
Unemployment

WORKSHEET A

It is undeniable that the vast majority of unemployed people around the world would like to have a job but can't get one (although in countries where there is a 'welfare state' to provide benefits to unemployed people, and therefore guarantee them a minimum standard of living, some people believe that there is less incentive for unemployed people to look for work).

Unemployment, therefore, is not a cheerful subject – but in many parts of the world, since the beginning of the current global recession in 2008, it's been in the news even more frequently than usual. Young people aged 16–24 have been particularly hard hit, and the unemployment rate for this group is now three times higher than that for older adults worldwide.

In some countries the rate of youth unemployment has been rising even faster – in Spain, for example, it has almost doubled since 2008, leaving nearly half of this age group without work. There are also regions such as the Middle East and North Africa where high youth unemployment is a long-standing rather than a recent problem.

It is difficult to imagine a world without unemployment, particularly as the global population is predicted to increase from the present seven billion to at least nine billion by the middle of this century. For the time being, achieving economic growth is seen as the main way to reduce unemployment. There are some economists, however, who say that other measures will also be necessary – for example job-sharing, whereby a job done today by one person for, say, forty hours a week, will be done in future by two people working twenty hours each.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Answer the questions below.

1. According to the text, what began in 2008?
2. What is going to happen to the world population between now and 2050?
3. What is seen as the main way to reduce unemployment?
4. What is it, in some countries, that allows people to have a minimum standard of living even if they don't have a job?
5. Who has suggested that other measures, such as job-sharing, will be necessary in order to reduce unemployment?

Exercise 2

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't say (D).

1. High youth unemployment is a problem in North Africa.
2. In most European countries, unemployment has been rising particularly quickly among young people.
3. High youth unemployment recently became a problem in the Middle East.
4. Globally, youth unemployment has always been a bigger problem than unemployment for adults over 25.
5. In Spain, unemployment among young people has risen by about 50% since 2008.
6. Job-sharing is already widespread in North America.
7. In Spain, almost 50% of people aged 16–24 are unemployed.
8. According to the text, most unemployed people would like to have a job but can't find one.

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 3

The text from Worksheet A has been copied below, but now contains some mistakes. Twelve of the words in bold are incorrect, and four are correct. Decide which are incorrect, and correct them.

It is undeniable that the vast majority of unemployed people around the world would like to have a job but can't get one (although in countries where there is a (1) '**warfare** state' to provide benefits to unemployed people, and therefore guarantee them a minimum standard of (2) **life**, some people believe that there is less incentive for unemployed people to look for work.

Unemployment, therefore, is not a (3) **cheerfull** subject – but in many parts of the world, since the beginning of the current global (4) **session** in 2008, it's been in the news even more frequently than usual. Young people aged 16–24 have been particularly hard hit, and the unemployment rate for this group is now three times higher than that for older adults (5) **wide**.

In some countries the (6) **race** of youth unemployment has been rising even (7) **fast** – in Spain, for example, it has almost doubled since 2008, leaving nearly half of this (8) **ages** group without work. There are also (9) **regions** such as the Middle East and North Africa where high youth unemployment is a (10) **long-sitting** rather than a recent problem.

It is difficult to imagine a world without unemployment, particularly as the global population is (11) **prediction** to increase from the (12) **present** seven billion to at least nine billion by the middle of this century. For the time (13) **been**, achieving economic growth is seen as the main way to reduce unemployment. There are some (14) **economics**, however, who say that other (15) **measures** will also be necessary – for example job-sharing, (16) **whereby** a job done today by one person for, say, forty hours a week, will be done in future by two people working twenty hours each.