



Global Concepts

English for International Understanding

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NAN'UN-DO

Lesson 1

What the World Needs Now

GETTING READY TO READ

Key Concepts: Match these key words or phrases from Today's Reading with the definitions/explanations below. Write the letters of the definitions on the lines.

1. _____ poverty
2. _____ gender equality
3. _____ child mortality rate
4. _____ create a sustainable environment
5. _____ bankruptcy
6. _____ tribal and civil war
7. _____ aid
8. _____ antiretroviral treatment



- a. men and women having the same rights and opportunities
- b. serious economic or financial difficulty
- c. violence within a country between different ethnic groups
- d. gifts of money from rich countries to poor countries
- e. protect and preserve the natural world
- f. a combination of drugs for AIDS patients
- g. the percentage of children who die very young
- h. the state of being very poor

Active Reading: As you read through Today's Reading, look for answers to these questions. Mark the sentences in the reading where the answers are found.

1. In the year 2000, the United Nations set some goals for the world. What was the general aim or purpose of the goals?
2. What did some people think about these goals?
3. Why did they think that way, especially about Africa?
4. Who is Jeffrey Sachs and what does he say about the situation today?
5. What did a conference held in 2010 conclude?

Words in Context: Choose the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the underlined word in each sentence fragment below.

1. ... the target date for achieving these goals ...
(A) keeping (B) reaching (C) deciding
2. ... to ameliorate social and economic conditions ...
(A) make worse (B) make better (C) make happen
3. Specifically, the goals included ...
(A) In fact (B) In detail (C) Indeed
4. ... and promote gender equality ...
(A) demand (B) request (C) foster
5. Initially, these goals ...
(A) At last (B) At most (C) At first
6. ... and overly optimistic ...
(A) hopeful (B) foolish (C) dangerous
7. ... the situation has changed dramatically ...
(A) very little (B) very much (C) very often
8. ... cynicism has been replaced by hope ...
(A) anger (B) pride (C) doubt
9. ... poverty and hunger are declining ...
(A) improving (B) going down (C) increasing
10. Wider distribution of bed nets ...
(A) production in factories (B) making available or supplying
(C) understanding
11. ... to assess how much progress ...
(A) criticize (B) judge (C) report
12. ... what it most urgently needs right now ...
(A) essentially (B) positively (C) certainly

TODAY'S READING

2 Read this essay carefully. Then do the exercises that follow.

Back in 2000, the United Nations (UN) held a special summit at its headquarters in New York City. Some 192 nations and 23 international organizations took part. The purpose of the conference was to set up what the UN called the Millennium Development Goals, or MDGs for short. The summit's participants named 2015 as the target date for achieving these goals.

Generally, the MDGs aimed to ameliorate social and economic conditions in the world's poorest countries. Specifically, the goals included:

- Get rid of poverty and extreme hunger;
- Give children everywhere at least a primary-school education;
- Empower women and promote gender equality;
- Reduce the child mortality rate;
- Fight AIDS, malaria, and other diseases;
- Create a sustainable environment.

Initially, these goals were met with cynicism. Many critics looked upon them as unrealistic and overly optimistic—impossible, in fact. After all, the situation at the time, particularly in Africa, seemed hopeless. Most African countries were on the brink of bankruptcy. Most Africans got by on less than one dollar a day. AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and measles were out of control. Tribal and civil wars were being fought in a dozen places.

But today the situation has changed dramatically, says Jeffrey Sachs. Sachs is the director of the Earth Institute of Columbia University and a long-time fighter in the war against world poverty. Sachs believes that now, cynicism has been replaced by hope. Thanks to stepped-up efforts by African governments and increased donations from rich countries, real progress has been made, he says. Economic conditions are improving throughout the continent. Extreme poverty and hunger are declining. AIDS is in decline, too, because millions of Africans are receiving antiretroviral treatment. And wider distribution of bed nets has cut deaths from malaria “decisively.”

In September 2010, a follow-up summit was held at the UN. This time, the purpose was to assess how much progress had been made towards realizing these goals. Although there is still a long way to go, the summit concluded, the Millennium Development Goals are now “within reach.” And they still represent, says Jeffrey Sachs, our most “realistic path” to giving the world what it most urgently needs right now.



Notes

The United Nations 「国際連合 (略UN)」 for short 「略して」 empower 「権利を与える」 gender equality 「男女平等」 mortality rate 「死亡率」 sustainable environment 「持続可能な環境」 cynicism 「冷笑」 on the brink of ~ 「～に瀕して」 got by 「どうにかやっていた」 AIDS 「エイズまたは後天性免疫不全症候群 (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome の略)」 tuberculosis 「(医) 結核」 the Earth Institute of Columbia University 「コロンビア大学地球研究所」 antiretroviral treatment 「抗トロウイルス治療」 bed nets 「蚊帳」 within reach 「手の届く所に」

EXERCISES 1: COMPREHENSION

Reading for Information: Fill in the blank(s) in each sentence.


