

# Population 7 billion

## Language

Vocabulary connected with population, word building

## Level

Intermediate to upper intermediate (equivalent to CEF level B2/C1 and above)

## Comment

This eLesson is about the recent prediction that the world's population is now 7 billion and looks at why and how this happened.

## How to use the lesson

- 1 Ask students to guess which the most populated countries in the world are (China, India, USA, Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Russia, Nigeria, Japan). You could ask students to do this in groups and award 1 point for each country correctly guessed. Then ask them to tell you how many people there are in the world today. Check they know how much a billion is (1,000,000,000). Following this, you could ask students to think of reasons why the population has grown so fast in the last two centuries. Take feedback, noting ideas on the board.
- 2 In exercise 1, students read quickly to see which of their ideas were mentioned in the text. Give a brief time limit, eg 1–2 minutes depending on students' level, to encourage fast reading. When the time limit is up, students can discuss their answers in pairs if appropriate. Take feedback.
- 3 Exercise 2 gives students practice in reading for gist. If you feel your students might have problems with any of the words, you can refer them to the Glossary. Students could compare their answers in pairs. Take class feedback.
- 4 Exercise 3 gives students practice in reading for specific information. Students could guess which numbers match which sentences and then read quickly to check. Weaker students could read directly to find the correct answers. Students could compare their answers in pairs. Take class feedback.
- 5 Exercise 4 focuses on word building. Students could use dictionaries to find the correct missing forms or work in pairs or groups to pool their knowledge and complete the table if appropriate. Take feedback. If appropriate for your students, you could highlight the fact that words ending in *-ion* have the stress on the syllable before: *calculation*, *invention*, *prediction*, *solution*, *starvation*. You could point out stress on the second syllable of the verbs *increase*, *improve*, *predict*, *invent*, but on the first syllable of *increase* as a noun and the verb *calculate*. You could also highlight the pronunciation of the letter 'u' in *assume* /ə'sju:m/ and *assumption* /ə'sʌmpʃ(ə)n/.
- 6 Exercise 5 focuses on the meanings of the verbs. Students can look back at the text if necessary. If appropriate students could pair check answers. Take feedback.
- 7 Exercise 6 provides practice of the nouns and verbs. Students could do this in pairs if appropriate. Take feedback. You could extend this by asking students to write example sentences for the nouns and verbs from ex 5 not used in ex 6.
- 8 Exercise 7 give students personalised speaking practice about the topic. Take class feedback. For extra work, students could find out the statistics for population growth in their country or city or conduct a survey to find out about the size of families in their country.

### Answer key

1 Students' own ideas.

2

1 para 5            2 para 2            3 para 4            4 para 3

3

- 1 1677
- 2 1800
- 3 130
- 4 12–14
- 5 38 / 1952 / 64

4

verb	noun		verb	noun
assume	assumption		improve	improvement
calculate	calculation		solve	solution
increase	increase		starve	starvation
predict	prediction		invent	invention

5

- 1 assume
- 2 improve
- 3 predict
- 4 calculate
- 5 invent
- 6 starve
- 7 increase
- 8 solve

6

- 1 increased
  - 2 (have) improved
  - 3 (has/have) predicted
  - 4 starve
  - 5 calculate
  - 6 solutions
  - 7 invention
  - 8 assumption
- 7 Students' own ideas.

### Related websites

The following websites might be useful for either you or your students.

<http://www.mapsofworld.com/world-top-ten/world-top-ten-most-populated-countries-map.html>

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/07/110728144933.htm>

<http://www.populationinstitute.org/external/files/reports/from-6b-to-7b.pdf>

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/01/seven-billion/kunzig-text>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-15449959>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-15494349>