

RICH AND POOR

RICHES ET PAUVRES

18

the gap is widening

le fossé se creuse

standard of living, living-standards
GDP [dʒiːdiː'piː] per head,
per inhabitant
lifestyle, way of life
buying power, spending power,
purchasing power ['pɜːtʃaɪzɪŋ paʊə]

le niveau de vie
le PIB par tête, par habitant
mode de vie
le pouvoir d'achat

In 1987 there were 140 **billionaires** worldwide. In 2019 there were 15 times as many, with 30 times more wealth, totalling \$ 9 trillion in assets. In the same year, Oxfam, a British charity, calculated that the world's richest 26 people owned as much wealth as the 3.8 billion people who make up the poorest 50% of the global population.

rich, wealthy
wealth
well-off
well-to-do
well-heeled [wel hiːld]
to be affluent
affluence
the affluent society ['æfluənt sə'saɪəti]

riche
la richesse
aisé
nanti
fortuné
être nanti, vivre dans l'aisance
la richesse, l'abondance
la société d'abondance

Affluenza is a portmanteau word composed of "affluence" and "influenza" (grippe) and refers to the condition of people, mostly in rich Western countries, who feel unfulfilled (*insatisfaits, frustrés*) and dissatisfied in spite of their growing wealth. There is evidence showing that levels of happiness in rich countries have not increased over the past fifty years even though material well-being (*bien-être*) has soared as a result of economic growth.

rich people, the rich
riches [rɪtʃz]
the super-rich, the mega-rich
stinking rich
in moneyed circles

les riches
des richesses
les grandes fortunes
bourré de fric, plein aux as
parmi les nantis, les possédants

The Wolf of Wall Street is a 2013 movie directed by Martin Scorsese and starring Leonardo DiCaprio. It is based on the real-life story of a Wall Street stockbroker, Jordan Belfort. The film depicts how Belfort used unscrupulous selling techniques and fraud to amass millions of dollars which enabled to live a decadent life of drugs and prostitutes. He was eventually arrested by the FBI but received a reduced three-year sentence in return for gathering evidence on his colleagues.

a millionaire [mɪljə'neɪə]
 a dollar millionaire
 a billionaire
 a zillionaire, a multimillionaire
 an oil magnate ['mæɡnɪt]
 a press baron
 a media mogul ['mæʊɡəl]
 an oil / a software tycoon [taɪ'kuːn]

un millionnaire
 un millionnaire en dollars
 un milliardaire
 un multimilliardaire
 un magnat du pétrole
 un baron de la presse
 un magnat des médias
 un roi du pétrole / des logiciels

A **golden parachute** is a large amount of money given to someone when they leave their job; in British English it is also called a **golden handshake**.

income
 income tax
 a tax haven ['heɪvən]
 tax evasion [tæksɪ'veɪʃən]
 to stash money away
 money-laundering
 high-income / low-income families
 a taxpayer
 earnings

le revenu
 l'impôt sur le revenu
 un paradis fiscal
 la fraude fiscale
 planquer de l'argent
 le blanchiment d'argent
 familles à hauts / bas revenus
 un contribuable
 les gains

The **Panama papers** are documents belonging to a Panamanian company, Mossack Fonseca, containing personal financial information which were leaked to the press in 2015. They show how the company helped wealthy individuals from all over the world evade tax by creating shell companies (*sociétés écrans*). The whistleblower, who calls himself "John Doe", explained that his aim was to fight global injustice. Leading politicians such as Iceland's then Prime Minister, the former British PM David Cameron and many others from members of Spain's Royal Family to Ukraine to Qatar were affected by the resulting scandal. The Panama Papers were the subject of a 2019 movie entitled *The Laundromat* (*lavomatique*) and directed by Steven Soderbergh. In 2021, another leak, the **Pandora papers** showed that dozens of world leaders, business people and celebrities held secret offshore accounts in countries such as Switzerland or the United Arab Emirates.

poverty
 poor people, the poor
 the working poor
 poor, impoverished
 the needy
 extreme poverty, dire ['daɪə] poverty
 destitution [desɪ'tjuːʃən]
 the most destitute
 to fall on hard times, to become
 destitute
 to sink into poverty
 below / above the poverty line

la pauvreté
 les pauvres
 les travailleurs pauvres
 pauvre
 les nécessiteux, les indigents
 la misère
 le dénuement, la misère noire
 les plus démunis
 tomber dans la misère
 sombrer dans la pauvreté
 en-dessous / au-dessus du seuil
 de pauvreté

The **Make Poverty History** campaign is a British and Irish coalition of charities, religious groups, trade unions, campaigning groups and celebrities who have joined forces (se mobilisent) to increase awareness of the issue in the public and pressure governments into taking actions towards relieving absolute poverty.