1. The target date for reaching the MDGs was set for _____ years in the future.
2. One MDG is to make sure people have enough _____ to eat.
3. The UN says that all children should receive at least _____ years of education.
4. The _____ summit aimed to give _____ the same rights and opportunities as _____.
5. Another MDG was to keep the natural _____ from becoming _____.
6. In 2000, most _____ had to live on _____ dollars a year.
7. In addition to teaching at _____ University, Jeffrey Sachs tries to help the world's _____ people.
8. African _____ have been taking steps to solve their countries' problems.
9. AIDS is in decline thanks to _____ drugs.
10. The second UN summit was held _____ years after the first.




Listening for Ideas: Listen and fill in the blanks in each sentence. Then circle T if the sentence is true, F if it is false.

1. T F One _____ of the 2000 _____ was to reduce childhood _____.
2. T F In 2000, _____ and _____ conditions in Africa seemed _____.
3. T F _____ Sachs says that civil _____ in Africa are no longer being _____.
4. T F Money given to Africa by rich _____ has done _____ to _____ the _____ there.
5. T F The _____ summit _____ that most MDGs had already been _____.
6. T F Sachs seems to believe that the best _____ to solve the world's most _____ problems is to increase our _____ to achieve the MDGs.

EXERCISES 2: COMPOSITION

 **Making Questions:** Write the question you would need to ask to get each answer below. Use the hints. Listen to check your questions.

1. **Question:** Where were _____?
Answer: In New York City.
2. **Question:** How did _____?
Answer: As overly optimistic and unrealistic.
3. **Question:** _____ replaced with?
Answer: With hope.
4. **Question:** How have _____?
Answer: Through wider distribution of bed nets and medicines.

 **Writing with Idioms:** Rewrite each sentence below by substituting one of these phrases for the underlined part. Make the necessary changes. Listen to check your answers.

on the brink of get rid of look upon thanks to

1. I wish I could recover from this stubborn cold.

2. With your advice, I was able to choose the best career for me.

3. She is seen by many as a possible candidate for president.

4. Many species are about to die out.

Word Forms: Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct form of the word on the left.

1. *cynicism* The critic is known for his _____ world view.
2. *achieve* The award recognizes his many great _____.
3. *promote* My boss said I will get a _____ next year.
4. *distribution* Please _____ these test papers to the class.
5. *specifically* Do you have a _____ restaurant in mind?
6. *assess* I disagree with your _____ of the movie.
7. *optimistic* _____ speaking, economic recovery will take at least a year.
8. *urgently* I cannot overemphasize the _____ of the situation.

EXERCISES 3: CHALLENGE

Using Key Concepts: Fill in the blanks in each sentence B below so that it is similar in meaning to sentence A. Use the Key Concepts on page 6.

- A. Today, many companies are failing.
B. Today, many companies are filing for _____.
- A. We need to keep the natural world healthy.
B. We need to _____.
- A. The new law gives men and women the same rights.
B. The new law guarantees _____.
- A. Better nutrition means fewer children are dying.
B. Better nutrition has reduced the _____.

Vocabulary Expansion: Look at these dictionary definitions of “poor.” Then read the sentences that follow. Decide what “poor” means in each sentence. Write the numbers of the definitions on the lines.

- (adj.) *having little or no money or possessions*
- (adj.) *lacking in a specific resource or quality*
- (adj.) *not excellent; inferior*
- (adj.) *lacking in value; not good enough*
- (adj.) *lacking in quantity or number*
- (adj.) *deserving pity; pitiable*
- (n.) *people with little or no money or possessions*

- _____ Because of poor attendance, the course was cancelled.
- _____ She quit the job because of the poor wages.
- _____ The poor man lost his entire family in the accident.
- _____ Children from poor families don't do as well in school.
- _____ The new program aims to help the city's poor.
- _____ Poor in oil, Japan has to import its supply from abroad.
- _____ The actress gave a poor, uninspired performance.



Listening Activity: Listen to the short talk about malaria. Then read the sentences below. Circle T if the sentence is true, F if it is false.

- T F Malaria is caused by the bite of a monkey.
- T F Malaria means “bad luck” in Latin.
- T F Malaria occurs mostly in hot, humid places.
- T F Malaria is especially dangerous for children.
- T F One symptom of malaria is severe hunger.
- T F All types of malaria are equally serious.
- T F Though treatable, malaria still kills many people.