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## **Level 6 – 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.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

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

The world's richest people saw their wealth skyrocket in 2025. According to the investment bank UBS, the 500 richest people on Earth amassed an additional \$2.2 trillion last year. Their stratospheric earnings increased their collective net worth to \$11.9 trillion. The Bloomberg Billionaires Index reports that eight multi-billionaires topped the mega-rich list and accounted for a quarter of the gains. These included Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Larry Ellison, and Larry Page. 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 less than impressed at the accumulation of the world's wealth in so few hands. The international 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, and debt distress is growing. Inequality rips away life opportunities and rights from the majority of citizens, sparking poverty, hunger, resentment, distrust, and instability." British climate scientist Bill McGuire warned that "if the monstrous political-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>

# WARM-UPS

**1. RICH PEOPLE:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about rich people. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

rich people / investment / earnings / billionaire / newspaper / cryptocurrencies / metal impressed / wealth / charity / inequality / debt / opportunities / poverty / humanity

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

**3. SHARE:** Students A **strongly** believe rich people should share all of their wealth; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. BECOMING WEALTHY:** What are pros of these ways to become wealthy? What are the risks? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Pros	Risks
Build a business		
Equity investments		
Win the lottery		
Gambling		
Become CEO		
Property		

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

**6. BILLIONS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to spend billions on at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- The poor
- Cryptocurrency
- Climate change
- Property
- Building hospitals
- Friends and family
- Medical research
- WWII survival

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1. skyrocket     | a. Go up very quickly.                       |
| 2. amassed       | b. Made stronger or better.                  |
| 3. stratospheric | c. Collected a lot of something.             |
| 4. net           | d. Money or value that increases.            |
| 5. gains         | e. Extremely high.                           |
| 6. bolstered     | f. The final amount after taking away costs. |
| 7. equities      | g. Company shares people can buy and sell.   |

## Paragraph 2

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 8. accumulation | h. Causing something to start.                     |
| 9. disparity    | i. Money that must be paid back.                   |
| 10. stagnating  | j. The act of getting more and more over time.     |
| 11. debt        | k. A feeling of anger because something is unfair. |
| 12. sparking    | l. A big difference between things.                |
| 13. resentment  | m. Very bad or very cruel.                         |
| 14. monstrous   | n. Not growing, developing or changing.            |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

1. The article says many billionaires bought a skyrocket in 2025. **T / F**
2. The 500 richest people in the world are worth almost \$12 trillion. **T / F**
3. The eight richest people accounted for about 25% of the annual gains. **T / F**
4. Donald Trump's election victory is one reason for the huge gains. **T / F**
5. A charity said wealth should be in fewer people's hands. **T / F**
6. The charity said life opportunities are taken away by inequality. **T / F**
7. A climate scientist said billionaires were bad for the environment. **T / F**
8. The climate scientist said humanity needed to get on its knees. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>richest</b>       | a. imbalance      |
| 2. <b>amassed</b>       | b. boosted        |
| 3. <b>earnings</b>      | c. accumulated    |
| 4. <b>accounted for</b> | d. bitterness     |
| 5. <b>bolstered</b>     | e. wealthiest     |
| 6. <b>disparity</b>     | f. doing nothing  |
| 7. <b>deliberate</b>    | g. made up        |
| 8. <b>stagnating</b>    | h. intentional    |
| 9. <b>resentment</b>    | i. the human race |
| 10. <b>humanity</b>     | j. income         |

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

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. The world's richest people saw         | a. the gains              |
| 2. stratospheric earnings increased their | b. citizens               |
| 3. eight multi-billionaires topped the    | c. in cryptocurrencies    |
| 4. accounted for a quarter of             | d. than impressed         |
| 5. booming markets                        | e. knees                  |
| 6. Many organizations were less           | f. their wealth skyrocket |
| 7. the growing                            | g. collective net worth   |
| 8. rights from the majority of            | h. poverty                |
| 9. sparking                               | i. mega-rich list         |
| 10. brought to its                        | j. disparity in wealth    |

# GAP FILL

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

The world's richest people saw their wealth (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in 2025. According to the investment bank UBS, the 500 richest people on Earth amassed an (2) \_\_\_\_\_ \$2.2 trillion last year. Their stratospheric (3) \_\_\_\_\_ increased their collective (4) \_\_\_\_\_ worth to \$11.9 trillion. The Bloomberg Billionaires Index reports that eight multi-billionaires (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the mega-rich list and accounted for a quarter of the (6) \_\_\_\_\_. These included Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Larry Ellison, and Larry Page. The Guardian newspaper said the gains were "(7) \_\_\_\_\_" by Donald Trump's 2024 election victory, "and booming markets in cryptocurrencies, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and metals".

