

# NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

## Food prices to double by 2030

**MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:**

[http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1105/110531-food\\_prices.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1105/110531-food_prices.html)

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**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**31st May, 2011**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1105/110531-food\\_prices.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1105/110531-food_prices.html)

The price of staple food will more than double over the next twenty years. This is what the charity Oxfam says in its new report 'Growing a Better Future'. Oxfam warns that urgent action is needed to change world agriculture. It says hundreds of millions of people could face hunger. The charity says that by 2030, the cost of key crops will increase by 120 to 180 per cent. It adds that to make things worse, demand for food will rise by 70 per cent over the next four decades.

Oxfam says climate change is one reason for rising food prices. However, it also blames rich countries. The charity criticized the United States and the European Union for producing biofuels, which means, "15 per cent of the world's maize is used to make fuel, even at times of severe food crisis". The report gives an example of the cost to humans of biofuels: "The amount of grain required to fill the petrol tank of a 4x4 vehicle with biofuel is sufficient to feed one person for a year."

# PHRASE MATCH

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1105/110531-food\\_prices.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1105/110531-food_prices.html)

**Match the following phrases from the article.**

## Paragraph 1

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. staple                   | a. next twenty years |
| 2. over the                 | b. worse...          |
| 3. urgent                   | c. face hunger       |
| 4. millions of people could | d. food              |
| 5. to make things           | e. four decades      |
| 6. over the next            | f. action is needed  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. climate                 | a. to humans         |
| 2. it also blames          | b. person for a year |
| 3. at times of severe food | c. rich countries    |
| 4. an example of the cost  | d. change            |
| 5. fill the petrol tank of | e. crisis            |
| 6. sufficient to feed one  | f. a 4x4 vehicle     |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1105/110531-food\\_prices.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1105/110531-food_prices.html)

The \_\_\_\_\_ will more than double over the next twenty years. This \_\_\_\_\_ Oxfam says in its new report 'Growing a Better Future'. Oxfam \_\_\_\_\_ action is needed to change world agriculture. It says \_\_\_\_\_ of people could face hunger. The charity says that by 2030, \_\_\_\_\_ crops will increase by 120 to 180 per cent. It adds that to make things worse, demand for food will rise by 70 per cent over the \_\_\_\_\_.

Oxfam says climate change \_\_\_\_\_ rising food prices. However, \_\_\_\_\_ rich countries. The charity criticized the United States and the European Union for producing \_\_\_\_\_, "15 per cent of the world's maize is used to make fuel, \_\_\_\_\_ severe food crisis". The report gives an \_\_\_\_\_ to humans of biofuels: "The amount of grain required to fill the petrol \_\_\_\_\_ vehicle with biofuel is sufficient to feed one person for a year."

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1105/110531-food\\_prices.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1105/110531-food_prices.html)

The price of staple food will (1) \_\_\_\_\_ than double over the next twenty years. This is what the charity Oxfam says in its new report 'Growing a Better Future'. Oxfam warns that urgent action is (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to change world agriculture. It says hundreds of millions of people could (3) \_\_\_\_\_ hunger. The charity says that by 2030, the cost of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ crops will increase by 120 to 180 per cent. It (5) \_\_\_\_\_ that to make things worse, demand for food will rise (6) \_\_\_\_\_ 70 per cent over the next four decades.

Oxfam says climate change is one (7) \_\_\_\_\_ for rising food prices. However, it also (8) \_\_\_\_\_ rich countries. The charity criticized the United States and the European Union (9) \_\_\_\_\_ producing biofuels, which means, "15 per cent of the world's maize is used to make fuel, even at (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of severe food crisis". The report gives an example of the cost (11) \_\_\_\_\_ humans of biofuels: "The amount of grain required to fill the petrol tank of a 4x4 vehicle with biofuel is sufficient to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ one person for a year."

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |              |            |                |
|-----|--------------|------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) much     | (b) many   | (c) more       |
| 2.  | (a) needs    | (b) needed | (c) need       |
| 3.  | (a) face     | (b) head   | (c) back       |
| 4.  | (a) lock     | (b) key    | (c) chain      |
| 5.  | (a) minuses  | (b) adds   | (c) multiplies |
| 6.  | (a) by       | (b) as     | (c) for        |
| 7.  | (a) solution | (b) point  | (c) reason     |
| 8.  | (a) blames   | (b) flames | (c) claims     |
| 9.  | (a) at       | (b) for    | (c) to         |
| 10. | (a) time     | (b) timing | (c) times      |
| 11. | (a) of       | (b) by     | (c) to         |
| 12. | (a) feed     | (b) seed   | (c) weed       |

# SPELLING

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1105/110531-food\\_prices.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1105/110531-food_prices.html)

**Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.**

## Paragraph 1

1. the raiyhct Oxfam
2. tnegru action is needed
3. hundreds of sioinmll
4. rnacseie by 120 to 180 per cent
5. dnmaed for food
6. over the next four scddeea

## Paragraph 2

7. eiltamc change
8. it also salbme rich countries
9. producing flsboiue
10. severe food ssrici
11. a 4x4 eclvihe
12. fniecuftsi to feed one person

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1105/110531-food\\_prices.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1105/110531-food_prices.html)

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) action is needed to change world agriculture. It says hundreds of millions of people could face
- ( ) rich countries. The charity criticized the United States and the European Union for producing
- ( ) humans of biofuels: "The amount of grain required to fill the petrol
- ( ) rise by 70 per cent over the next four decades.
- ( ) says in its new report 'Growing a Better Future'. Oxfam warns that urgent
- ( ) of severe food crisis". The report gives an example of the cost to
- ( **1** ) The price of staple food will more than double over the next twenty years. This is what the charity Oxfam
- ( ) biofuels, which means, "15 per cent of the world's maize is used to make fuel, even at times
- ( ) Oxfam says climate change is one reason for rising food prices. However, it also blames
- ( ) 120 to 180 per cent. It adds that to make things worse, demand for food will
- ( ) tank of a 4x4 vehicle with biofuel is sufficient to feed one person for a year."
- ( ) hunger. The charity says that by 2030, the cost of key crops will increase by

# WORD JUMBLE

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1105/110531-food\\_prices.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1105/110531-food_prices.html)

**With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.**

1. double price food than The staple more of will.

---

2. charity the what is This says Oxfam.

---

3. agriculture needed to Urgent change action world is.

---

4. %. 180 to 120 by increase will crops key of cost The

---

5. over four Rise % next 70 the decades by.

---

6. rising is for prices change reason food Climate one.

---

7. used world's cent to maize of 15 make is the per fuel.

---

8. humans to cost the of example An.

---

9. the 4x4 petrol vehicle tank of Fill a.

---

10. for Sufficient person one year feed a to.

---



## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_



# 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. FOOD PRICES:** Search the Internet and find more information about rising world food prices. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about food prices in your town. Include imaginary interviews with farmers, consumers and shop owners. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to the boss of the European Union. Ask him/her three questions about biofuels. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.