

11 Nutrition

Activities

Critical thinking: statistics 1 1 a Read the *Distribution of income and wealth* section of the Unit 11 text and decide whether each of these statements is true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Wealth is distributed quite evenly in the United States.
- 2 The top 5 per cent received more income than the bottom 40 per cent.
- 3 The rich are getting richer.
- 4 Income distribution does not vary by race/ethnicity.
- 5 Wealth is different to income.
- 6 The top 10 per cent own more than 70 per cent of wealth in the US.
- 7 Nearly all of the richest people in the US are self-made millionaires.

b Do any of these statistics surprise you? Do you think there is a similar situation in your own country?

2 a Before you read the *Consequences of inequality* section, try to predict what you think some of the consequences of inequality might be. Think about:

- physical health
- mental health
- nutrition.

b Read that section of the text and check your ideas.

Understanding the text: drawing conclusions 3 Look at the *Consequences of inequality* section again. What conclusions does the author draw on the connection between ...

- 1 health and wealth?
- 2 poverty and infant mortality?
- 3 jobs and health?
- 4 success and nutrition?

4 What opinion do you think the author might have about these topics?

- 1 The American healthcare system
- 2 The distribution of income in the United States
- 3 The idea that it is the poor who are obese in America

Language focus: cause and effect 5 Find and underline these expressions in the *Consequences of inequality* section and answer the questions below.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| linked to (x2) | tend to |
| attributed to | tend to be (x2) |
| relationship between | related to |

- 1 What ideas do they connect?
- 2 Which connections is the author least confident are true?

6 a Look at these extracts from the Unit 11 text. Underline the cause and circle the effect in each one.

1

According to one media account, 'for every investment banker whose pay has recovered to its pre-recession levels, there are several who have lost their jobs – as well as many wealthy investors who have lost millions. As a result, analysts and other economists say, a 30-year period in which the super-rich became both wealthier and more numerous may now be ending' (Leonhardt and Fabrikant, 2009).

2

Others are unable to survive because they are born with low birth weight, a condition linked to birth defects and increased probability of infant mortality.

b In each extract above, which word or phrase is used to show the cause-and-effect relationship? Do they link sentences or clauses?

7 Complete the table below with these words or phrases according to whether they are used to join clauses or sentences.

as as a result because consequently for this reason
hence if since so therefore thus

clauses	sentences

8 a Look at the Unit 11 text again and underline all the parts that come from other sources.

b Look at this essay question and answer the questions below.

To what extent do you agree with the following statement? Malnutrition in children is a growing and neglected concern in the US.

- 1 Which of the sources cited in the Unit 11 text might be the most useful to read in preparation for writing this essay?
- 2 What additional information would you need to locate these sources? Where would you find this information?

Critical thinking: 9 a The author acknowledges that there are some weaknesses with the statistics available. What weaknesses does she suggest there are with the following?

statistics 2

- 1 Estimates of income in general
- 2 Data from the US Census Bureau
- 3 Statistics related to social class and health
- 4 Statistics related to hunger

b What bias might there be in statistics produced by these two references?

- 1 US Census Bureau
- 2 Children's Defence Fund

10 Write a brief paragraph summarizing some of the main effects of income inequality in the US. Try to incorporate vocabulary from Exercises 5, 6 and 7.