*gains*  
*skyrocket*  
*topped*  
*additional*  
*net*  
*equities*  
*bolstered*  
*earnings*

Many organizations were less than (9) \_\_\_\_\_ at the accumulation of the world's wealth in so (10) \_\_\_\_\_ hands. The international charity Oxfam highlighted the growing disparity in wealth. It said: "Inequality is a (11) \_\_\_\_\_ policy choice. Despite record wealth at the top, public wealth is (12) \_\_\_\_\_, even declining, and debt distress is growing. Inequality rips away life opportunities and rights from the (13) \_\_\_\_\_ of citizens, sparking poverty, hunger, resentment, distrust, and (14) \_\_\_\_\_." British climate scientist Bill McGuire warned that "if the monstrous political-economic (15) \_\_\_\_\_ that is tearing our planet...and its people apart isn't brought to its knees, then (16) \_\_\_\_\_ will be".

*stagnating*  
*impressed*  
*system*  
*majority*  
*humanity*  
*few*  
*instability*  
*deliberate*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) The world's richest people saw their wealth \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. skyrocket on 2025
  - b. skyrocket tin 2025
  - c. skyrocket in 2025
  - d. skyrocketing 2025
- 2) Their stratospheric earnings increased their \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. collective met worth
  - b. collective net worth
  - c. collective net worthy
  - d. collect if net worth
- 3) eight multi-billionaires topped the mega-rich list and accounted for a quarter \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. offer gains
  - b. of the grains
  - c. of a gains
  - d. of the gains
- 4) ...newspaper said the gains were "bolstered" by Donald Trump's \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. 2024 election victory
  - b. 2024 elective victory
  - c. 2024 elect shun victory
  - d. 2024 election victorious
- 5) booming markets in cryptocurrencies, \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. inequities and metals
  - b. equities and metallic
  - c. equities and metals
  - d. equities end metals
- 6) less than impressed at the accumulation of the world's wealth in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. so phew hands
  - b. so few hand
  - c. so few hands
  - d. Sophie hands
- 7) The international charity Oxfam highlighted the growing \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. disparity on wealth
  - b. this parity in wealth
  - c. disparity in wealth
  - d. disparity in wealthy
- 8) public wealth is stagnating, even declining, and debt \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. distress is grown
  - b. distress is growing
  - c. distress is grow in
  - d. distresses growing
- 9) Inequality rips away life opportunities and rights from the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. majority off citizens
  - b. majority of citizen
  - c. major it of citizens
  - d. majority of citizens
- 10) Bill McGuire warned that if the monstrous political-economic system that is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. tearing your planet
  - b. tear in our planet
  - c. tear ring our planet
  - d. tearing our planet

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

The world's richest people saw (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in 2025. According to the investment bank UBS, the 500 richest people on Earth (2) \_\_\_\_\_ \$2.2 trillion last year. Their stratospheric earnings increased their (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to \$11.9 trillion. The Bloomberg Billionaires Index reports that eight multi-billionaires topped the mega-rich (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for a quarter of the gains. These included Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Larry Ellison, and Larry Page. The Guardian newspaper said the gains (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Donald Trump's 2024 election victory, "and booming markets in cryptocurrencies, (6) \_\_\_\_\_".

Many organizations were less (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the accumulation of the world's wealth in so few hands. The international charity Oxfam highlighted the growing (8) \_\_\_\_\_. It said: "Inequality is a deliberate policy choice. Despite record wealth at the top, public wealth is stagnating, even declining, (9) \_\_\_\_\_ is growing. Inequality rips away life opportunities and rights from the (10) \_\_\_\_\_, sparking poverty, hunger, resentment, distrust, and instability." British climate scientist Bill McGuire warned that "if (11) \_\_\_\_\_-economic system that is tearing our planet...and its people apart isn't brought to its knees, then (12) \_\_\_\_\_".