a low-income household	un ménage à revenu modeste
deprived [di'praɪvd], disadvantaged,	défavorisé
underprivileged	
to live on \$2 a day	vivre avec deux dollars par jour
to live on the benefit (GB),	vivre d'allocations
on welfare (US)	
pauperism	le paupérisme
pauperization	la paupérisation

There is no better way to channel the mind-bending (*hallucinant*) logic of 18th century thinkers on poverty than to simply quote their words. Meet Philippe Hecquet, a well-known French doctor speaking in 1740: "The poor... are like the shadows in a painting they provide the necessary contrast". With a little less lyricism, here is Englishman Arthur Young, in 1771: "Everyone but (*sauf*) an idiot knows that the lower classes must be kept poor or they will never be industrious. In the span (*l'espace*) of 200 years, these commonly held sentiments have of course come to be seen as deeply wrong-headed, in total opposition with today's notion that poverty is something we'd rather eradicate than exploit.

The Atlantic Monthly, July 17, 2013

inequality [ɪnɪ'kwɒlɪti]	l'inégalité
unequal ['ʌnɪ'kwəl], uneven	inégal
to share	partager
to share out	répartir
the distribution of wealth	la répartition de la richesse
a two-tier society [tiə]	une société à deux vitesses
the social fabric	le tissu social

Two decades ago, when I started writing about economic inequality, meritocracy seemed more likely a cure than a cause. Meritocracy's early advocates championed social mobility. In the 1960s, for instance, Yale President Kingman Brewster brought meritocratic admissions to the university with the express aim of breaking a hereditary elite. Alumni (*anciens élèves*) had long believed that their sons had a birthright to follow them to Yale; now prospective students would gain admission based on achievement rather than breeding. Meritocracy—for a time—replaced complacent insiders with talented and hardworking outsiders. Today's meritocrats still claim to get ahead through talent and effort, using means open to anyone. In practice, however, meritocracy now excludes everyone outside of a narrow elite... Hardworking outsiders no longer enjoy genuine opportunity. According to one study, only one out of every 100 children born into the poorest fifth of households, and fewer than one out of every 50 children born into the middle fifth, will join the top 5 percent.

Adapted from *The Meritocracy Trap*, Daniel Markovits, 2019

the gap between rich and poor
 the gap between the haves
 and the have-nots
 to bridge, to close the gap
 the gap is closing, narrowing
 the gap is widening
 the social divide
 a discrepancy
 a chasm ['kæzəm]
 balance / imbalance
 balanced / unbalanced
 to redress the balance

le fossé entre les riches et les pauvres
 la fracture sociale
 combler le fossé
 le fossé se comble
 le fossé se creuse
 le fossé social, la fracture sociale
 un écart
 un gouffre, un abîme
 l'équilibre / le déséquilibre
 équilibré / déséquilibré
 rétablir l'équilibre

LDCs (or **least developed countries**; in French: PMA, Pays Moins Avancés) are the poorest countries in the world according to a classification established by the United Nations. Their income per head is below \$750. They are often torn (*déchirés*) by civil war, ethnic strife (*rivalités*) as well as extensive corruption and many have authoritarian governments. People in LDCs are often illiterate and do not have access to basic health care. 33 out of the 49 LDCs are located in sub-Saharan Africa.

social mobility
 social advancement
 career advancement, professional
 advancement
 the social ladder
 to move up the social ladder
 to be upwardly mobile
 [ˈʌpwədlɪ'məʊbaɪl]
 upward social mobility
 a self-made man
 a rags-to-riches story
 to start from scratch
 to strike gold, to strike it rich
 equality of opportunity
 egalitarian
 egalitarianism
 social standing
 social status ['stertəs]
 fall in status, social descent

la mobilité sociale
 la promotion sociale
 l'ascension professionnelle
 l'ascenseur social
 monter dans l'échelle sociale
 monter dans l'échelle sociale
 l'ascension sociale
 un self-made man
 l'histoire de quelqu'un qui est passé
 de la misère à la richesse
 partir de rien
 faire fortune
 l'égalité des chances
 égalitaire
 l'égalitarisme
 le niveau social
 le statut social
 le déclassement

The class structure of Western society has gotten scrambled (*bouleversée*) over the past few decades. It used to be straightforward: You had the rich, who joined country clubs and voted Republican; the working class, who toiled in the factories and voted Democratic; and, in between, the mass suburban middle class. We had a clear idea of what class conflict, when it came, would look like—members of the working classes would align with progressive intellectuals to take on the capitalist elite. But somehow when the class conflict came, in 2015 and 2016, it didn't look anything like that. Suddenly, conservative parties across the West—the former champions of the landed

aristocracy (*aristocratie terrienne*)—portrayed themselves as the warriors for the working class. And left-wing parties—once vehicles for proletarian revolt—were attacked as captives of the super-educated urban elite.
David Brooks, *The Atlantic*, August 2, 2021.

