth and _____ "normal" society in which richer children can thrive. She says: "One-third of children _____ are not registered at birth [and that] makes them much more vulnerable to exploitation _____." UNICEF executive director Anthony Lake added: "Children are vulnerable to...the injuries, illnesses and death _____ living in crowded settlements atop hazardous _____ or alongside railroad tracks."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120228-child_poverty.html

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

child	poverty
--------------	----------------

- 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">• warns• lack• proper• vital• fear• industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• such• under• normal• areas• lives• rubbish
---	---

CHILD POVERTY SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120228-child_poverty.html

Write five GOOD questions about child poverty 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.

CHILD POVERTY 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 word 'poverty'?
- c) What's the poorest you've ever been?
- d) Why do you think there is still child poverty in the world?
- e) What would life be like without the most basic services?
- f) How can we stop children from living in fear?
- g) Why don't rich companies do more to reduce child poverty?
- h) To what extent does child poverty exist in your country?
- i) What does it say about our world that children are living in poverty?
- j) How can we stop children being forced into child labour and the sex industry?

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CHILD POVERTY DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What could you do this week to help children living in poverty?
- c) Why do illnesses such as diarrhoea and pneumonia still kill people?
- d) What would it be like to be excluded from normal society?
- e) Did you thrive as a child?
- f) What questions would you like to ask a child slum dweller?
- g) What do you think his/her answers might be?
- h) Will children still be living in poverty fifty years from now? Why?
- i) What do you think poor children think of the rich world?
- j) What questions would you like to ask UNICEF spokeswoman, Marixie Mercado?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1202/120228-child_poverty.html

A new report from the United Nations Children's Fund (1) _____ that hundreds of millions of children in the world's cities are living (2) _____ poverty. UNICEF's "State of the World's Children Report" says a staggering proportion of children (3) _____ the most basic of services, including clean water, education, health, proper toilets. "Urbanization leaves hundreds of millions of children in cities and towns excluded from (4) _____ services," the Children's Fund said. The Fund also says these children are (5) _____ the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in the world because they live in fear of violence and exploitation on a (6) _____ basis. Millions of children are forced into child labour and the sex industry.

The report explains how the slums where children live have diseases (7) _____ as pneumonia and diarrhoea, two of the biggest killers of children under five in the world. UNICEF spokeswoman, Marixie Mercado, says many children are disadvantaged from (8) _____ and are excluded from "normal" society in which richer children can thrive. She says: "One-third of children in (9) _____ areas are not registered at birth [and that] makes them (10) _____ more vulnerable to exploitation (11) _____ their lives." UNICEF executive director Anthony Lake added: "Children are vulnerable to....the injuries, illnesses and death that result from living in crowded settlements (12) _____ hazardous rubbish dumps or alongside railroad tracks."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) warnings | (b) warning | (c) warn | (d) warns |
| 2. | (a) up | (b) out | (c) in | (d) of |
| 3. | (a) back | (b) lack | (c) tack | (d) rack |
| 4. | (a) vital | (b) ritual | (c) virtual | (d) viral |
| 5. | (a) between | (b) through | (c) among | (d) via |
| 6. | (a) daytime | (b) day's | (c) day | (d) daily |
| 7. | (a) much | (b) such | (c) many | (d) so |
| 8. | (a) birth | (b) born | (c) delivery | (d) pregnancy |
| 9. | (a) mundane | (b) urban | (c) prominent | (d) prosper |
| 10. | (a) many | (b) such | (c) much | (d) from |
| 11. | (a) throughout | (b) thought | (c) thorough | (d) though |
| 12. | (a) topping | (b) top | (c) tops | (d) atop |

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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 the UNICEF report. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. CHILD POVERTY: Make a poster about child poverty. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SLUM: Write a magazine article about a child living in a slum. Include imaginary interviews with that child and a rich child.

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. LETTER: Write a letter to a child slum dweller. Ask him/her three questions about his/her life. Give him/her three pieces of advice. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. proportion | a. amount |
| 2. poverty | b. impoverishment |
| 3. lack | c. absence |
| 4. proper | d. real |
| 5. exploitation | e. abuse |
| 6. slums | f. hovels |
| 7. excluded | g. denied access to |
| 8. thrive | h. do well |
| 9. urban | i. built-up |
| 10. hazardous | j. dangerous |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. lack the most basic | a. of services |
| 2. proper | b. toilets |
| 3. excluded | c. from vital services |
| 4. they live in fear | d. of violence |
| 5. Millions of children are forced | e. into child labour |
| 6. the biggest killers of | f. children under five |
| 7. disadvantaged from | g. birth |
| 8. One-third of children | h. in urban areas |
| 9. much more vulnerable | i. to exploitation |
| 10. living in crowded | j. settlements |

GAP FILL:

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The report explains how the (9) **slums** where children live have diseases such as pneumonia and diarrhoea, two of the biggest (10) **killers** of children under five in the world. UNICEF spokeswoman, Marixie Mercado, says many children are disadvantaged from (11) **birth** and are excluded from "normal" society in which richer children can (12) **thrive**. She says: "One-third of children in (13) **urban** areas are not registered at birth [and that] makes them much more vulnerable to exploitation throughout their lives." UNICEF executive director Anthony Lake added: "Children are (14) **vulnerable** to...the injuries, illnesses and death that (15) **result** from living in crowded settlements atop hazardous rubbish dumps or (16) **alongside** railroad tracks."

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - c 3 - b 4 - a 5 - c 6 - d 7 - b 8 - a 9 - b 10 - c 11 - a 12 - d

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