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Vocabulary: money 金钱

It may not come as a surprise but the world as a whole is getting **richer**. Some people have more **disposable income** to spend on **luxuries** such as holidays, cars, TVs and smartphones. Recent data has shown that the number of people living in **extreme poverty** has halved in recent decades. So should we celebrate the fact that more of us now have a better **standard of living**?



Maybe not. Whilst the gap between rich and poor in some countries is narrowing, there is still a lot of **inequality** in other places – some people have a lot of money and opportunities and others don't. A recent report by Oxfam and Credit Suisse revealed how divided many of us are when it comes to **wealth**. A lot of money in the world is in the hands of very few people. In fact, 48% of global wealth is owned by the richest 1% of the population.

But some countries are attempting to reduce this inequality and make the poor, less poor. According to David Bryer from Oxfam, Brazil has been taking "some really sensible **measures** – measures around having more **progressive tax**, around investing in a higher **minimum wage** [and] investing in central **public services**." Having a higher minimum wage, can help people eat better and seek a better education. And more people with more money buy more things – and factories can produce more. In turn, a factory which produces more will need more workers. So, more jobs are created.

Other wealthy individuals are doing their bit to help reduce inequality. Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, earned a lot of money from his company but when he retired, he and his wife Melinda, created a foundation to help the poor. He thinks that rich people should, of course, pay their taxes but he also advises that they should all "look at taking their wealth and being **philanthropic**, both in their own country and to help the global poorest."

Bill Gates feels that giving money to help poor people is "**fulfilling**". But if other super-rich people don't want to experience this fulfilment then, according to Oxfam, very soon the wealthiest 1% will own more money than the rest of the world's population. Do you think that is fair?

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. How much global wealth is currently owned by 1% of the population?
2. What is the government in Brazil doing to the minimum wage?
3. Why might a factory start employing more people?
4. What do Bill and Melinda Gates think very rich people should do with some of their money?
5. True or false? *Soon more than 50% of the world's wealth will be owned by 1% of people.*

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Being a school teacher has been a very _____ career.

| | | | |
|------------|---------|--------|---------|
| fulfilling | full up | filled | filling |
|------------|---------|--------|---------|

2. I like the little _____ you get in hotels like having fresh flowers in the room.

| | | | |
|--------|----------|----------|--------|
| wealth | measures | luxuries | richer |
|--------|----------|----------|--------|

3. My husband earns a lot of money so we have a very high _____.

| | | | |
|------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| inequality | standard of living | minimum wage | progressive tax |
|------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|

4. The Police are going to have to take stronger _____ if we're going to reduce crime.

| | | | |
|--------|---------|----------|------------|
| wealth | poverty | measures | inequality |
|--------|---------|----------|------------|

5. I visited the city slums and saw people living in _____.

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| extreme poverty | public services | minimum wage | standard of living |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|

Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. How much global wealth is currently owned by 1% of the population? **48%**
2. What is the government in Brazil doing to the minimum wage? **Increasing it; making it higher.**
3. Why might a factory start employing more people? **If there is a higher minimum wage, people will buy more things, so the factory will need more workers to make more things.**
4. What do Bill and Melinda Gates think very rich people should do with some of their money? **Give it to poorer people.**
5. True or false? *Soon more than 50% of the world's wealth will be owned by 1% of people.*
True.

Exercise 练习

1. Being a school teacher has been a very **fulfilling** career.
2. I like the little **luxuries** you get in hotels like having fresh flowers in the room.
3. My husband earns a lot of money so we have a very high **standard of living**.
4. The Police are going to have to take stronger **measures** if we're going to reduce crime.
5. I visited the city slums and saw people living in **extreme poverty**.

Glossary 词汇表

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| richer | 更加富有 |
| disposable income | 可支配收入 |
| luxuries | 奢侈品 |
| extreme poverty | 极度贫困 |
| standard of living | 生活标准 |
| inequality | 不平等 |
| wealth | 财富 |
| measures | 措施 |
| progressive tax | 累进税 |
| minimum wage | 最低工资 |
| public services | 公共服务 |
| philanthropic | 乐善好施的, 慈善的 |
| fulfilling | 充实 |