How to end world hunger

New Internationalist Easier English Ready lesson – for Intermediate + learners: Reading, Quiz, Vocabulary, Speaking, Writing
This lesson:
• Quiz & infographic
• Speaking
• Reading
• Vocabulary
• Grammar: conditionals
QUIZ: WHERE DOES ALL THE FOOD GO?

Try this quiz, then find the answers in the infographic:

1/ What does the world produce more of?:
   a) grains                     b) red meat and poultry           c) fruit and vegetables
   d) starchy vegetables (eg. potatoes)

2/ Which area eats more food per person per year?:
   a) Europe and Central Asia    b) East Asia and Oceania
   c) North America              d) North Africa and the Middle East

3/ Which area eats the least per person per year?:
   a) Latin America             b) Sub-Saharan Africa
   c) South Asia                d) North Africa and the Middle East

4/ How many million tonnes of grain is used to feed animals per year?:
   a) 120                       b) 1120                      c) 11,200                   d) 111,200

5/ Which 2 areas don't eat enough fruit and vegetables?:
   a) Europe and Central Asia    b) North American and Latin America
   c) South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa    d) North Africa and the Middle East
6/ Which are the only 2 areas that don't eat too much of animal products?:
   a) Europe and Central Asia   b) North American and Latin America
   c) South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa   d) North Africa and the Middle East

7/ Which is the only food group that people in Europe, Central Asia, North Africa
and the Middle East don't eat enough of?:
   a) meat and poultry   b) legumes and pulses
   c) milk and dairy   d) fruit, vegetables and starchy vegetables

8/ How many millions of tonnes per year of biofuels does the world produce?:
   a) 295   b) 29.5   c) 2.95   d) 0.29

9/ Farmed animals eat almost as much food as all the humans in:
   a) North America   b) Latin America
   c) East Asia and Oceania   d) Europe and Central Asia

10/ How much food is wasted every year around the world?:
   a) 1045 million tonnes   b) 104.5 million tonnes
   c) 10.45 million tonnes   d) 1.045 million tonnes
How much do we make?

Who gets it?

Starchy veg like yams, cassava, and sweet potato make up 40% of available food in sub-Saharan Africa.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Million Tonnes Per Year</th>
<th>Amount Per Person Per Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>656 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>783 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; Oceania</td>
<td>2193</td>
<td>1083 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe &amp; Central Asia</td>
<td>1166</td>
<td>1118 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America and Europe</td>
<td>9823</td>
<td>823 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America &amp; Middle East</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>1203 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>396</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>523</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10 ways to end world hunger

What do you think we could do?

Discuss and make a list of 10 things
What does this image show?
Now skim through these 2 slides to see if any of your points are included in the article:

1 MAKE FOOD MORE IMPORTANT THAN BUSINESS  Trade rules create the unequal food system, which uses a lot of natural resources. We need to look at and change our laws and rules to make new ones that make food security more important than trade and end the global chains that do not work. We could start by ending the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Agriculture and allowing civil society to negotiate.

2 BREAK UP VERY LARGE BUSINESSES – AND END PROTECTION FROM PUNISHMENT  The very large agriculture industries have too much control over production, distribution and trade policy. We need to break up these huge companies (they are worth more money than the GDP of many countries in Africa) with new laws. Cut government funding to intensive agriculture and industrial fishing, bring in new tax agreements and stop investors controlling trade deals. Make famine, malnutrition and hunger (which are basically political choices) into crimes that the International Criminal Court punishes.

3 SHARE THE WEALTH  There are now 2,700 billionaires in the world – together they have $13 trillion. The International Monetary Fund says we need $300 - $400 billion each year to be able to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (including No 2, Zero Hunger). We could do that if we tax and share the wealth fairly. The Global South urgently needs a new agreement to repay debts from the past and meet the needs of its population now.

