



# GLOBALISATION

***“Globalisation is not something that we can hold off or turn off. It is the economic equivalent of a force of nature, like wind or water.”***

Bill Clinton, 42<sup>nd</sup> president of the United States of America

## 1. Globalisation Discussion

1. What is globalisation? What are the different things that it involves?
2. What are some positive and negative consequences of globalisation?
3. How is your company affected by globalisation?
4. Has globalisation had a positive or negative effect on your country's economy? What about on the rest of the world?
5. How has globalisation affected jobs in developed countries? How about in developing countries?
6. How would you feel if a large employer in your country decided to relocate to another country where the wages were lower?
7. Has globalisation affected all countries equally? Who benefits most from globalisation?
8. Why are so many people in both rich and poor countries opposed to globalisation? Are you opposed to globalisation in any way?

## 2. Globalisation Vocabulary

- **interdependent** (adjective) – *describes two or more people or things that depend on, or are affected by, each other.*
- **global workforce** (noun) – *a pool of workers able to be selected from anywhere in the world.*
- **homogenisation** (noun) – *a process of making things the same or similar.*
- **glocalisation** (noun) – *the production of a product or service intended to be distributed globally but able to be adjusted to meet the needs of a specific local market, for example, by taking into account cultural differences or national laws.*
- **multinational (corporation)** (noun) – *a company that operates in various different countries.*
- **race to the bottom** (noun) – *a competition between people, companies or countries in which standards are sacrificed to obtain a competitive advantage, usually wages, working conditions or product quality.*

**Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)**

1. As manufacturing processes now take place across several different countries, the world has become increasingly **interdependent**.
2. As more and more companies offer homeworking, they are able to offer jobs to people who are not even in the same country. In the future we will have a truly **global workforce**.
3. Both Mexico and Brazil lowered their minimum wages and entered into a **race to the bottom** to make their economies more attractive to foreign companies.
4. Despite much criticism, there is no denying that after expanding their operations to many different countries, **multinationals** have created millions and millions of jobs around the world.
5. Many people fear globalisation will result in the **homogenisation** of national cultures.
6. Using the concept of **glocalisation**, Ford was able to provide cars to European countries that abided by the stricter EU environmental laws.

### Globalisation vocabulary comprehension questions

1. In what ways is the world interdependent today?
2. Will a global workforce be a good thing or a bad thing? Why?
3. Will globalisation lead to the homogenisation of national cultures?
4. What examples of cultural globalisation can you think of?
5. Which multinationals are active in your country? Have they had a positive or negative impact on your country?
6. Does globalisation lead to a race to the bottom in terms of wages and working conditions?

### 3. Video: The End of Globalisation

You are going to watch a TED Talk by Mike O'Sullivan called "The end of globalization (and the beginning of something new)."

Watch the video here: <https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/business-english-conversation-lesson-plan-globalisation/>

#### Watch the video and after, discuss the following questions

1. How has globalisation changed the way we communicate, consume news, travel and work?
2. Do you agree we are at the end of globalisation? Why or why not?
3. Has globalisation been mismanaged? How has the covid pandemic shown the weaknesses of globalisation?
4. Are we entering into a new period of rivalry, rather than of working together?
5. What are the different value groups that exist in the world? How will these values determine future alliances? How would you describe the values of the United States, European Union and China?
6. What are the values of your country? How will this affect its place in the global world in the future? Which value group will it turn to?

### 4. Globalisation Conversation Questions

1. Has globalisation led to increased or decreased wealth inequality?
2. Has globalisation led to an increase or decrease in democracy around the world?
3. What effect has globalisation had on the environment?
4. Is globalisation to blame for many of the problems the world is facing today, or is it the solution to these problems?
5. What can countries do to protect their economies from the negative side of globalisation?
6. Will globalisation lead to more or less conflict in the world? Why?
7. What would the world be like with no globalisation?
8. Will the world be more or less globalised in the future? Why?

### 5. Globalisation Writing Task

Write a briefing note for a foreign investor explaining how globalisation has affected your country. Include information on working conditions, per capita income, the job market, economic performance, and the presence of important multinational corporations.