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What did the article say happened to the wealth of the richest people?
2. Which bank said the richest people's riches grew by \$2.2 trillion in 2025?
3. How much are the world's 500 richest people worth?
4. How many billionaires accounted for a quarter of the increased wealth?
5. What were there booming markets in besides equities and metals?
6. What did the charity Oxfam highlight a disparity in?
7. What did Oxfam say was growing?
8. What did Oxfam say inequality sparked?
9. Who is Bill McGuire?
10. What did Mr McGuire say could bring humanity to its knees?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What did the article say happened to the wealth of the richest people?
  - a) It broke all records.
  - b) It plateaued.
  - c) It skyrocketed.
  - d) It fired.
- 2) Which bank said the richest people's riches grew by \$2.2 trillion in 2025?
  - a) UBS
  - b) SUB
  - c) BUS
  - d) USB
- 3) How much are the world's 500 richest people worth?
  - a) \$11.8 trillion
  - b) \$11.9 trillion
  - c) \$11.2 trillion
  - d) \$11.5 trillion
- 4) How many billionaires accounted for a quarter of the increased wealth?
  - a) 5
  - b) 6
  - c) 7
  - d) 8
- 5) What were there booming markets in besides equities and metals?
  - a) copper
  - b) futures
  - c) cryptocurrencies
  - d) rare Earths
- 6) What did the charity Oxfam highlight a disparity in?
  - a) investments
  - b) wealth
  - c) bonds
  - d) education
- 7) What did Oxfam say was growing?
  - a) despair
  - b) homelessness
  - c) the number of poor
  - d) debt distress
- 8) What did Oxfam say inequality sparked?
  - a) riots
  - b) poverty
  - c) misogyny
  - d) fires
- 9) Who is Bill McGuire?
  - a) a poverty economist
  - b) a climate scientist
  - c) a market analyst
  - d) a charity boss
- 10) What did Mr McGuire say could bring humanity to its knees?
  - a) the monstrous political-economic system
  - b) the global elite
  - c) a pandemic
  - d) greed

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – The Poor**

You think it is best to spend billions of dollars on the poor. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy of these (and why): property, medical research or family.

## **Role B – Property**

You think property is the best thing to spend billions of dollars on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy of these (and why): the poor, medical research or family.

## **Role C – Medical Research**

You think medical research is the best thing to spend billions of dollars on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy of these (and why): property, the poor or family.

## **Role D – Family**

You think family is the best thing to spend billions of dollars on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy of these (and why): property, medical research or the poor.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'rich' and 'wealth'.

<b>rich</b>	<b>wealth</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>• skyrocket</li><li>• additional</li><li>• net</li><li>• quarter</li><li>• 2024</li><li>• booming</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• less</li><li>• disparity</li><li>• record</li><li>• rips</li><li>• climate</li><li>• knees</li></ul>
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# RICH PEOPLE SURVEY

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

# **RICH PEOPLE DISCUSSION**

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'rich'?
3. What do you think of super-rich people?
4. What would you do with \$1 trillion?
5. How often do you dream about being rich?
6. How might money make you happy?
7. What do you think of the billionaires mentioned in the article?
8. What do you know about cryptocurrencies?
9. What's the best way to become super-rich?
10. What advice do you have for multi-billionaires?

*World's richest people got \$2.2 trillion richer in 2025 – 5th January 2026*  
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# **RICH PEOPLE DISCUSSION**

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'wealth'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What is wrong with so much wealth being in so few hands?
15. What problems does a great disparity in wealth create?
16. Why don't billionaires give away their fortunes to end world poverty?
17. How dangerous is poverty, hunger, resentment, distrust and instability?
18. What do you think wealth distribution will be like in the future?
19. How is 'the monstrous political-economic system' hurting people?
20. What questions would you like to ask a multi-billionaire?

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

The world's richest people saw their (1) \_\_\_\_\_ skyrocket in 2025. According to the investment bank UBS, the 500 richest people on Earth (2) \_\_\_\_\_ an additional \$2.2 trillion last year. Their stratospheric earnings increased their collective (3) \_\_\_\_\_ worth to \$11.9 trillion. The Bloomberg Billionaires Index reports that eight multi-billionaires (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the mega-rich list and accounted for a quarter of the gains. These included Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Larry Ellison, and Larry Page. The Guardian newspaper said the gains were "(5) \_\_\_\_\_" by Donald Trump's 2024 election victory, "and booming markets in cryptocurrencies, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and metals".

