

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**“1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS”**

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freесlmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 4 – 5th January 2026

World's richest people got \$2.2 trillion richer in 2025

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

[https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260105-worlds-richest-people-4.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260105-worlds-richest-people-4.html)

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

X (Twitter)



X.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260105-worlds-richest-people-4.html>

The world's richest people got richer in 2025. The bank UBS said the 500 richest people on Earth made an extra \$2.2 trillion last year. Their collective net worth rose to \$11.9 trillion. Bloomberg reported that the eight billionaires who topped the rich list accounted for a quarter of the gains in earnings. The Guardian newspaper said the gains were "bolstered" by Donald Trump's 2024 election victory, "and booming markets in cryptocurrencies".

Many organizations were alarmed at so much wealth being in so few hands. The charity Oxfam said: "Inequality is a deliberate policy choice. Despite record wealth at the top, public wealth is...declining....Inequality rips away life opportunities and rights from the majority of citizens." A climate scientist warned that "if the economic system that is tearing our planet...and its people apart isn't brought to its knees, then humanity will be".

Sources: <https://fortune.com/2025/12/31/worlds-richest-wealth-added-record-increase-american-dream-europe/>
<https://www.commondreams.org/news/billionaire-list-2025>
<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2025/dec/31/billionaires-added-record-wealth-2025>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260105-worlds-richest-people-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1. The world's richest people	a. the rich list
2. the 500 richest people on	b. in earnings
3. Their collective net	c. Earth
4. eight billionaires who topped	d. cryptocurrencies
5. accounted for a quarter of the	e. worth rose
6. a quarter of the gains	f. victory
7. Donald Trump's 2024 election	g. got richer
8. booming markets in	h. gains in earnings

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1. Many organizations were	a. scientist
2. so much wealth being	b. policy choice
3. Inequality is a deliberate	c. of citizens
4. Despite record	d. knees
5. the majority	e. alarmed
6. climate	f. system
7. the economic	g. in so few hands
8. brought to its	h. wealth at the top

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260105-worlds-richest-people-4.html>

The world's richest people (1) _____ 2025. The bank UBS said the 500 richest people on Earth (2) _____ \$2.2 trillion last year. Their collective (3) _____ to \$11.9 trillion. Bloomberg reported that the eight billionaires who topped the rich list accounted for (4) _____ the gains in earnings. The Guardian newspaper said the gains (5) _____ by Donald Trump's 2024 election victory, "and (6) _____ cryptocurrencies".

Many organizations were (7) _____ much wealth being in (8) _____. The charity Oxfam said: "Inequality is a (9) _____. Despite record wealth at the top, public wealth is...declining....Inequality rips away life opportunities and rights from the (10) _____. " A climate scientist warned that "if the economic system that is (11) _____...and its people apart isn't brought to its knees, then (12) _____. "

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260105-worlds-richest-people-4.html>

The world's richest people got richer in 2025. The bank UBS said the 500 richest people on Earth made an extra \$2.2 trillion last year. Their collective net worth rose to \$11.9 trillion. Bloomberg reported that the eight billionaires who topped the rich list accounted for a quarter of the gains in earnings. The Guardian newspaper said the gains were "bolstered" by Donald Trump's 2024 election victory, "and booming markets in cryptocurrencies". Many organizations were alarmed at so much wealth being in so few hands. The charity Oxfam said: "Inequality is a deliberate policy choice. Despite record wealth at the top, public wealth is... declining.... Inequality rips away life opportunities and rights from the majority of citizens." A climate scientist warned that "if the economic system that is tearing our planet... and its people apart isn't brought to its knees, then humanity will be".

RICH PEOPLE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260105-worlds-richest-people-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about rich people 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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

World's richest people got \$2.2 trillion richer in 2025 – 5th January 2026

More free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260105-worlds-richest-people-4.html>

Write about **rich people** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.