

UNDERSTANDING THE LOWER-CLASS

Bridging Gaps in Society

B1-B2

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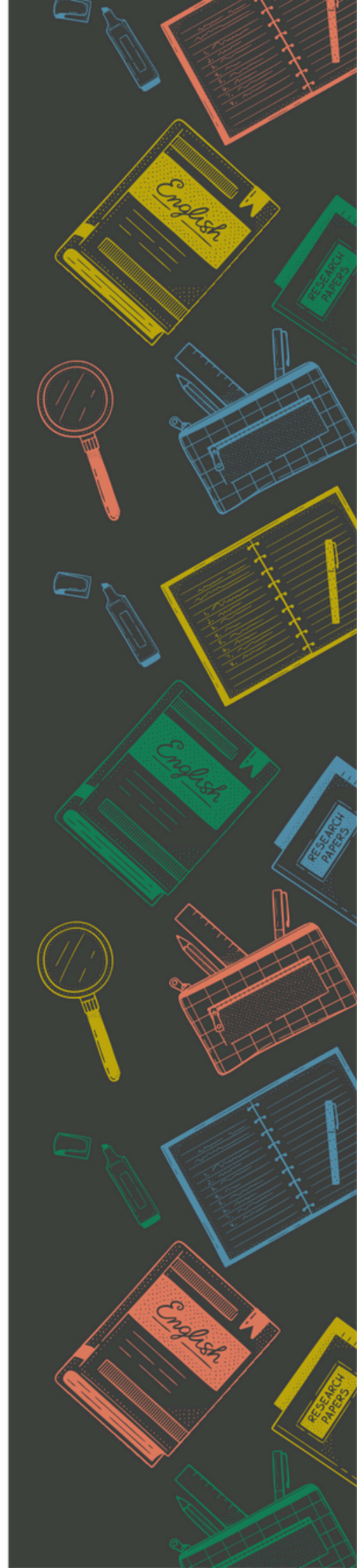
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Let's Discuss!

In pairs, discuss the following questions:

- What does the term "social class" mean to you?
- Do you think people are treated differently based on their social class? How?
- How do you think social class affects a person's opportunities in life?



Write some words that these phrases remind you of in their respective boxes.

Upper class

Middle class

Lower class



Hazelnut Farming and Child Labor in Türkiye

In the Black Sea region of Türkiye, hazelnut farming is mostly done by hand and relies on seasonal workers. Every summer (August to mid-September), **migrant** workers and their families come to help with the **harvest**. The Turkish Statistical Institute says there are over one million seasonal workers in agriculture, and more than 220,000 of them are children.

Many of these families are from poor areas in the southeast of Türkiye, near Syria. They live in **temporary** tents, often without clean water. Since the parents work, children also end up working on farms. This is against Turkish law, which says anyone under 18 cannot do **hazardous** farm work. However, many children carry heavy loads and work in dangerous conditions. In some areas, 40% of the workers are aged 15-18, and 10% are even younger.



1. Match the words with their definitions!

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary | <input type="checkbox"/> Prevent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Labor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harvest | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant | |

- A. Work done by children that is harmful or illegal.
 B. Gathering crops or plants when they are ready to be picked.
 C. Something dangerous or risky.
 D. A person who moves from one place to another, usually for work.
 E. To stop something from happening.
 F. Something that lasts for a short time or is not permanent.
 G. Cruel or harmful treatment of a person, often unfair or illegal.

2. Answer the questions according to the text.

- a. Who are the seasonal workers that help with hazelnut production in Türkiye?

- b. Why do many families bring their children to work on the farms?

- c. What does Turkish law say about children working on farms?

- d. What challenges do experts face when trying to stop child labor on farms?

- e. What are some of the living conditions for seasonal workers and their families?

3. Fill in the blanks with the words from exercise 1.

My name is Ali, and I am an 11-year-old _____ from a poor region in southeastern Türkiye. Every summer, my family and I migrate to the Black Sea area to participate in the _____ of hazelnuts. The work is extremely _____, as we are required to carry heavy sacks for long hours under the scorching sun. We live in _____ shelters that lack basic necessities like clean water and proper sanitation. Although Turkish law prohibits children from engaging in _____, many of us are forced to help our parents in the fields due to financial hardship. The challenges we face often feel like a form of _____, as the work is both physically demanding and emotionally draining. Despite these hardships, there are few resources available to _____ children like me from these conditions. I dream of a future where children no longer have to endure such risks just to support their families.