4 RIGHTS TO LAND, SEAS – AND BETTER PAY  If we accept the rights of indigenous and local people to land, forests and seas, that will create more inclusive societies for billions of rural poor; two-thirds of these are hungry. And women are extremely important in preventing hunger; when women’s rights improve, productivity and family nutrition also improve. Food workers must get better pay – they are among the worst paid in the world; and informal workers, eg. fish processors in Senegal, must have employment status and benefits.
5 SMALLER, FAIRER, SLOWER TRADE  We have seen how well local markets with short supply chains work in Covid lockdowns. Governments can use these, for example in Brazil’s National School Feeding Programme. This buys a percentage of food from family farmers and indigenous and traditional communities. Urban farming already produces 15-20 per cent of food and it can make communities more self-sufficient; fair-trade co-operatives can connect consumers to growers from cities to the countryside and across international borders.

6 FREE LUNCH – OR MONEY TO BUY IT  We need to support more people in society – by right, not charity – and not only when there is a crisis. Soon after Covid-19 started, about 160 countries gave food to the poor – money for food, food boxes or cooked meals. This shows what countries can do, and shows their responsibility. We must help in disasters while we are moving to our world without hunger.

7 BALANCE WITH NATURE  We need to cut carbon emissions a lot to do something about climate change, which is destroying the ecosystems that all producers need to produce the food. Agriculture produces 30 per cent of our greenhouse gas emissions; we could cut most of this with agroecology, and we would then have healthy soils, a nutritious variety of crops and animals that resist disease. We need to get money to develop alternatives to industrial agriculture, and promote these; we need to look again at wild food and traditional knowledge and add this to scientific knowledge.

8 MAKE PEOPLE EAT GOOD FOOD  Some solutions to hunger only increase obesity and bad health. Governments should increase the price of unhealthy drink and food with tax and subsidize the price of healthy diets. Also, we should bring back lots of traditional food with the help of chefs, social movements and cheap community eating places.

9 EAT ETHICAL  Michael Pollan said: ‘Eat food, not too much’. In richer countries, many people are eating more ethical, organic and vegetarian (or ‘flexitarian’) diets, which is good. But we need to check how sustainable all this food is, and see how much it costs the environment and growers, not just the price in the shop.

10 ORGANIZE  People will need to fight for points 1-9 above and be ready for ‘change and disruption’. In the next 25 years, food movements will have to organize across many groups, including trade and climate – and link together consumers, workers and producers. With helpful governments, UN secretariats and policymakers, we can create more democratic food politics all around the world.
Vocabulary – match:

1) famine
   a) Someone who eats mainly vegetarian food, but sometimes meat and fish too

2) malnutrition
   b) Not eating enough good food

3) debt
   c) Applying principles of ecology to agriculture

4) supply chain
   d) Not enough food so people starve

5) indigenous
   e) Owing money to someone

6) fairtrade cooperative
   f) To support something financially

7) agroecology
   g) Something that interrupts an event, an activity or a process, and may cause a big change

8) to subsidize
   h) Native to a place

9) flexitarian
   i) All the processes in producing and selling something

10) disruption
    j) A business owned by the producers where they divide the profits more equally
Key:

1) famine  d
2) malnutrition  b
3) debt  e
4) supply chain  i
5) indigenous  h
6) fairtrade cooperative  j
7) agroecology  c
8) to subsidize  f
9) flexitarian  a
10) disruption  g

a) Someone who eats mainly vegetarian food, but sometimes meat and fish too
b) Not eating enough good food
c) Applying principles of ecology to agriculture
d) Not enough food so people starve
e) Owing money to someone
f) To support something financially
g) Something that interrupts an event, an activity or a process, and may cause a big change
h) Native to a place
i) All the processes in producing and selling something
j) A business owned by the producers where they divide the profits more equally
Now read the 10 steps again, more slowly this time

Decide with a partner on how easy / difficult it would be to do each of the 10 steps, and list them in order of difficulty. Why/why not?
Grammar: in pairs, write one sentence about each of the 10 steps, beginning with ‘If ……’

Eg.
If we change the laws, food might become more important than business.  (1st conditional: possible / future)
If all the billionaires shared their money, there would be enough food for everyone in the world.  (2nd conditional: unlikely / future)
If everyone had become flexitarian many years ago, the climate wouldn’t have changed so much.  (3rd conditional: past)
Follow-up - read and discuss:

In pairs, (A and B), each read one of these articles and tell each other about them:

A – Would you like some slavery beef?:
https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php?title=Would_you_like_some_slavery_beef%3F

B – Food is love:
https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php?title=%E2%80%98Food_is_love%E2%80%99