

A  Work in pairs. Complete the article with words and phrases from the box. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

destitute hardship make ends meet prosperity live within our means
well-off impoverished disposable income affluent deprived

People in this country might feel they are struggling in the current economic climate, but recently published research has shown just how much life has improved in the last fifty years.

As a nation, we are considerably better off than we used to be. In fact, the majority of the population now have more than twice as much ¹ _____ as their parents' generation. 50 years ago, a much greater proportion of people faced genuine ² _____, living in ³ _____ conditions, quite simply unable to ⁴ _____. Nowadays, far fewer people can be described as ⁵ _____ and many more of us are able to ⁶ _____. So despite the feeling of financial decline in the last ten years, most of us are actually quite ⁷ _____ and over the course of the last half-century the country has been enjoying relative ⁸ _____.

Is it all positive, though? The truth is that there are still huge differences between rich and poor in our country today, and people in the more ⁹ _____ neighbourhoods have much better living conditions than those in the more ¹⁰ _____ areas in our towns and cities.