

What's with the G20?

⚡ Duration: 1 h

⚡ Age: adults

⚡ B2 level

⚡ Individual lesson

⚡ Main focus:

The student can understand most recorded or broadcast audio material delivered in the standard form of the language

The student can explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

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Warm-up

Discuss: Have you heard of the G20 before? What is it?



Exercise 1. Link these words into sentences about global organisations and international forums. You can use the words in any order, but all of the words mentioned in the same line should be included into one sentence.

1 environmental issue cooperation

2 global poverty inequality

3 United Nations peace security

4 international agreements growth

5 necessary spread nuclear weapons

6 World Health Organisation cooperation worldwide

2**Listening**

Exercise 2. Watch the recent news piece from CBS news and fill in the gaps in its transcript:

Hey, everyone. It's 11 a.m. here on the East Coast. It's 8 a.m. on the West Coast. And later today, President Biden is expected to leave for India to attend the annual G20 _____(1). Now, you've probably already heard the term before, but what does the organization actually do? We're here to let you know the G20, which literally stands for Group of 20, includes 19 countries and the EU with large impacts on the global economy, such as the U.S. and China. The collective meets yearly to discuss solutions for _____(2) ranging from climate change to finance. Now, the G20 members represent _____(3) percent of the global GDP and _____(4) percent of all global trade. And the group's economic importance is part of why it was created. After the Asian financial crisis of 1997, global finance ministers started their yearly meetings _____(5) discuss worldwide economic stability. The organization opened to include heads of state in response to the 2008 financial crisis. Since then, the G20 has _____(6) issues with global _____(7) like the Iranian nuclear crisis and the covid-19 pandemic. Now, the organization's membership could change this year. Russia was a _____(8), but the U.S. and other members have called for them to be removed. It's unlikely to happen, though, since China and India don't support that idea. But the G20 has also received criticism for not including more African members. The U.S. _____(9) to make the African Union another permanent member. If that happens, it will make them the first new G20 member since the organization's _____(10).

Exercise 3. Cover the transcript. Watch the video again and mark these statements as True or False:

- T / F 1. The G20 includes 20 countries.
- T / F 2. The G20 was created in response to the 2008 financial crisis.
- T / F 3. The G20 has targeted issues with global ramifications like the Iranian nuclear crisis and the covid-19 pandemic.
- T / F 4. Russia is no longer a member of the G20.
- T / F 5. The G20 has been criticised for not including more African members.
- T / F 6. The G20 has not added any new members since its creation.

3**Post-listening****Exercise 4. Brainstorm:**

What challenges do you think the G20 faces when trying to foster collaboration and stability among its members?

**4****Vocabulary**

Exercise 5. Fill in the gaps in these sentences with the phrases below. Then sort the sentences into 2 groups - advantages and disadvantages. Justify your choice.

undermine the effectiveness

international trade

have their voices heard

strong consensus

address social inequality

engage in diplomacy

attract foreign investment

divert resources

binding

addressing global issues

unequal representation

- G20 helps to promote ____ (1) and investment, which can boost economic growth globally.
- Disputes among G20 member states can ____ (2) of the group in promoting cooperation and collaboration.
- G20 decisions are not always ____ (3) and may be difficult to enforce without ____ (4) from all members.
- G20 meetings provide opportunities for leaders to ____ (5) and build relationships with other countries.
- G20 membership can ____ (6) and improve the global standing of member nations.

twee

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- Smaller or developing countries may find it more challenging to influence G20 decision-making, leading to ____ (7) and potentially negative outcomes.
- Some critics argue that G20 does not do enough to ____ (8) and environmental concerns.
- G20 provides a platform for countries to collaborate on ____ (9) such as climate change, terrorism, and poverty.
- Membership in G20 offers smaller countries an opportunity to ____ (10) on the world stage.
- Meetings can be costly and may ____ (11) away from other domestic priorities.

Advantages

Disadvantages

5

Homework

Compose an email to a local representative / manager discussing the need to address social inequality in your community / company using the vocabulary from the lesson. In your email, outline a plan to divert resources toward this issue and explain why it is important to have strong consensus and binding agreements when addressing such issues.

Target Vocabulary:

addressing issues, have their voices heard, engage in diplomacy, attract investment, binding, strong consensus, unequal representation, address inequality, divert resources, undermine the effectiveness



Correct answers

Exercise 1

Made in the “Link the words into sentences” tool.

Suggested answers:

1. The environmental crisis is a global issue that requires cooperation from all nations.
2. Global cooperation is crucial in addressing poverty and inequality around the world.
3. The United Nations is an example of global cooperation for maintaining peace and security.
4. International trade agreements are a product of global cooperation for economic growth.
5. Global cooperation is necessary to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.
6. The World Health Organization relies on global cooperation to improve public health worldwide.

Exercise 2

Made in “YouTube to Text” + “Fill in the gap”

1. summit
2. pressing global issues
3. 85
4. 75
5. as a vehicle to
6. targeted
7. ramifications
8. founding member
9. has backed a plan
10. inception

Exercise 3

Made in the “True or False” tool.

1. False - It includes 19 countries and the EU.
2. False - It was created after the Asian financial crisis of 1997.
3. True
4. False - Russia is still a member.
5. True
6. True

Exercise 5

Made in “Advantages and disadvantages” + “Fill in the gap”.

Advantages:

1. G20 helps to promote **international trade** and investment, which can boost economic growth globally.
2. G20 provides a platform for countries to collaborate on **addressing global issues** such as climate change, terrorism, and poverty.
3. Membership in G20 offers smaller countries an opportunity to **have their voices heard** on the world stage.
4. G20 meetings provide opportunities for leaders to **engage in diplomacy** and build relationships with other countries.
5. G20 membership can **attract foreign investment** and improve the global standing of member nations.

Disadvantages:

1. G20 decisions are not always **binding** and may be difficult to enforce without strong consensus from all members.
2. Smaller or developing countries may find it more challenging to influence G20 decision-making, leading to **unequal representation** and potentially negative outcomes.
3. Some critics argue that G20 does not do enough to **address social inequality** and environmental concerns.
4. Meetings can be costly and may **divert resources** away from other domestic priorities.
5. Disputes among G20 member states can **undermine the effectiveness** of the group in promoting cooperation and collaboration.



Teacher tip

Prompt your student to speak by asking them why a certain statement is an advantage or disadvantage.