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## **Corruption widespread in 70 countries**

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**19 October, 2005**

## **THE ARTICLE**

### **Corruption widespread in 70 countries**

The global anti-corruption organization Transparency International (TI) has reported corruption is increasing around the world. A TI press release reports there is serious corruption in most of the world's countries. TI's yearly survey questions businesspeople and public officials to find out how corrupt a country is. Bangladesh and Chad finished bottom as the most corrupt countries, while Iceland finished top. Finland and New Zealand were the second and third cleanest nations. Corruption is declining in Turkey and Nigeria, but increasing in Russia and Canada.

TI chairman Peter Eigen said: "Corruption is a major cause of poverty as well as a barrier to [reducing] it." He also said corruption and poverty lock people in a "cycle of misery". Mr. Eigen warned corruption must be reduced to free people from poverty. David Nussbaum, TI's chief executive, stated: "Corruption isn't a natural disaster: it is the cold...theft of opportunity from the men, women and children who are least able to protect themselves." He also said leaders needed to keep their promises to help poor people. The world has made a target to halve extreme poverty by 2015.

## WARM-UPS

**1. POVERTY:** In pairs / groups, talk about what it must be like to live in poverty. What do poor people do every day? How often are they happy? What do they think about their future? What can they do to escape poverty?

**2. CORRUPT PEOPLE:** What kinds of people are corrupt? In pairs / groups, talk about how corrupt you think the following people might be. What bad things could they do? Who suffers from their corruption? Are these people corrupt in your country? How about in other countries?

- A country's leader
- Police officers
- Journalists
- Local government officials
- Doctors
- Customs officers
- Sports officials
- Election officials

**3. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting and which are most boring.

*Corruption / transparency / rich countries / Bangladesh / Iceland / Nigeria / Canada / poverty / misery / natural disasters / theft / keeping promises / halving poverty*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

**4. POOR PERSON:** You have suddenly become very poor. Walk around the class and talk to other "poor" students about your life.

**5. CORRUPTION:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "corruption". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. PETTY OR GRAND?** In pairs / groups, decide whether the following are examples of petty or grand corruption.

- a. Giving a policemen money to escape a speeding fine.
- b. A construction company boss rewards a politician to win a big contract.
- c. A country's leader puts aid money into his own bank account.
- d. A company employee finds a way to secretly receive two salaries a month.
- e. A tobacco company illegally gives money to a political party.
- f. A customs official allows a flu-infected chicken into the country for \$100.
- g. A company CEO fakes accounts, which causes the company's collapse.

**7. CAUSES:** What are the causes of poverty? Talk about the following with your partner(s). Put them in order of the biggest causes of poverty.

Laziness   Corruption   Natural disasters   War   Geography   Globalization   History

## BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. An anti-corruption organization issued a report on world corruption. T / F
- b. Corruption is in poor countries only. T / F
- c. Iceland is the least corrupt country in the world. T / F
- d. Nigeria experienced increasing corruption. T / F
- e. The report says corruption is a minor cause of poverty. T / F
- f. A top official said corruption was a natural disaster. T / F
- g. The official said leaders must keep their promises to help poor people. T / F
- h. The world has a target to halve extreme poverty by 2015. T / F

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| a. corruption | media         |
| b. increasing | need          |
| c. press      | stealing      |
| d. survey     | top           |
| e. declining  | rising        |
| f. major      | aim           |
| g. poverty    | falling       |
| h. misery     | dishonesty    |
| i. theft      | unhappiness   |
| j. target     | questionnaire |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. global anti-corruption         | around the world                 |
| b. corruption is increasing       | officials                        |
| c. yearly                         | least able to protect themselves |
| d. businesspeople and public      | disaster                         |
| e. Corruption is declining in     | organization                     |
| f. Corruption is a major          | Turkey and Nigeria               |
| g. free people from               | halve extreme poverty by 2015    |
| h. natural                        | survey                           |
| i. women and children who are     | poverty                          |
| j. The world has made a target to | cause of poverty                 |

## WHILE READING / LISTENING

**ODD WORD OUT:** Strike through the incorrect choice in each group of three *italicized* words.

### Corruption widespread in 70 countries

The *global / worldwide / Earth* anti-corruption organization Transparency International (TI) has reported corruption is *increasing / rising / upping* around the world. A TI press release reports there is *unsmiling / major / serious* corruption in most of the world's countries. TI's *yearly / annoying / annual* survey questions businesspeople and public officials to find out how corrupt a country is. Bangladesh and Chad finished *last / bottom / least* as the most corrupt countries, while Iceland finished top. Finland and New Zealand were the second and third cleanest nations. Corruption is *falling / failing / declining* in Turkey and Nigeria, but increasing in Russia and Canada.

TI chairman Peter Eigen said: "Corruption is a major cause of poverty as well as a *barrier / hurdle / carrier* to [reducing] it." He also said corruption and poverty lock people in a "*cycle / chain / lock* of misery". Mr. Eigen warned corruption must be reduced to *free / release / freedom* people from poverty. David Nussbaum, TI's chief executive, stated: "Corruption isn't a natural disaster: it is the cold...*steel / stealing / theft* of opportunity from the men, women and children who are least able to protect themselves." He also said leaders needed to *keep / stick to / shake* their promises to help poor people. The world has made a target to *halve / have / cut* extreme poverty by 2015.

## **LISTENING**

Listen and fill in the spaces.

