

Poverty

Activity 1

Discuss the following questions with your partner.

1. How do you define 'poverty' for people in your country? (e.g. Not having a car, not having a house, not having water to drink?)
2. Should the definition of poverty be the same for people all around the world? Why/not?
3. Is poverty a big problem in your country?
4. What does your government do to alleviate the problem of poverty in your country?
5. How effective do you think charities are in assisting the poor?
6. Do you think poverty will ever be eradicated in your country/the world? Why/not?
7. In your opinion, is it possible to be happy in spite of being poor?

Activity 2

Complete the sentences with the following words and phrases.

to feel poorly the poverty line broke poor to take a poor view poorly

1. According to some estimates a quarter of children in the USA live below
2. She is not a good student. She always does her homework very
3. He is not feeling well today. He is going to stay in bed because he
4. 'I fell off my bicycle yesterday.' 'Did you? you!'
5. At the meeting I suggested raising everybody's salaries but the CEO of my idea.
6. He can't go out this Saturday night because he is He has got no money at all.

Activity 3

Answer the following 'true or false' questions with your partner.

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| 1. Zimbabwe is the poorest country in the world. | T/F |
| 2. India is one of the ten poorest countries in the world. | T/F |
| 3. One child in four lives in poverty in the USA. | T/F |
| 4. In London 40% of children live in poverty. | T/F |
| 5. Nearly a billion people in the world survive on less than \$1.25 a day. | T/F |

Activity 4

Use the following questions to begin a conversation with your partner.

1. In what ways can rich countries help to reduce poverty in poorer countries?
2. Do you ever give money to charities to help the poor?
3. 'Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him to fish and he can feed himself for life'. To what extent do you agree with this saying?
4. Do you think aid organisations and developed countries are doing enough to help reduce poverty around the globe?
5. Why do you think some countries are so much poorer than others?
6. To what extent do you think a lack of education/having a large family contributes to poverty?
7. What do you think the governments of developing nations should do in order to reduce poverty?
8. Do you think poverty is a bigger problem now than in the past?
9. Who should be responsible for reducing poverty in a country – the government, charity organisations or the people themselves?
10. What can be done to help children in poverty?

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Activity 5

Go to **EnglishClub.com** and click on the 'TP Homework' icon. Use the information you find there to answer the questions below.

1. How many criteria are mentioned in the TP Homework to define poverty?
a) 8 b) 10 c) 12
2. Which of the following is not mentioned in the definition of poverty in the TP Homework?
a) food b) information c) clothing
3. What is the answer to the Quick Quiz?

Activity 6

'In order to reduce poverty people in poor countries should have fewer children.' Discuss.

If you would like to express your opinion on this subject go to **EnglishClub.com** and click on the 'TP Discussion' icon to take part in the forum discussion there.

N.B. Netiquette! PLEASE CHANGE THE DEFAULT SUBJECT LINE TO INDICATE THE OPINIONS IN YOUR POST BECAUSE IN A BUSY THREAD IT HELPS PEOPLE DECIDE WHICH POSTS TO READ!

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