

# Newsweek Business English Program

*"Growth Is Not Enough"*

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*This article, by George Wehrfritz, is taken from the April 30, 2007 issue of Newsweek*

## Vocabulary

### Glossary

Before you look at the definitions provided, try to figure out the meaning of each word based on its use in the sentence and the paragraph. Write down a synonym for the word, and then compare your synonym with the definition below. The number in brackets after each word is the number of the paragraph in which the word is located.

**rid [1]:** relieve, disencumber

**embers [1]:** the remains of a fire

**thrust [2]:** an essential element or meaning

**flush [2]:** abundant, full

**yawning [2]:** cavernous

**stark [3, 4]:** harsh, blunt

**watershed [3]:** turning point

**sweeping [4]:** extensive

**stuff [4]:** substance

**shift [4]:** a change

**tap [5]:** to draw from

**bolster [6]:** to give a boost to

**ballooned [6]:** expanded

**payoffs [7]:** benefits, profits

### Idioms

An idiom is a word or phrase that has a meaning that can't be determined through literal translation. Each culture has its own idioms, even when different cultures speak the same language. American idioms, for example, are often different from British idioms, although English is spoken in both countries.

Idioms can be particularly challenging for non-native speakers of a language. Below is a list of idioms in "Growth Is Not Enough." Each idiom is defined. The number in brackets following the idiom refers to the paragraph in which the word appears.

1. Imagine if Asia—a place where *roughly* 20 percent of the population still lives on \$1 per day—could largely rid itself of abject poverty by 2020. [1]: Imagine if Asia—a place where *approximately* 20 percent of the population still lives on \$1 per day—could largely rid itself of abject poverty by 2020.

2. The possibility is within reach, according to a new report by a *blue-ribbon panel* that includes Sony's retired group chairman, Nobuyuki

Idei, and former U.S. Treasury secretary Lawrence Summers. [1]: The possibility is within reach, according to a new report by a *group whose members were chosen for their special qualifications* that includes Sony's retired group chairman, Nobuyuki Idei, and former U.S. Treasury secretary Lawrence Summers.

3. Their paper, entitled "Toward a New Asian Development Bank in a New Asia," is not a work of *rose-colored* conjecture. [1]: Their paper, entitled "Toward a New Asian Development Bank in a New Asia," is not a work of *unrealistically optimistic* conjecture.

4. Indeed, it makes the case that Asia won't attain this dramatic goal unless there's a *sea change* in the way it does business. [1]: Indeed, it makes the case that Asia won't attain this dramatic goal unless there's a *significant transformation* in the way it does business.

5. The study's main thrust is simple enough: growth, *in and of itself*, is no longer enough. [2]: The study's main thrust is simple enough: growth, *alone*, was once enough, *but is not now*.

6. The current development model has rendered the region over-dependent on export-led manufacturing, flush with foreign reserves ... and burdened by yawning income gaps and widespread environmental degradation—*side effects* of policies ... [2]: The current development model has rendered the region over-dependent on export-led manufacturing, flush with foreign reserves ... and burdened by yawning income gaps and widespread environmental degradation—*unintended consequences* of policies ...

7. "Asia will have to *come to grips* with different kinds of problems related to growth," explains lead author Supachai Panitchpakdi... [2]: "Asia will have to *address* different kinds of problems related to growth," explains lead author Supachai Panitchpakdi...

8. That's no *shout in the wilderness*. [3]: That's no *obscure or unimportant concern*.

9. India's watershed 2004 election ... signaled deep *grass-roots* dissatisfaction about a widening urban-rural divide ... [3]: India's watershed 2004 election ... signaled deep dissatisfaction *among ordinary people* about a widening urban-rural divide ...

10. Similarly, China's toxic rivers, smog, mass migrations and serious food shortages due to global warming all suggest that Asia's "grow first, clean up later" mentality is *out of step* with the gravity of the environmental challenge ... [3]: Similarly, China's toxic rivers, smog, mass migrations and serious food shortages due to global warming all suggest that Asia's "grow first, clean up later" mentality is *incongruent* with the gravity of the environmental challenge ...

