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Level 5 – 5th January 2026

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

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[https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260105-worlds-richest-people-5.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260105-worlds-richest-people-5.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 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260105-worlds-richest-people-5.html>

The world's richest people's wealth skyrocketed in 2025. The investment bank UBS said the 500 richest people on Earth made an extra \$2.2 trillion last year. This increased their collective net worth to \$11.9 trillion. The Bloomberg Billionaires Index reports that eight billionaires topped the mega-rich list. They accounted for a quarter of the gains in earnings. These included Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos. The Guardian newspaper said the gains were "bolstered" by Donald Trump's 2024 election victory, "and booming markets in cryptocurrencies, equities and metals".

Many organizations were alarmed at there being so much wealth in so few hands. The charity Oxfam highlighted the growing disparity in wealth. It said: "Inequality is a deliberate policy choice. Despite record wealth at the top, public wealth is stagnating, even declining....Inequality rips away life opportunities and rights from the majority of citizens, sparking poverty, hunger, resentment, distrust, and instability." 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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1. The world's richest people's wealth	a. the mega-rich list
2. the investment	b. people on Earth
3. the 500 richest	c. \$2.2 trillion
4. made an extra	d. of the gains
5. increased their collective net	e. skyrocketed
6. eight billionaires topped	f. worth to \$11.9 trillion
7. They accounted for a quarter	g. in cryptocurrencies
8. booming markets	h. bank UBS

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1. Many organizations were	a. choice
2. so much wealth in so	b. scientist
3. the growing disparity	c. few hands
4. Inequality is a deliberate policy	d. knees
5. public wealth is stagnating, even	e. citizens
6. the majority of	f. alarmed
7. a climate	g. declining
8. brought to its	h. in wealth

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260105-worlds-richest-people-5.html>

The world's richest people's (1) _____ 2025.

The investment bank UBS said the 500 richest people on Earth (2) _____ \$2.2 trillion last year. This increased their (3) _____ to \$11.9 trillion. The Bloomberg Billionaires Index reports that eight billionaires topped the mega-rich list. They accounted for a quarter of the (4) _____. These included Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos. The Guardian newspaper said the (5) _____ by Donald Trump's 2024 election victory, "and booming markets in cryptocurrencies, (6) _____".

Many organizations were alarmed at there being so much wealth in (7) _____. The charity Oxfam highlighted the growing (8) _____. It said: "Inequality is a deliberate policy choice. Despite record wealth at the top, public wealth is (9) _____. Inequality rips away life opportunities and rights from the (10) _____, sparking poverty, hunger, resentment, (11) _____. 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 (12) _____. "

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2601/260105-worlds-richest-people-5.html>

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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) _____

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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-5.html>

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