

PART I Listening and Speaking

Section 1 Pre-Listening Activity

Directions: Browse the questions below and discuss one of the following questions with your partner. List the key information, and share your opinion with the class.

- (1) Have you heard stories of hunger or poverty from the older generation? Tell these stories.
- (2) Do people in cities also face poverty, and what special problems do they have?
- (3) In your understanding, what are some effective methods for reducing poverty?
- (4) Which government policies have proven most effective in reducing poverty?
- (5) What roles does education play in alleviating poverty?
- (6) How can technology and innovation be harnessed to address poverty, especially in terms of providing education, healthcare, and economic opportunities?

Section 2 Listening Comprehension

Passage One



1. Directions: Listen to the following passage. Fill in the blanks with what you hear.

In the mountains of Northern Laos, life keeps getting better and better for the (1) _____ of Ban Xor. According to Khamchan Boudvinai, deputy village chief, everyone has a little more money to spend these days. In 2017, the Ban Xor village was chosen to pilot a (2) _____ poverty alleviation project. Two hours' drive north of capital Vientiane, it was one of the first (3) _____ in Laos to benefit from China's years of hard work to (4) _____ poverty at home.

Khamchan has seen for himself how rural communities in China were (5) _____. Khamchan returned from his visits, not just interested in modern agriculture, but determined to transform his village. He was convinced that the Chinese experience in poverty eradication would be (6) _____ in Laos. And that there was more to it than just growing more crops. "I saw (7) _____ growing in well-managed terraces that had become tourist attractions. It was thought-provoking."

Of the some 2,000 people who live in Ban Xor, half still make less than 700 US dollars a year. However, in the past three years, (8) _____ and infrastructure have improved. A new bridge has been built.

The village has better public (9) _____. And village affairs are much better managed. In fact, the villagers organize, supervise and manage themselves as a cooperative. The rice crop in the village was never enough, but since people (10) _____ to corn and cassava, the harvest improved, so did their incomes along with it, according to villager Ka Sidavongxay.

2. Directions: Listen to the passage again. Decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- (1) Khamchan went to China twice and got some training in commercial management. ()
- (2) Khamchan returned from his visits to China and got interested in modern agriculture. ()
- (3) Villagers started to plant corn and cassava, which improved the harvest and their incomes. ()
- (4) The teams in this village are learning from China about how to raise cattle, grow corn and cassava, and weave cloth. ()
- (5) Khamchan was impressed by the good relationship between Chinese officials and villagers. ()

Passage Two

Directions: Listen to the following passage. Fill in the blanks with the words that you hear:

What Is Poverty?



Poverty involves more than the lack of income and (1) _____ resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Its manifestations include (2) _____ and malnutrition, limited access to (3) _____ and other basic services, (4) _____ discrimination and exclusion, as well as the lack of participation in (5) _____. In 2015, more than (6) _____ million people lived below the international poverty line. Around 10 percent of the world population (pre-pandemic) was living in (7) _____ poverty and struggling to fulfil the most basic needs like health, education, and access to (8) _____ and sanitation (公共卫生), to name a few.

There were (9) _____ women aged 25 to 34 living in poverty for every 100 men of the same age group, and more than 160 million (10) _____ will be at risk of continuing to live in extreme poverty by 2030.

Poverty Facts and Figures

According to the most recent (1) _____ in 2015, 10 percent of the world's population or 734 million people lived on less than (2) \$ _____ a day.

(3) _____ Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are expected to see the largest increases in extreme poverty, with additional 32 million and 26 million people, respectively, living (4) _____ the international poverty line as a result of the pandemic.

The (5) _____ of the world's workers living in extreme poverty fell by half over the last decade from 14.3 percent in 2010 to 7.1% in 2019.

Even before COVID-19, baseline projections suggested that 6 percent of the (6) _____ population would still be living in extreme poverty in 2030, missing the (7) _____ of ending poverty. The fallout from the pandemic threatens to push over 70 million people into extreme poverty.

One out of five children lives in extreme poverty, and the (8) _____ effects of poverty and deprivation in the early years have consequences that can last a (9) _____.

In 2016, 55 percent of the world's population—about 4 billion people—did not benefit from any form of social (10) _____.