Listen and Discuss



Watch/Listen the video and then in pairs, discuss the following questions:



- Why do you think workers in these factories are forced to work so many overtime hours?
- What do you think happens when workers don't get proper contracts or are forced to sign blank contracts?
- How do you think living in small, crowded dormitories affects the health and well-being of workers?



Let's Discuss!

In pairs, discuss the following questions according to the picture:

- Have you ever seen this picture before? Do you know where it belongs to? What emotions or thoughts come to your mind when you look at the difference between the two sides in the picture? What do you think it would feel like to live on either side of the image?
- How would life be different?



Economic Inequality in Brazil

Brazil is one of the largest economies in the world, but there is still a large gap between the rich and the poor. In recent decades, the country has made great progress by lifting millions of people out of poverty. However, if Brazil were to continue at the same pace, it would take a very long time to reduce inequality. The richest people in Brazil continue to benefit the most from economic growth, while many people still struggle. If the government focused on more inclusive policies, the wealth gap could shrink faster. Some of the wealthiest individuals in Brazil have as much money as half of the country's population combined. If Brazil's economy were fairer, the wealth would be distributed more equally. Although millions of people have escaped poverty, women and Black Brazilians still face challenges in earning as much as others. If more companies hired women and Black professionals into higher-paying positions, these groups would earn more and reduce the gap. If society treated everyone equally, economic growth would be more inclusive. To create a more equal society, Brazil must address the deep problems that cause inequality. If Brazil invested more in education and healthcare, fewer people would fall back into poverty. If tax systems were reformed, the government could provide better social programs for low-income families. If Brazil were to create stronger protections for workers, fewer people would suffer from exploitation and unfair wages. If citizens advocated for fairer policies, political leaders might prioritize systemic change. If these steps were taken, Brazil could create a fairer future for everyone.

1. Read the text carefully and underline all the sentences that talk about a condition.

2. Below are sentence halves from the text. Match each condition with its correct result.

- If the government focused on more inclusive policies,
 - a. the wealth gap could shrink faster
 - b. citizens would have access to better healthcare.
 - c. the wealth would be distributed more equally.
- If society treated everyone equally,
 - a. economic growth would be more inclusive.
 - b. fewer people would suffer from exploitation.
 - c. the government could provide better social programs.
- If citizens advocated for fairer policies,
 - a. fewer people would fall back into poverty.
 - b. more companies would hire women.
 - c. political leaders might prioritize systemic change.

3. Use your imagination and real-world knowledge to write the rest of these sentences.

- If governments focused more on healthcare,

If education were free for everyone,

If I had the power to change one thing about the world,

4. As a class, brainstorm ideas about how to make the world a better place. Use conditional type 2 to write your ideas. Complete the following sentence starters:

If we could... If everyone had... If the world were...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Let's Listen!



The Labor Movement in the United States | History



1. Answer these True/False statements while listening to the audio.

- 1.The labor movement began during the Industrial Revolution. (T/F)
- 2.Factory workers became wealthy during the Industrial Revolution. (T/F)
- 3.Unions were formed to fight for better working conditions and wages. (T/F)
- 4.The average American worked 50 hours a week in the late 1800s. (T/F)
- 5.The Haymarket Riots took place in Chicago in May 1886. (T/F)
- 6.Child labor laws were introduced immediately after the Industrial Revolution. (T/F)
- 7.The Fair Labor Standards Act was passed in 1938. (T/F)
- 8.The labor movement helped establish minimum wage laws in the United States. (T/F)

2. Answer the following questions after watching the video.

- 1.What were some of the key accomplishments of the labor movement?

- 2. Why were unions important during the Industrial Revolution?

- 3. What were some of the accomplishments of the labor movement mentioned in the video?

3. Watch the video again and listen for the words that mean the following:

- Organization of workers:
- Refusing to work to demand better conditions:
- Extra hours worked:
- Just and equal:
- Demonstrations to demand change:
- Achieving something:

4. In the previous activity, you learned some important vocabulary related to the labor movement. Now, complete the sentences below by filling in the blanks with the correct vocabulary from that list. After completing each sentence, finish it with your own ideas, imagining what might happen if the situations were true.

- If there were no _____,
- If workers organized into _____,
- If employees didn't work _____,
- If unions were successful in _____ their goals,
- If the work environment were _____,
- If the workers went on a _____,



Homework

Research a protest or strike that has occurred in your country, particularly one related to workers' rights or social issues (similar to the labor movement or the strikes/protests mentioned in the video) and prepare a short presentation (3-5 minutes) that includes:

- A brief overview of the protest/strike: when and where it happened.
- The main reason for the protest/strike (e.g., workers demanding better pay, improved working conditions, or other rights).
- The outcome: Was the protest successful? What changes or results came from it?
- Any lasting impact it had on your country's labor laws or social movement.