Many organizations were less than impressed at the accumulation of the world's wealth in so few (7) \_\_\_\_\_. The international charity Oxfam highlighted the growing disparity (8) \_\_\_\_\_ wealth. It said: "Inequality is a deliberate policy choice. Despite record wealth at the top, public wealth is stagnating, even declining, and debt distress is (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Inequality rips away life opportunities and rights from the majority of citizens, (10) \_\_\_\_\_ poverty, hunger, resentment, distrust, and instability." British climate scientist Bill McGuire warned that "if the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ political-economic system that is tearing our planet...and its people apart isn't brought to its knees, then humanity will (12) \_\_\_\_\_".

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

- |     |                |                |                 |                |
|-----|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) wealthy    | (b) wealthier  | (c) wealth      | (d) wealthiest |
| 2.  | (a) amassed    | (b) aghast     | (c) attaches    | (d) abashed    |
| 3.  | (a) net        | (b) cloth      | (c) final       | (d) trap       |
| 4.  | (a) topped     | (b) tapped     | (c) tipped      | (d) trumped    |
| 5.  | (a) blistered  | (b) cloistered | (c) holstered   | (d) bolstered  |
| 6.  | (a) inequities | (b) antiques   | (c) antiquities | (d) equities   |
| 7.  | (a) hands      | (b) fingers    | (c) palms       | (d) knuckles   |
| 8.  | (a) by         | (b) on         | (c) at          | (d) in         |
| 9.  | (a) growing    | (b) grown      | (c) glowing     | (d) glowering  |
| 10. | (a) sparkling  | (b) sparking   | (c) stoking     | (d) spanking   |
| 11. | (a) demon      | (b) monstrous  | (c) ghostly     | (d) ogre       |
| 12. | (a) be         | (b) have       | (c) do          | (d) live       |



# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. people saw their wealth esokcrkyt
2. emsdaas an additional \$2.2 trillion
3. pracittssohre earnings
4. releodstb by Donald Trump's 2024 election victory
5. booming markets in ctucrprsoiyeren
6. uqetiesi and metals

## Paragraph 2

7. the cumiulntaaoc of the world's wealth
8. the growing asriitydp in wealth
9. Inequality is a liabereted policy choice
10. public wealth is gaaingtnts
11. nmtnetsree, distrust, and instability
12. the msonrsuot political-economic system

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

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

- ( ) \$2.2 trillion last year. Their stratospheric earnings increased their collective net
- ( ) and instability." British climate scientist Bill McGuire warned that "if the monstrous political-economic system that is
- ( ) bank UBS, the 500 richest people on Earth amassed an additional
- ( ) by Donald Trump's 2024 election victory, "and booming markets in cryptocurrencies, equities and metals".
- ( ) Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Larry Ellison, and Larry Page. The Guardian newspaper said the gains were "bolstered"
- ( ) hands. The international charity Oxfam highlighted the growing disparity in
- ( ) Many organizations were less than impressed at the accumulation of the world's wealth in so few
- ( ) opportunities and rights from the majority of citizens, sparking poverty, hunger, resentment, distrust,
- ( ) stagnating, even declining, and debt distress is growing. Inequality rips away life
- ( ) tearing our planet...and its people apart isn't brought to its knees, then humanity will be".
- ( ) the mega-rich list and accounted for a quarter of the gains. These included
- ( **1** ) The world's richest people saw their wealth skyrocket in 2025. According to the investment
- ( ) wealth. It said: "Inequality is a deliberate policy choice. Despite record wealth at the top, public wealth is
- ( ) worth to \$11.9 trillion. The Bloomberg Billionaires Index reports that eight multi-billionaires topped

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. world's The people richest their saw skyrocket wealth .
2. The richest 500 amassed people additional an \$2.2 trillion .
3. Their earnings stratospheric their increased net collective worth .
4. accounted They a for of quarter gains the .
5. The were gains by bolstered election Trump's victory .
6. were Organizations than less at impressed accumulation the .
7. Oxfam the highlighted disparity growing wealth in .
8. It inequality said a is policy deliberate choice .
9. destroys Inequality from rights majority the citizens of .
10. The system political-economic is that our tearing planet .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