Strategies for Better Listening

Listening Skill: Getting Meaning from Context—Words, Synonyms and Paraphrases, Transitions

When you listen to people talking in English, it is probably difficult to understand all the words. However, you can usually get a general idea of what they are saying. How? By using **clues** that help you **guess**. These include:

- Words,
- Synonyms and paraphrases,
- Transitions.

Many tests such as the TOEFL® iBT measure your academic listening and speaking abilities. This activity will develop your social and academic conversation skills, and provide a foundation for the success in a variety of standardized tests.

Exercises

1. Directions: Discuss with your partner to find out how you have solved each blank in Passage One of Listening Comprehension. Then listen to the recording again and put down sentences illustrating the strategies. The teacher may want you to share the clues that help you get to the right words. The first has been done for you as an example.

Example:

(1) Words

Khamchan returned from his visits, not just interested in modern agriculture, but determined to transform his village. He was convinced that the Chinese experience in poverty eradication would be _____ in Laos. And that there was more to it than just growing more crops.

Clues: The key words *transform* and *Chinese experience* provide the logic reference to help fill Blank Number 6 in Passage One.

(2) Synonyms and paraphrases

(3) Transitions

2. Directions: Listen to the following four conversations. When you hear the question, please stop the recording and choose the best answer. In the clues column, write the words that can help you choose the answer. Then listen to the last part of each conversation to check the correct answer.



Answers	Clues
(1) A. Going to the post office. B. Their grades in a course. C. Parents coming to visit. D. Going to the beach.	

(Continued)

Answers	Clues
(2) A. He doesn't like his major. B. He isn't going to graduate on time. C. His parents are disappointed. D. He's only in his third year.	
(3) A. A physician. B. A professor. C. A student advisor. D. A teaching assistant.	
(4) A. The student wrote an excellent essay. B. The student plagiarized a large part of her essay. C. The student is a very original writer. D. The student used too many words.	

PART II Reading

Section 1 Pre-reading Activity

- 1. Directions:** The passage you are going to read talks about “reducing rural poverty”. In groups, make a list of common causes of poverty and share it with the class.

Causes of poverty...

- 2. Directions:** The following are a few lines from the passage. In your opinion, what are they talking about?

(1) “They also provided good rice seeds and fertilizer and taught me planting techniques...”

- (2) “Every mouth has food and every pocket, money.”
- (3) “Our hybrid rice yields are twice as much as the local varieties.”
- (4) “We are very grateful for the work of the Chinese expert teams.”



China Boosts Africa’s Fight Against Poverty^①

On a **sultry** afternoon, Charles Mana, a farmer in Burundi’s northwestern Bubanza Province, was busy adding a handful of grass to the cattle **trough** in the backyard of his newly built rural home, a spacious single-floor **bungalow** with freshly painted **lime** walls.

About a dozen hens were running around. Pointing to them, he said that the chickens had been given to his family by Chinese **agricultural** experts. “They also provided good rice seeds and fertilizer and taught me planting techniques so that I have enough food to feed my children,” the 43-year-old father of six added.

Four years ago, Mana began growing **hybrid** rice introduced from China under the guidance of Chinese agricultural experts. Since then, his farmland has also increased from half a hectare to five hectares in Ninga, a village in the **Commune** of Gihanga. “Next, I want to buy more land, more cows, as well as several new water pumps when the dry season comes,” said Mana, **asserting** that this was “unthinkable” in the days when food was even **scarce**, before the arrival of Chinese expert teams.

Known as the “heart of Africa”, the country of Burundi has a **tropical** climate with abundant rainfall. Its natural conditions are favorable to rice production, but the low **yield** of local rice production causes food shortages. To address the challenge, China has been **implementing** technical **cooperation** programs in Burundi since August 2009, sending a total of 45 experts to the African country in five **batches** to help develop agriculture.

The Chinese experts are currently planting hybrid rice in 22 villages in the country in an effort to help realize Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye’s slogan—“Every mouth has food and every pocket, money”.

The experts have visited fields in all 14 rice-growing provinces of the country to conduct research and **trials**, and successfully selected and introduced eight varieties of rice seeds adapted to the local conditions. In this way, they have helped effectively

^① From *China Daily*.