



Adult

# Depending on Each Other

## Part 1

A. Work in pairs. Read the text. Complete the chart with the pros and cons of global interdependence.

### One World, for Better or for Worse

Global interdependence means that countries around the world depend on each other for different things, such as food, gas, or manufactured goods. Global interdependence affects things like trade, human rights, the environment, and health.

Trade between countries refers to goods flowing from one country to another. One advantage of international trade is that people are able to get a wide variety of food or products that their country does not produce. On the other hand, it may create competition for lower prices among countries and can cause problems for a country's manufacturers if people start buying cheaper goods from other countries.

Global interdependence is also connected to human rights. Countries may create international agreements so everybody gets fair treatment. Companies with offices in different countries may create rules, so, no matter which country the office is in, all the employees get the same treatment. However, having offices in other countries can mean that some companies move to places with cheaper labor and poor working conditions.

There is also a connection between global interdependence and the environment. Countries may decide to agree to laws controlling how companies treat the environment, which can help protect the oceans and reduce pollution. On the other hand, some companies use other countries' resources, for example, cutting down trees, which damages the environment by reducing the size of forests.

Global health is another area where global interdependence is important. When countries share research on how to develop medicines or vaccines, they can produce faster results. There is a problem, however, if only a few countries produce medicines and vaccines, because a single country cannot produce them fast enough.

Clearly, there are pros and cons to countries around the world depending on each other.



gas  
labor



petrol  
labour

	Pros	Cons
Trade		
Human Rights		
The Environment		
Global Health		
Other		

B. How do you think global interdependence affects other problems (e.g., global problems, economics, poverty, foreign aid)? In pairs, choose a problem and add notes to the chart in Activity A.



**Part 2**

**A. Read the definition of *free trade*. Then decide if each statement is an advantage, a disadvantage, or both for developing countries. Write *A* (advantage), *D* (disadvantage), or *B* (both).**

In a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), two or more countries agree to buy and sell goods and services across international borders with few or no taxes. All countries that take part in an FTA agree to certain rules and quality standards. An FTA allows large companies in developed countries to open businesses or factories in developing countries.

- 1. FTAs can lead to a stronger economy in developing countries. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. New businesses in a developing country create competition for local businesses. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Some developed countries may lose jobs and developing countries may gain jobs. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Global companies often have the latest technology. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Big global companies can sell goods for lower prices. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Some companies open offices in countries without strong environmental laws. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. There is a variety of goods and services. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Global companies can produce goods more cheaply in countries with lower pay and fewer working-condition laws. \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Work in groups. Discuss the effects of free trade on your country. What are the advantages? What are the disadvantages?**



**Advantages**

**Disadvantages**

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### Part 3

#### A. Listen to five people's opinions on 21<sup>st</sup> century global problems and select a-c to complete each statement.

- Speaker 1 thinks there are not enough ...
  - international laws to protect workers.
  - workers in developing countries.
  - jobs in developing countries.
- Speaker 2 says that developed countries should ...
  - pass laws to end fossil fuel use.
  - help developing countries protect the environment.
  - a and b
- Speaker 3 says that ...
  - the world can't help with human rights issues in some countries.
  - there are strict international laws against human rights abuses.
  - global companies should not have offices in countries with human rights abuses.
- Speaker 4 thinks that ...
  - there are no problems with international trade.
  - it is dangerous to have a few countries controlling the supply of a product.
  - countries shouldn't try to produce too many different products.
- Speaker 5 thinks that ...
  - we should try to keep a new disease in the country where it started.
  - we need both international laws and cooperation to stop global diseases.
  - countries sharing their medicines and technology is not fair.



#### B. Work in groups. Discuss the questions.

- Which problems mentioned in Activity A are the most important globally and for your country?
- How can countries work together to solve the most important problems? How can your country help?
- Are any of the negative effects of global interdependence from Activity A true for your country? If so, how can your country decrease these negative effects?



## Extension

### **A. Work in groups. Choose a topic from the list. Research the questions and share the results with the group.**

#### **Global manufacturing:**

- Do global companies manufacture goods in your country? If so, what are the advantages and disadvantages for your country?
- Do companies from your country manufacture goods in other countries? If so, what are the advantages and disadvantages for the other countries?

#### **Global trade:**

- What global companies sell products in your country?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages for your country?

#### **Foreign aid:**

- Does your country give or receive foreign aid? If so, do you think the aid is used for the best purposes?
- What international laws or limitations would make foreign aid more effective?

#### **Climate change:**

- How does climate change affect your country?
- What should your country do to help with the global effort to stop climate change?
- What international agreements or laws would help solve this problem?

#### **Health and disease:**

- What diseases or other health issues are the biggest problems in your country?
- How can your government and your society help solve these problems?
- How should the international community help solve these problems around the world?

### **B. Prepare a group report. Then present your report to the class.**