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Level 5 – 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-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260921-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-5.html>

The UN has warned that the world is not on track to achieve its Sustainable Development Goals 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. The UN reported that only one third of the goals are on track to be met. Around half are progressing too slowly. Wars, climate change, slow economic growth, rising debt, and other global shocks are making progress difficult. The UN has asked countries to increase their efforts in the run-up to 2030.

The UN did report signs of progress. It said one billion more people have access to drinking water. Internet connectivity has also increased to about 74 per cent of the world's population. However, many serious challenges remain. There is a huge lack of progress on gender equality. A UN spokesperson said: "At the current rate of progress, gender equality would take 171 years to achieve." Another official said countries needed to invest more in infrastructure. The UN said the goals could still be achieved, but faster action was needed.

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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. the world is not on | a. debt |
| 2. The goals were created in 2015 | b. increase their efforts |
| 3. reducing gender | c. track |
| 4. slow economic | d. up to 2030 |
| 5. rising | e. growth |
| 6. global shocks are making progress | f. inequality |
| 7. The UN has asked countries to | g. difficult |
| 8. in the run- | h. to improve our lives |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The UN did report | a. 171 years to achieve |
| 2. one billion | b. of progress |
| 3. access | c. more people |
| 4. many serious challenges | d. be achieved |
| 5. There is a huge lack | e. signs of progress |
| 6. gender equality would take | f. infrastructure |
| 7. invest more in | g. to drinking water |
| 8. the goals could still | h. remain |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260921-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-5.html>

The UN has warned that the world is (1) _____ to achieve its Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The goals were created in 2015 to (2) _____. They include ending poverty, improving education, (3) _____, and tackling climate change. The UN reported that only one third of the goals are on track (4) _____. Around half are progressing too slowly. Wars, climate change, (5) _____, rising debt, and other global shocks are making progress difficult. The UN has asked countries to (6) _____ in the run-up to 2030.

The UN did report (7) _____. It said one billion more people have access to drinking water. Internet connectivity has (8) _____ about 74 per cent of the world's population. However, many (9) _____. There is a huge lack of progress on gender equality. A UN spokesperson said: "At the (10) _____ progress, gender equality would take 171 years to achieve." Another official said countries (11) _____ more in infrastructure. The UN said the goals could (12) _____, but faster action was needed.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260921-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-5.html>

The UN has warned that the world is not on track to achieve its Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The goals were recreated in 2015 to improve our lives. They include ending poverty, improving education, reducing gender inequality, and tackling climate change. The UN reported that only one third of the goals are on track to be met. Around half are progressing too slowly. Wars, climate change, slow economic growth, rising debt, and other global shocks are making progress difficult. The UN has asked countries to increase their efforts in the run-up to 2030. The UN did report signs of progress. It said one billion more people have access to drinking water. Internet connectivity has also increased to about 74 percent of the world's population. However, many serious challenges remain. There is a huge lack of progress on gender equality. A UN spokesperson said: "At the current rate of progress, gender equality would take 171 years to achieve." Another official said countries needed to invest more in infrastructure. The UN said the goals could still be achieved, but faster action was needed.

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) _____

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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/2609/260921-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-5.html>

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

[illegible]