a decline in living standards
to struggle to get by, struggle by
to have difficulty paying the bills
to make ends meet
to live from hand to mouth
to scrape [skreɪp] by
to survive

une baisse du niveau de vie
peiner à s'en sortir
avoir du mal à payer les factures
joindre les deux bouts
vivre au jour le jour
vivoter
survivre

The expression the haves and the have-nots has long been used to refer to rich versus poor people, but more recently **the have-yachts** has described super-rich people (bankers and traders, Russian oil billionaires and Indian moguls) who will spend tens of thousands of dollars on a cocktail party for instance.

homeless ['həʊmlɪs]
homelessness is on the rise
a tramp, a bum
a bag lady
a soup kitchen, a bread line (US)
the underclass
a slum [slʌm]

sans abri
il y a de plus en plus de sans-abri
un clodo
une clocharde
une soupe populaire
le quart-monde
un taudis

The Big Issue is a British street newspaper written by professional journalists and sold by homeless people. It has been published since 1991 and sells over 300,000 copies a week. It offers its vendors a chance to earn a legitimate income and thus helps them reintegrate mainstream society (*société normale*). Despite its success, it has been criticized by other street newspapers for not involving homeless individuals enough in its production and for being excessively "commercial" instead of focusing on issues affecting homeless people.

IDIOMS & PROVERBS

to live from hand to mouth	vivre au jour le jour
to make ends meet	joindre les deux bouts
to tighten your belt	se serrer la ceinture
to be on a shoestring (budget)	vivre avec très peu d'argent
to go from rags to riches	passer de la misère à la richesse
a fat cat	un gros richard

Traduire en français

1. Poverty is comparative: one is always poor, in terms of those who are richer.
2. Why is it that so many people feel unfulfilled despite the increase in their material well-being?
3. The number of women with an income of over £1m was up by almost a third in 2015, but male millionaires still outnumbered women 10 to 1.
4. Golden parachutes are all the more shocking today as so many people are struggling just to get by.
5. Eradicating poverty worldwide may seem an insuperable task, but so did ending apartheid.
6. Contrary to popular belief, globalization has actually reduced poverty, even if the gap between the wealthiest and the most destitute has widened.
7. As India becomes more and more affluent, its divorce rate is shooting up.
8. In the US, a child born into a poor family has a 1% chance of growing up to become one of the richest 5%.
9. But two-thirds of Americans who are now in their 30s or 40s enjoy higher income than their parents did.
10. It has been shown that rich people are much more confident than poor people that their neighbours would help them in a crisis.

Traduire en anglais

1. Le niveau de vie augmente ou baisse en fonction de la croissance économique.
2. Son mode de vie a été bouleversé depuis qu'il est devenu milliardaire.
3. Les pauvres voudraient bien sûr que les riches payent davantage d'impôts.
4. Que fait le père de ta petite amie dans la vie ?
5. À quoi bon gagner plus en faisant des heures supplémentaires si on doit en donner les deux-tiers au fisc ?
6. Aux Philippines, beaucoup d'enfants livrés à eux-mêmes survivent en ramassant des boîtes de métal dans les décharges.
7. Le fossé entre les pauvres et les riches ne cesse de se creuser dans certains pays du Sud.
8. Il faut que davantage d'enfants issus de famille à bas revenus aient accès aux études supérieures.
9. Les auteurs de ce livre démontrent que plus une société est inégalitaire, plus il y a de criminalité.
10. D'après certaines études, il est plus difficile de monter dans l'échelle sociale qu'autrefois.

Questions

- What is so outrageous about golden parachutes?
Is it possible to eradicate extreme poverty?
Why is social promotion so important in a democratic society?

Exercices

01. La traduction des mots suivants ne pose qu'un problème d'orthographe.
1. un millionnaire • 2. un magnat • 3. un salaire • 4. le pauperisme • 5. inégal

02. Trouver un synonyme pour les mots suivants.

1. a lifestyle • 2. a tramp • 3. deprived • 4. wealthy • 5. rich people

03. Choisir le mot correct pour compléter.

1. A tax (heaven, haven) is a place where people go to avoid paying taxes.
2. In many developing countries, millions of people live in dire (poverty, misery).
3. For a minority student from a disadvantaged background, becoming a doctor is a step up the social (ladder, lift).
4. This policy was aimed at fighting (inequality, imbalance) of opportunity.
5. She settled in Toronto, where she earned her (life, living) as a nurse.

