

World's richest man tries to stop 'tempest' with \$100m gift

Level 2 | Intermediate

1 Pre-reading: Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps by using one of the words in the list

hospice
donation
panic

controversy
campaigner
establishment

pandemic
inaccurate

intervention
decade

- 1• Money given to an organisation to help people is called a _____.
- 2• _____ is a sudden strong feeling of fear or worry.
- 3• A _____ is a disagreement about a moral issue that a lot of people have strong feelings about.
- 4• Terminally ill patients are cared for in a special hospital known as a _____.
- 5• A _____ is someone who tries to achieve political or social change.
- 6• A disease that affects almost everyone in a large area is called a _____.
- 7• The most important and powerful people in a country are known as the _____.
- 8• If something is _____, it is not correct.
- 9• A _____ is a period of ten years.
- 10• _____ is when someone becomes involved in a problem in order to influence what happens.

2 What do you think?

Try and answer these questions. Then compare your answers with the information in the text:

- 1• How much money did Bill Gates give to fight the spread of Aids in India?
- 2• Which country has the largest number of Aids cases?
- 3• How many people in India will have Aids by the year 2010?
- 4• Which 3 countries could see over 100 million deaths from Aids by 2025?

Now read the text and check your answers.

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Luke Harding

Last Monday Bill Gates announced his biggest donation so far - \$100m to help fight HIV/Aids in India. But this large donation from the world's richest man has not received a positive reaction from India's rightwing government. Earlier, the Indian government said Mr Gates was "spreading panic" about the probable spread of the disease. However, Mr Gates was not worried by the response. "Whatever the figures are now or seven years from now, there is a big, big problem [in India]," he said. "We have seen in other countries what happens if you don't act early. You don't get involved in Aids without being prepared to accept a certain amount of controversy."

Before he announced his long-term intention to slow the spread of HIV/Aids, he visited an Aids hospice in Delhi. He didn't hug people like Princess Diana did, but he did sit on the floor next to an Aids patient. Earlier, the Indian government had said it was very unhappy with a report that predicted

that 20 million to 25 million Indians would probably have the virus by 2010 - and that India would soon overtake South Africa as the country with the largest number of Aids cases.

Aids campaigners say that the Indian government has underestimated the number of people suffering from Aids. This view was supported this week by a new, shocking report which suggests that Eurasia - India, China and Russia - will soon suffer the same kind of Aids pandemic that is currently destroying sub-Saharan Africa. The disease in these three countries could kill between 43 million and 105 million people by 2025, it says. The report, published in the American magazine *Foreign Affairs*, will probably not be liked by India's Hindu nationalist establishment, which, as Bill Gates has found out, does not like external interference.

Last week India's health minister, Shatrughan Sinha, denied reports that India would soon have an Aids epidemic. These reports were "completely inaccurate", he said. The

government has not given its own forecasts, but says it does not expect a dramatic increase by the end of the decade. It says that Aids prevention programmes are working and that the number of people carrying HIV has stabilised to around 4 million - 0.7% of its adult population - over the past three years. Other experts say that 5 million to 8 million Indians are already infected. India is a conservative, mainly Hindu country and people do not talk openly about sex.

In Indian films kisses between Indians are not allowed. In this kind of environment, Bill Gates' intervention was always likely to cause a great deal of disagreement. Mr Gates said it was not just developing countries that were unwilling to talk about sex: the same problem existed in the US. "We have the Catholic church. We have people who tell us that talking about sex will increase sexual behaviour," he said.

The Guardian Weekly 14-11-2002, page 2

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3 Comprehension Check

Choose the best answer:

1. Why did the Indian government react negatively to Bill Gates' donation?
 - a. Because it thought he was spreading panic.
 - b. Because he didn't offer enough money.
 - c. Because the government is rightwing.
2. According to a recent report, how many Indians will have the HIV virus by 2010?
 - a. Almost 20 million.
 - b. More than 25 million.
 - c. Between 20 and 25 million.
3. Why won't the American report be liked by India's establishment?
 - a. Because it is inaccurate.
 - b. Because it is accurate.
 - c. Because they don't like interference from outside.
4. What did the Indian Health Minister say about Aids?
 - a. India will soon have an epidemic.
 - b. There will not be a large increase in the number of Aids cases.
 - c. The number of Aids cases in India is falling.
5. Why was it probable that Bill Gates would cause disagreement in India?
 - a. Because the same problem exists in the US.
 - b. Because people do not talk openly about sex.
 - c. Because kissing is banned in films.

4 Vocabulary Building I: Word Formation

Complete the table:

VERB	NOUN	VERB	NOUN
1. announce	_____	6. suggest	_____
2. donate	_____	7. interfere	_____
3. respond	_____	8. forecast	_____
4. intend	_____	9. disagree	_____
5. predict	_____	10. prevent	_____

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5 Vocabulary Building II: Opposites

The opposites of these words can all be found in the text:

- 1• poorest
- 2• negative
- 3• leftwing
- 4• short-term
- 5• overestimate
- 6• internal
- 7• accurate
- 8• decrease
- 9• liberal
- 10• willing

6 Discussion

Is Bill Gates right to donate money to help fight Aids?
What can governments do to help fight the spread of Aids?
What can ordinary people do?

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Key

1 Key Vocabulary

- 1 donation
- 2 panic
- 3 controversy
- 4 hospice
- 5 campaigner
- 6 pandemic
- 7 establishment
- 8 inaccurate
- 9 decade
- 10 intervention

2 What do you think?

- 1 \$100 million.
- 2 South Africa.
- 3 Between 20 and 25 million.
- 4 India, China and Russia.

3 Comprehension check

- 1 a; 2 c; 3 c; 4 b; 5 b

4 Word formation

- 1 announcement
- 2 donation
- 3 response
- 4 intention
- 5 prediction
- 6 suggestion
- 7 interference
- 8 forecast
- 9 disagreement
- 10 prevention

5 Opposites

- 1 richest
- 2 positive
- 3 rightwing
- 4 long-term
- 5 underestimate
- 6 external
- 7 inaccurate
- 8 increase
- 9 conservative
- 10 unwilling