You will present your findings in class, so be prepared to discuss the protest/strike in detail.



Let's Discuss!

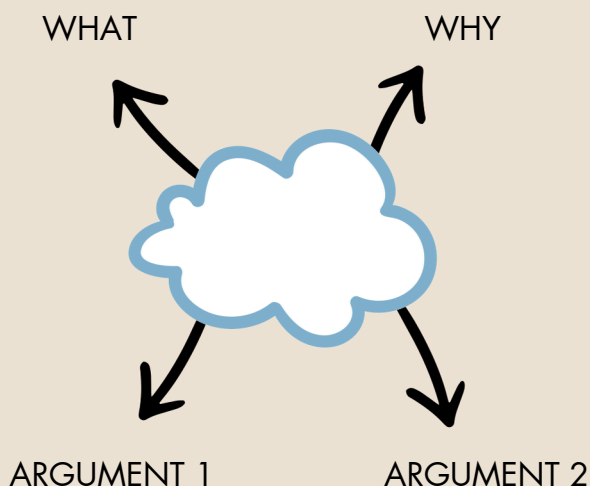
In groups of 3 or 4, discuss 1 of the following questions:

- What can be done to prevent inequality from growing in society?
- How can working in hazardous conditions affect a person's health?
- Do you think access to education can eliminate social class barriers?



Create a Mind Map

After the discussion, choose one topic and create a mind map with your main opinion, supporting points, and examples.



How to Write



Opinion:

I strongly believe that child labor should be completely banned. **Argument 1:** Child labor deprives children of their right to education. Many children are forced to work instead of attending school, which limits their future opportunities. Without a proper education, these children are trapped in a cycle of poverty and are unable to improve their situation. **Argument 2:** Child labor has severe negative effects on children's health. Children who work in hazardous conditions often suffer from physical and mental health issues due to dangerous tasks or long working hours. In some cases, children are exposed to toxic chemicals or forced to carry heavy loads, leading to serious injuries or long-term health problems.

Here's how you can structure your essay based on the outline:

"Introduction- Have you ever thought about the impact of child labor on young lives? Many people still think it is a necessary part of economic survival in certain countries. However, I strongly believe that child labor should be completely banned. In my opinion, child labor deprives children of education and harms their health. **Argument 1-** Firstly, child labor takes away a child's right to education. Many children are forced to work rather than attend school, which limits their future opportunities. Without an education, these children are stuck in a cycle of poverty, unable to improve their situations. This lack of education reduces their chances of securing well-paid jobs in the future. **Argument 2-** Secondly, child labor has severe negative effects on children's health. Many children work in dangerous conditions that expose them to physical and mental health risks. They may be required to carry heavy loads, handle toxic chemicals, or work in unsafe environments. As a result, they can suffer from injuries, long-term health problems, or permanent disabilities. **Conclusion-** To sum up, child labor should be banned because it denies children the chance to be educated and puts their health at risk. Children deserve a safe environment to grow, learn, and pursue their dreams, rather than being forced into labor that hinders their potential."



Your Essay

Write a 250-300 word essay that includes a brief introduction stating your opinion, two body paragraphs where you present and support two arguments, and a short conclusion that restates your thesis and summarizes your points.

USEFUL LINKS

Learn More About Social Inequality

UNICEF: Child Labor – Information and reports on child labor around the world. <https://www.unicef.org> World Bank: Poverty and Inequality – Global statistics, research, and solutions for reducing inequality. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty> ILO: Decent Work – Resources on improving working conditions worldwide. <https://www.ilo.org>

Support Organizations

Save the Children – Donate or learn how this organization helps children in need globally. <https://www.savethechildren.org>
Rainforest Alliance – Support efforts to end child labor in agriculture. <https://www.rainforest-alliance.org>
GlobalGiving – Find projects addressing inequality and donate directly to communities in need. <https://www.globalgiving.org>

Educational Resources

Gapminder – Interactive tools and videos on inequality and global development. <https://www.gapminder.org> Human Rights Watch – Reports and updates on human rights issues, including labor rights. <https://www.hrw.org>

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ANSWER KEY

3A

1. Match the words with their definitions!

- Temporary = **F**
- Abuse = **G**
- Harvest = **B**
- Migrant = **D**
- Prevent = **E**
- Child labor = **A**
- Hazardous = **C**

2. Answer the questions according to the text.

a. They are migrant workers and their families, many of whom come from poor areas in the southeast of Türkiye, near Syria.

b. Since the parents have to work, children also end up working on farms.

c. Turkish law says that anyone under 18 cannot do hazardous farm work.

d. Punishing farmers does not work and may push the problem underground, making it harder to solve.

e. They often live in temporary tents without access to clean water, facing poor and unsafe living conditions.

