

Finding Out: Words in Context

Step 1: Look at the words in bold below. Can you guess what they mean? Write a short definition in English. (Don't use your dictionary yet. You will be able to check their meanings in the next section: Definitions.)

Overcoming the **illiteracy** problem is one of the key goals in the education policy of the country.
Girls and women account for two-thirds of children out of school and of adult **illiteracy**.

What do you think 'illiteracy' means? _____

When she died, she left all her money to a **charity** which helps children in developing countries.
The **charity** provides help for homeless people.

What do you think 'charity' means? _____

Today's methods of **birth control** make it possible for a couple to choose whether or not to have a child.
The first **birth control** clinic was opened in England in 1921.

What do you think 'birth control' means? _____

The country has many problems due to years of widespread **corruption** at all levels of government.
The government has toughened its fight against **corruption** in the police force.

What do you think 'corruption' means? _____

Many **refugees** from the war came to this country in the early 1980s.
The majority of **refugees** in the refugee camps are women and children.

What do you think 'refugee' means? _____

Thousands of people lost their homes and all their belongings in the **armed conflict**.
There are as many as 300,000 child soldiers fighting in **armed conflicts** around the world.

What do you think 'armed conflict' means? _____

The government is attempting to stimulate the economy by attracting **multinational corporations**.
Studies show that 70% of the world's coffee market is controlled by just four **multinational corporations**.

What do you think 'multinational corporation' means? _____

This company needs to **invest** in new machinery if it wants to survive.

The government's failure to **invest** in the transport system has resulted in the current difficulties.

What do you think 'invest' means? _____

One in three children born in the villages we passed through died in infancy from disease or **malnutrition**.

In areas where the crops have failed, there are a lot of children suffering from severe **malnutrition**.

What do you think 'malnutrition' means? _____

The Vatican has agreed to donate \$80 000 in **emergency aid** to countries affected by the war.

Thousands of people may die if **emergency aid** does not arrive in the city soon.

What do you think 'emergency aid' means? _____

People with **contagious diseases** should be kept away from other people.

The **contagious disease** spread quickly through the overcrowded areas of the city.

What do you think 'contagious disease' means? _____

He wanted to remove **inequality** in education by making all schools the same.

This country is said to have the highest wealth **inequality** in the world.

What do you think 'inequality' means? _____

The company bosses **exploited** the poor by making them work for almost nothing.

Workers who can't read are at risk of being **exploited** in workplaces.

What do you think 'exploit' means? _____

The water was turned off for several hours each day during the **drought**.

The lakes and wells all dried up during the **drought**.

What do you think 'drought' means? _____

He **donates** blood at least twice a year.

The businessman **donated** about \$330 million to libraries and research projects.

What do you think 'donate' means? _____



Finding Out: Definitions

Step 1: Match the words with their definitions. (If you can't understand the definitions, you can use a bilingual dictionary.)

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|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 illiteracy | 1 the practice of avoiding becoming pregnant, or the methods used for this |
| 2 charity | 2 dishonest or illegal behaviour by officials or people in positions of power |
| 3 birth control | 3 someone who leaves their country, especially during a war or other threatening event |
| 4 donate | 4 being unable to read or write |
| 5 corruption | 5 an illness that spreads from one person to another through touch or through the air |
| 6 refugees | 6 a large company that has offices, shops, or factories in several countries |
| 7 armed conflict | 7 to spend money on something in order to improve it or make it more successful |
| 8 multinational corporation | 8 an organization to which you give money so that it can give money and help to people who are poor or ill |
| 9 invest | 9 a medical condition in which you are weak or ill because you do not eat enough |
| 10 malnutrition | 10 to give something such as money or goods to an organization, especially a charity |
| 11 emergency aid | 11 war |
| 12 contagious disease | 12 rapid help given to a people during and after man-made emergencies (like wars) and natural disasters. |
| 13 inequality | 13 to treat someone unfairly in order to get some benefit for yourself |
| 14 exploit | 14 a long period of time when there is little or no rain and crops die |
| 15 drought | 15 a situation in which people are not equal because some groups have more opportunities, power etc. |
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