### **Corruption widespread in 70 countries**

The \_\_\_\_\_ anti-corruption organization Transparency International (TI) has \_\_\_\_\_ corruption is increasing around the world. A TI press release reports there is \_\_\_\_\_ corruption in most of the world's countries. TI's yearly survey questions businesspeople and public \_\_\_\_\_ to find out how corrupt a country is. Bangladesh and Chad finished bottom as the most corrupt countries, while Iceland \_\_\_\_\_ top. Finland and New Zealand were the second and third \_\_\_\_\_ nations. Corruption is declining in Turkey and Nigeria, but increasing in Russia and Canada.

TI chairman Peter Eigen said: "Corruption is a \_\_\_\_\_ cause of poverty as well as a barrier to [reducing] it." He also said corruption and \_\_\_\_\_ lock people in a "cycle of \_\_\_\_\_". Mr. Eigen warned corruption must be reduced to free people from poverty. David Nussbaum, TI's chief executive, stated: "Corruption isn't a natural \_\_\_\_\_: it is the cold...theft of opportunity from the men, women and children who are least able to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves." He also said leaders needed to keep their \_\_\_\_\_ to help poor people. The world has made a target to \_\_\_\_\_ extreme poverty by 2015.

## AFTER READING / LISTENING

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'rich' and 'poor'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. ODD WORD OUT:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. STUDENT "CORRUPTION" SURVEY:** In pairs / groups, write down questions about corruption and poverty.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

**6. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- anti-
- increasing
- yearly
- bottom
- Iceland
- declining
- cause
- lock
- free
- disaster
- promises
- target

## **DISCUSSION**

### STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. What do you think of corruption?
- c. Do you think you are corruptible?
- d. If you had a lot of power, would you think about moving money into your bank account?
- e. What kinds of corruption exist in your country?
- f. What's the biggest corruption scandal you can remember?
- g. Do you think the world is becoming a more or a less corrupt place?
- h. How serious is corruption?
- i. What can be done to stop corruption?
- j. Do you think your country's leader is corrupt?

### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What do you think about what you read?
- c. What do you think causes corruption?
- d. Why do you think corruption is rising in Canada?
- e. How can the world stop corrupt leaders from putting aid money in their own bank accounts?
- f. How important is transparency?
- g. Do you think corruption that increases poverty should become a crime against humanity?
- h. Do your country's leaders always keep their promises?
- i. Do you think the world can halve extreme poverty by 2015?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

**AFTER DISCUSSION:** Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What question would you like to ask about this topic?
- b. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- c. Was there a question you didn't like?
- d. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- e. What did you like talking about?
- f. Do you want to know how anyone else answered the questions?
- g. Which was the most difficult question?



## SPEAKING

**CORRUPTION:** Look at the types and examples of corruption below. In pairs / groups, decide how serious each type of corruption is and what the penalty should be.

TYPE	EXAMPLE	PENALTY
Bribery	Person A gives a customs officer \$100. The customs officer allows person A to take illegal drugs into the country	
Extortion (blackmail)	A construction company boss wants to win a construction contract. He uses threats and violence against a local politician to get the contract.	
Favoritism	A head of department in a company wants to help his friend get a good job. He chooses his unqualified and inexperienced friend for an available job instead of highly experienced and qualified people.	
Embezzlement (stealing)	The United Nations gives emergency aid money to country X. The leader of country X puts a lot of the money in his personal bank account.	
Conflict of interest	A top politician who is on the board of directors of an oil company. He uses his power to win the oil company a major contract.	
Fraud (cheating)	A drug company executive lies to a newspaper reporter about an impending outbreak of a virus. That information increases the price and sales of the drug.	
Illegal "gifts" of money to political parties	A tobacco company executive gives an illegal \$100,000 to a political party. The political party has suggested it might cut taxes on cigarettes.	

Change partners and talk about what you discussed with your previous partners.

Show each other your penalties and reach agreement on just one penalty for each type of corruption.

## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information on the organization Transparency International. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.

**3. POVERTY:** Make a poster showing the places in the world where people suffer from extreme poverty. Think of some solutions to help the world's poor people escape from poverty. Show your posters to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all think of similar solutions?

**4. LETTER:** Write a letter to the leader of your country. Tell him/her your concerns about corruption in your country. Make suggestions on how to fight corruption. Show what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all write about or suggest similar things?

## ANSWERS

### TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T      b. F      c. T      d. F      e. F      f. F      g. T      h. T

### SYNONYM MATCH:

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| a. corruption | dishonesty    |
| b. increasing | rising        |
| c. press      | media         |
| d. survey     | questionnaire |
| e. declining  | falling       |
| f. major      | top           |
| g. poverty    | need          |
| h. misery     | unhappiness   |
| i. theft      | stealing      |
| j. target     | aim           |

### PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. global anti-corruption         | organization                     |
| b. corruption is increasing       | around the world                 |
| c. yearly                         | survey                           |
| d. businesspeople and public      | officials                        |
| e. Corruption is declining in     | Turkey and Nigeria               |
| f. Corruption is a major          | cause of poverty                 |
| g. free people from               | poverty                          |
| h. natural                        | disaster                         |
| i. women and children who are     | least able to protect themselves |
| j. The world has made a target to | halve extreme poverty by 2015    |

### ODD WORD OUT:

#### Corruption widespread in 70 countries

The *global / worldwide / Earth* anti-corruption organization Transparency International (TI) has reported corruption is *increasing / rising / ~~upping~~* around the world. A TI press release reports there is *unsmiling / major / serious* corruption in most of the world's countries. TI's *yearly / annoying / annual* survey questions businesspeople and public officials to find out how corrupt a country is. Bangladesh and Chad finished *last / bottom / least* as the most corrupt countries, while Iceland finished top. Finland and New Zealand were the second and third cleanest nations. Corruption is *falling / ~~falling~~ / declining* in Turkey and Nigeria, but increasing in Russia and Canada.

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