The world's richest people saw their wealth *skylight* / *skyrocket* in 2025. According *of* / *to* the investment bank UBS, the 500 richest *people* / *peoples* on Earth amassed an additional \$2.2 trillion last year. Their stratospheric *earnings* / *earrings* increased their collective *net* / *nets* worth to \$11.9 trillion. The Bloomberg Billionaires Index reports that eight multi-billionaires *tapped* / *topped* the mega-rich list and accounted for *the* / *a* quarter of the *grains* / *gains*. These included Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Larry Ellison, and Larry Page. The Guardian newspaper said the gains were "bolstered" *of* / *by* Donald Trump's 2024 election victory, "and *booming* / *blooming* markets in cryptocurrencies, equities and metals".

Many organizations were *lesser* / *less* than impressed at the accumulation of the world's wealth in so few *hand* / *hands*. The international charity Oxfam highlighted the growing disparity *on* / *in* wealth. It said: "Inequality is a deliberate policy *chosen* / *choice*. Despite record wealth at the top, public wealth is *staggering* / *stagnating*, even declining, and debt distress is growing. Inequality *lips* / *rips* away life opportunities and rights from the majority of citizens, *sparking* / *sparkling* poverty, hunger, resentment, distrust, and instability." British climate scientist Bill McGuire warned *that* / *what* "if the monstrous political-economic system that is *tearing* / *steering* our planet...and its people apart isn't brought to its knees, then humanity will *been* / *be*".

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Th\_ w\_rld's r\_ch\_st p\_\_pl\_ s\_w th\_\_r w\_\_lth skyr\_ck\_t  
\_n 2025. \_cc\_rdn\_g t\_ th\_ \_nv\_stm\_nt b\_nk \_BS, th\_  
500 r\_ch\_st \_p\_\_pl\_ \_n \_\_rth \_m\_ss\_d \_n \_dd\_t\_\_n\_l  
\$2.2 tr\_ll\_\_n l\_st y\_\_r. Th\_\_r str\_t\_sph\_r\_c \_\_rn\_ngs  
\_ncr\_\_s\_d th\_\_r c\_ll\_ct\_v\_ n\_t w\_rth t\_ \$11.9 tr\_ll\_\_n.  
Th\_ Bl\_\_mb\_rg B\_ll\_\_n\_\_r\_s \_nd\_x r\_p\_rts th\_t \_\_ght  
m\_lt\_-b\_ll\_\_n\_\_r\_s t\_pp\_d th\_ m\_g\_-r\_ch l\_st \_nd  
\_cc\_\_nt\_d f\_r \_ q\_\_rt\_r \_f th\_ g\_\_ns. Th\_s\_ \_ncl\_d\_d  
\_l\_n M\_sk, J\_ff B\_z\_s, L\_rry \_ll\_s\_n, \_nd L\_rry P\_g\_.  
Th\_ G\_\_rd\_\_n n\_wsp\_p\_r s\_\_d th\_ g\_\_ns w\_r\_  
"b\_lst\_r\_d" by D\_n\_ld Tr\_m\_p's 2024 \_l\_ct\_\_n v\_ct\_ry,  
"\_nd b\_\_mng m\_rk\_ts \_n crypt\_c\_rr\_nc\_\_s, \_q\_\_t\_\_s  
\_nd m\_t\_ls".

