

The Rich and Poor Countries

An economist from a highly developed country talks about the problems of the poor countries. Here is what he says: "It isn't strictly true that one half of the world is rich and the other is poor. It is one third that is very rich and two thirds that are very poor. People in the rich world do not realize the enormous difference between them and the other two thirds. A very simple example is that a dog or a cat in North America eats better than a child in the poorer countries. A fisherman in South America may be catching fish which is processed into pet food and yet his own children are not getting enough protein for their bodies to develop properly. Although a lot of the world's natural resources like oil come from these poor countries, the richer ones are probably using sixty times as much of these resources. The richer countries are in a position to dictate to producers what prices they are ready to pay for these natural resources, but the prices that the richer countries get for their own exports have continued to rise. As a result, they are getting richer and richer and the poorer countries are getting poorer and poorer".

Glossary:

Natural resources = is the natural wealth of a country such as oil, gas, land, and water etc...

Dictate = to tell somebody what to do in a way that seems unfair or to control or influence something or somebody.

Price = the amount of money that you must pay in order to buy something.

Export (v) = sending goods or services to another country for sale.

Import (v) = bring goods or services into a country from abroad for sale.

Questions:

- 1- What's the mistake made by most people about the world division?
Correct it.
- 2- Do all the world's natural resources come from rich countries?
- 3- What are the main injustices between the two parts of the world?
- 4- May a South American fisherman's child suffer from malnutrition?
- 5- Can the poor countries fix their natural resources' prices? Why?

Synonyms:

- Raw materials =
- Transformation from one state into another =

Opposites:

- To fall ≠
- Small ≠

Coherent paragraph: one is irrelevant, leave it.

- A- Usually it's the thing that make them rich
- B- In the Antarctica, there is a hole in the ozone layer
- C- Sometimes the air is too polluted to breathe and the rivers too filthy to swim in or take water from
- D- Rich countries are not always pleasant places to live in
- E- But also make them unpleasant