04. Associer un mot de la première colonne à un mot de la seconde pour former des noms composés.

affluent	kitchen	_____
working	divide	_____
fat	evasion	_____
media	parachute	_____
poverty	society	_____
golden	cat	_____
purchasing	poor	_____
social	power	_____
soup	line	_____
tax	mogul	_____

05. Compléter les phrases avec la préposition ou particule adéquate.

1. Greg was unemployed for many years, which means that now that he has retired, he has to live _____ a tiny pension.
2. They can scrape _____, thanks to the food aid they receive from various charities.
3. If you lose your job, you are at risk of sinking _____ poverty.
4. The number of Chinese billionaires has been _____ the rise for several years.
5. After the bankruptcy my friend had to start _____ scratch again.

18 — RICH AND POOR

Translation from English into French

1. Poverty is comparative: one is always poor, in terms of those who are richer. **La pauvreté est relative : on est toujours pauvre, comparé à ceux qui sont plus riches.**
2. Why is it that so many people feel unfulfilled despite the increase in their material well-being? **Comment se fait-il que tant de gens se sentent insatisfaits malgré l'augmentation de leur bien-être matériel ?**
3. The number of women with an income of over £1m was up by almost a third in 2015, but male millionaires still outnumbered women 10 to 1. **Le nombre de femmes dont le revenu dépasse 1 million de livres a augmenté de près d'un tiers en 2015, mais il y avait toujours 10 fois plus d'hommes que de femmes millionnaires.**
4. Golden parachutes are all the more shocking today as so many people are struggling just to get by. **Les parachutes dorés sont d'autant plus choquants aujourd'hui que tellement de gens arrivent à peine à s'en sortir.**
5. Eradicating poverty worldwide may seem an insuperable task, but so did ending apartheid. **L'éradication de la pauvreté dans le monde entier peut sembler une tâche insurmontable, mais mettre fin à l'apartheid semblait impossible aussi.**
6. Contrary to popular belief, globalization has actually reduced poverty, even if the gap between the wealthiest and the most destitute has widened. **Contrairement à ce que croient beaucoup de gens, en fait, la mondialisation a fait reculer la pauvreté, même si le fossé entre les plus riches et les plus démunis s'est creusé.**
7. As India becomes more and more affluent, its divorce rate is shooting up. **Alors que l'Inde s'enrichit de plus en plus, son taux de divorce monte en flèche.**
8. In the US, a child born into a poor family has a 1% chance of growing up to become one of the richest 5%. **Aux États-Unis, un enfant né dans une famille pauvre a une chance sur cent de faire partie des 5 % les plus riches à l'âge adulte.**
9. But two-thirds of Americans who are now in their 30s or 40s enjoy higher income than their parents did. **Mais deux-tiers des Américains qui ont maintenant entre 30 et 50 ans ont un revenu plus élevé que leurs parents.**
10. It has been shown that rich people are much more confident than poor people that their neighbours would help them in a crisis. **On a montré que les riches sont bien plus sûrs que les pauvres que leurs voisins les aideraient en cas de crise.**

1. Le niveau de vie augmente ou baisse en fonction de la croissance économique. **Living standards go up or down according to economic growth.**
2. Son mode de vie a été bouleversé depuis qu'il est devenu milliardaire. **His way of life has changed radically since he became a billionaire.**
3. Les pauvres voudraient bien sûr que les riches payent davantage d'impôts. **The poor would naturally like the rich to pay more tax.**
4. Que fait le père de ta petite amie dans la vie ? **What does your girlfriend's father do for a living?**
5. À quoi bon gagner plus en faisant des heures supplémentaires si on doit en donner les deux-tiers au fisc ? **What's the point of earning more by doing overtime if you must give two-thirds of it to the taxman?**
6. Aux Philippines, beaucoup d'enfants livrés à eux-mêmes survivent en ramassant des boîtes de métal dans les décharges. **In the Philippines, a lot of children that are left to their own devices survive by collecting metal cans in rubbish dumps.**
7. Le fossé entre les pauvres et les riches ne cesse de se creuser dans certains pays du Sud. **The gap between rich and poor keeps widening in some Third-World countries.**
8. Il faut que davantage d'enfants issus de famille à bas revenus aient accès aux études supérieures. **More children from low-income families must have access to higher education.**
9. Les auteurs de ce livre démontrent que plus une société est inégalitaire, plus il y a de criminalité. **The authors of this book demonstrate that the more inegalitarian a society is, the more crime there is.**
10. D'après certaines études, il est plus difficile de monter dans l'échelle sociale qu'autrefois. **According to some studies, it is harder to move up the social ladder than it used to be.**