


**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 <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ as their parents' generation. 50 years ago, a much greater proportion of people faced genuine <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, living in <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ conditions, quite simply unable to <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. Nowadays, far fewer people can be described as <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and many more of us are able to <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. So despite the feeling of financial decline in the last ten years, most of us are actually quite <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and over the course of the last half-century the country has been enjoying relative <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

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 <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ neighbourhoods have much better living conditions than those in the more <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ areas in our towns and cities.