

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.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 4 – 21st September 2026

Sustainable Development Goals not on track, says UN

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260921-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-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](https://x.com/SeanBanville)

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260921-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-4.html>

The UN has warned that the world is not on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030. The goals were created in 2015 to improve our lives. They include ending poverty, improving education, reducing gender inequality, and tackling climate change. Only a third of the goals are on track. Wars, climate change, slow economic growth, and other global shocks are making progress difficult. The UN asked countries to increase their efforts in the run-up to 2030.

The UN did report signs of progress. One billion more people have access to drinking water. Internet connectivity has also greatly increased. However, serious challenges remain. There is a lack of progress on gender equality. The UN said: "At the current rate of progress, gender equality would take 171 years to achieve." An official said countries needed to invest more in infrastructure. The UN said the goals could still be achieved.

Sources: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2026/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2026.pdf>
<https://www.npr.org/2026/09/18/g-s1-143738/united-nations-sustainable-development-goals-hunger-climate-gender>
<https://earth.org/none-of-17-un-sdgs-on-track-to-be-achieved-by-2030-report-finds-2/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260921-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. created in 2015 | a. inequality |
| 2. reducing gender | b. increase their efforts |
| 3. Only a third of the goals | c. growth |
| 4. slow economic | d. up to 2030 |
| 5. global | e. difficult |
| 6. making progress | f. are on track |
| 7. The UN asked countries to | g. to improve our lives |
| 8. in the run- | h. shocks |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The UN did report signs | a. remain |
| 2. One billion more people | b. connectivity |
| 3. internet | c. in infrastructure |
| 4. serious challenges | d. rate of progress |
| 5. There is a lack of | e. of progress |
| 6. At the current | f. progress |
| 7. equality would take 171 years | g. have access |
| 8. invest more | h. to achieve |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260921-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-4.html>

The UN has warned that the world is not on track
(1) _____ SDGs by 2030. The goals were created
in 2015 to (2) _____. They include ending poverty,
improving education, (3) _____, and tackling
climate change. Only (4) _____ the goals are on
track. Wars, climate change, slow economic growth, and other global shocks
are (5) _____. The UN asked countries to increase
their efforts in the (6) _____ 2030.

The UN did report (7) _____. One billion more
people have access to drinking water. Internet connectivity
(8) _____ increased. However, serious challenges
remain. There is (9) _____ progress on gender
equality. The UN said: "At the (10) _____ progress,
gender equality would take 171 years to achieve."
(11) _____ countries needed to invest more in
infrastructure. The UN said the goals could
(12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260921-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-4.html>

The UN has warned that the world is not on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030. The goals were created in 2015 to improve our lives. They include ending poverty, improving education, reducing gender inequality, and tackling climate change. Only a third of the goals are on track. Wars, climate change, slow economic growth, and other global shocks are making progress difficult. The UN asked countries to increase their efforts in the run-up to 2030. The UN did report signs of progress. One billion more people have access to drinking water. Internet connectivity has also greatly increased. However, serious challenges remain. There is a lack of progress on gender equality. The UN said: "At the current rate of progress, gender equality would take 171 years to achieve." An official said countries needed to invest more in infrastructure. The UN said the goals could still be achieved.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260921-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Sustainable Development Goals 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) _____

Sustainable Development Goals not on track, says UN – 21st September 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/2609/260921-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-4.html>

Write about **Sustainable Development Goals** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]