3. Fill in the blanks with the bold words from the text.

1 - migrant

2 - harvest

3 - hazardous

4 - temporary

5 - child labor

6 - abuse

7 - prevent

3B

1. Read the text carefully and underline all the sentences that talk about a condition.

- However, if Brazil were to continue at the same pace, it would take a very long time to reduce inequality.
- If the government focused on more inclusive policies, the wealth gap could shrink faster.
- If Brazil's economy were fairer, the wealth would be distributed more equally.
- If more companies hired women and Black professionals into higher-paying positions, these groups would earn more and reduce the gap.
- If society treated everyone equally, economic growth would be more inclusive.
- If Brazil invested more in education and healthcare, fewer people would fall back into poverty.
- If tax systems were reformed, the government could provide better social programs for low-income families.
- If Brazil were to create stronger protections for workers, fewer people would suffer from exploitation and unfair wages.
- If citizens advocated for fairer policies, political leaders might prioritize systemic change.
- If these steps were taken, Brazil could create a fairer future for everyone.

2. Below are sentence halves from the text. Match each condition with its correct result.

- a
- a
- c

3. Use your imagination and real-world knowledge to write the rest of these sentences. (example answers)

If governments focused more on healthcare,

- *fewer people would die from preventable diseases.*
- *everyone could receive the treatment they need.*
- *hospitals would be better equipped and less crowded.*

If education were free for everyone,

- *more children from poor families could go to school.*
- *the world would have more skilled workers.*
- *people would have more equal chances in life.*

If I had the power to change one thing about the world,

- *I would end poverty and hunger.*
- *I would stop all wars and violence.*
- *I would make sure everyone has clean water.*

4. As a class, brainstorm ideas about how to make the world a better place.

Use conditional type 2 to write your ideas. (example answers)

1. **If we could** plant more trees, the air would be cleaner and the planet would be healthier.
2. **If everyone had** access to clean water, millions of lives would be saved each year.
3. **If the world were** more peaceful, children could grow up without fear or violence.
4. **If we could** reduce plastic use, the oceans would be safer for marine life.
5. **If everyone had** a good education, poverty levels would decrease around the world.

3C

1. Answer these True/False statements while listening to the audio.

1. T
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. F
7. T
8. T

2. Answer the following questions after watching the video.

1. The key accomplishments of the labor movement were shorter working hours, better wages, and safer working conditions.
2. Unions were important because they helped workers unite to demand fair treatment and improved labor laws.
3. The video mentions the establishment of the eight-hour workday, the implementation of minimum wage laws, the prohibition of child labor, and the improvement of workplace safety standards.

3. Watch the video again and listen for the words that mean the following:

- Organization of workers: *UNION*
- Refusing to work to demand better conditions: *STRIKE*
- Extra hours worked: *OVERTIME*
- Just and equal: *FAIR*
- Demonstrations to demand change: *PROTESTS*
- Achieving something: *ACCOMPLISH*

3D

1. In groups of 3 or 4, discuss 1 of the following questions:

- Democratization on a larger scale in communal places, greater access to social and vital amenities (education, healthcare, food, housing, clothing, water, etc.), fair and extensive labor laws and labor rights (right to organize, right to strike, right to negotiate, minimum wage, maximum working hours, paid days off, national vacations, weekends, sick leave, pregnancy leave, etc.), guaranteed rights of minorities (national/ethnic/racial minorities, sexual minorities, women, etc.), etc.
- Short and/or long term physical and psychological damage; becoming disabled on-site or later, dying at an earlier age on-site or later, sustaining permanent damage on-site or later, losing the overall capacity and the ability to work on certain/most/all jobs, et cetera. Losing economic resources in search for more needed social and vital services (healthcare, justice, labor security, etc.).
- Access to education creates opportunities for better jobs in terms of payment, health risk, difficulty, hiring opportunity, diversity, etc.; creates people that are self-aware, able to think critically and freely, democratically, empathically, etc.; makes access easier to social services, etc..

2. Create a Mind Map.

- Choose a relevant topic (Such as child labor).
- Justify your choice (Child labor is exploitative...).
- Choose 2 arguments to support your point (...because it deprives children of their right to education.).

3. Your Essay.

- As exemplified in 3D/How to Write, has a relevant introduction, two body paragraphs with 2 arguments, and a relevant conclusion.