M\_ny \_rg\_n\_z\_t\_\_ns w\_r\_ l\_ss th\_n \_mpr\_ss\_d \_t th\_  
\_cc\_m\_l\_t\_\_n \_f th\_ w\_rld's w\_\_lth \_n s\_ f\_w h\_nds.  
Th\_ \_nt\_rn\_t\_\_n\_l ch\_r\_ty \_xf\_m h\_ghl\_gh\_t\_d th\_  
gr\_w\_ng d\_sp\_r\_ty \_n w\_\_lth. \_t s\_\_d: "\_n\_q\_\_l\_ty \_s  
\_ d\_l\_b\_r\_t\_ p\_l\_cy ch\_\_c\_. D\_sp\_t\_ r\_c\_rd w\_\_lth \_t  
th\_ t\_p, p\_b\_l\_c w\_\_lth \_s st\_gn\_t\_ng, \_v\_n d\_cl\_n\_ng,  
\_nd d\_bt d\_str\_ss \_s gr\_w\_ng. \_n\_q\_\_l\_ty r\_ps \_w\_y  
l\_f\_ \_pp\_rtn\_t\_\_s \_nd r\_ghts fr\_m th\_ m\_j\_r\_ty \_f  
c\_t\_z\_ns, sp\_rk\_ng p\_v\_rty, h\_ng\_r, r\_s\_ntm\_nt,  
d\_str\_st, \_nd \_nst\_b\_l\_ty." Br\_t\_sh cl\_m\_t\_ sc\_\_nt\_st  
B\_ll McG\_\_r\_ w\_rn\_d th\_t "\_f th\_ m\_nstr\_\_s p\_l\_t\_c\_l-  
\_c\_n\_m\_c syst\_m th\_t \_s t\_\_rng \_\_r pl\_n\_t...\_nd \_ts  
p\_\_pl\_ \_p\_r\_t \_sn't br\_\_ght t\_ \_ts kn\_\_s, th\_n  
h\_m\_n\_ty w\_ll b\_".

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

the worlds richest people saw their wealth skyrocket in 2025 according to the investment bank ubs the 500 richest people on earth amassed an additional 22 trillion last year their stratospheric earnings increased their collective net worth to 119 trillion the bloomberg billionaires index reports that eight multibillionaires topped the megarich list and accounted for a quarter of the gains these included elon musk jeff bezos larry ellison and larry page the guardian newspaper said the gains were bolstered by donald trumps 2024 election victory and booming markets in cryptocurrencies equities and metals

many organizations were less than impressed at the accumulation of the worlds wealth in so few hands the international 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 and debt distress is growing inequality rips away life opportunities and rights from the majority of citizens sparking poverty hunger resentment distrust and instability british climate scientist bill mcguire warned that if the monstrous politicaleconomic system that is tearing our planetand its people apart isnt brought to its knees then humanity will be

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

The world's richest people saw their wealth skyrocket in 2025. According to the investment bank UBS, the 500 richest people on Earth amassed an additional \$2.2 trillion last year. Their stratospheric earnings increased their collective net worth to \$11.9 trillion. The Bloomberg Billionaires Index reports that eight multi-billionaires topped the mega-rich list and accounted for a quarter of the gains. These included Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Larry Ellison, and Larry Page. 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 less than impressed at the accumulation of the world's wealth in so few hands. The international 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, and debt distress is growing. Inequality rips away life opportunities and rights from the majority of citizens, sparking poverty, hunger, resentment, distrust, and instability." British climate scientist Bill McGuire warned that "if the monstrous political-economic system that is tearing our planet... and its people apart isn't brought to its knees, then humanity will be".

## FREE WRITING

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

Write about **rich people** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

[illegible]



# ACADEMIC WRITING

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

The world's rich should give most of their money to the poor. Discuss.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# 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 this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

**4. SHARE THE WEALTH:** Write a magazine article about rich people sharing all their wealth to end world poverty. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 an expert on rich people. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how the rich can help the world. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. a    2. c    3. e    4. f    5. d    6. b    7. g  
8. j    9. l    10. n    11. i    12. h    13. k    14. m

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 T    3 T    4 T    5 F    6 T    7 F    8 F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. e	2. c	3. j	4. g	5. b
6. a	7. h	8. f	9. d	10. i

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. It skyrocketed
2. UBS
3. \$11.9 trillion
4. Eight
5. Cryptocurrencies
6. Wealth
7. Debt distress
8. Poverty
9. A climate scientist
10. The monstrous political-economic system

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. The world's richest people saw their wealth skyrocket.
2. The 500 richest people amassed an additional \$2.2 trillion.
3. Their stratospheric earnings increased their collective net worth.
4. They accounted for a quarter of the gains.
5. The gains were bolstered by Trump's election victory.
6. Organizations were less than impressed at the accumulation.
7. Oxfam highlighted the growing disparity in wealth.
8. It said inequality is a deliberate policy choice.
9. Inequality destroys rights from the majority of citizens.
10. The political-economic system that is tearing our planet.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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