11. The ADB will still fund *brick-and-mortar* projects, to be sure. [5]: The ADB will still fund *traditional, physical* projects, to be sure.

12. India would need to change laws to allow investors greater *rates of return* on much-needed roads, railways, ports and power plants. [5]: India would need to change laws to allow investors greater *the amount of money earned on investments* on much-needed roads, railways, ports and power plants.

13. In recent months, prominent economists in the region have *floated* the idea that current inflows into U.S. Treasury bills would be better spent at home. [6]: In recent months, prominent economists in the region have *tested* the idea that current inflows into U.S. Treasury bills would be better spent at home.

14. Translation: reducing Asian poverty is now *up to* Asians themselves. [7]: Translation: reducing Asian poverty is now *a task* Asians *must complete* themselves.

## Usage

### Exploring Possibility in Tenses

English provides words that show different possibilities in tenses. These words encompass the following possibilities:

- ability – *can, could*
- permission – *may, might*
- obligation – *must, ought to, should*
- conditional – *would*
- future – *will*

All of these words are "auxiliary" verbs; that is, they are all used with infinitive verb forms and can not stand alone. Let's look briefly at each.

*Can* and *could* imply both ability and possibility. Examples:

*I finished my work, so I **can** go to the movies tonight.*

***Could** you get some milk on your way home?*

*May* and *might* give permission as well as possibility. Examples:

*You **may** have the car tonight to go to the movies.*

*It **might** snow tomorrow.*

*Must*, *ought to* and *should* imply an obligation or duty. (*Should* is often interchangeable with *ought to*.) Examples:

*I **should** do my work before I go to the movies.*

*She looks pale; she **ought to** sit down.*

*Would* and *will* are used to express the conditional and future tenses, respectively. In "if-then" clauses, *would* is used with the past and *will* with the present. Examples:

*I **would** go if I had the time.*

*I **will** go if I have the time.*

Many of the above words are used in this week's article, both in "if-then" clauses and standing alone. Circle the correct word in parentheses to complete each sentence adapted from "Growth Is Not Enough."

1. Imagine if Asia—a place where roughly 20 percent of the population still lives on \$1 per day— (**could/will**) largely rid itself of abject poverty by 2020. [1]
2. Such an achievement (**might/would**) crown a regionwide boom that was launched with Japan's rise from the embers of World War II, and is driven today by the dynamic growth of China and India. [1]
3. Indeed, it makes the case that Asia (**shouldn't/won't**) attain this dramatic goal unless there's a sea change in the way it does business. [1]
4. "Asia (**will have to/would**) come to grips with different kinds of problems related to growth," explains lead author Supachai Panitchpakdi. [2]
5. The outcome put leaders from Jakarta to Beijing on notice that they, too, (**could/ought to**) possibly pay a high price for not broadening the boom. [3]
6. "But the risks are less directly in terms of [Asia's] ability to achieve growth than they are on some of the things that (**may/can**) possibly come alongside growth." [3]
7. The development agenda (**might/will**) definitely increasingly need to be regional, not national, in focus. [4]
8. Keeping more of it in the region and spending it productively definitely (**might not/won't**) be easy. [5]
9. Banks, particularly in China, (**can/would**) probably need to broaden their lending to small businesses and consumers. [5]
10. India (**can/would**) possibly need to change laws to allow investors greater rates of return on much-needed roads, railways, ports and power plants. [5]
11. If the situation is going to change, bond markets (**can/would have to**) mature to the point that businesses (or institutions like the ADB) could tap local savings pools to fund their projects. [5]
12. The bank is launching a variety of programs to help bolster Asian financial systems, and the study even proposes a truly radical notion: that the ADB (**can/could**) manage a portion of Asia's foreign reserves. [6]

13. Though it's politically sensitive, ADB money managers (**could/should**) well earn better returns than what Asian countries now garner from government bonds purchased in New York or London. [6]
14. "If they ask, then we (**might/will**) certainly explore this possibility," says ADB president Haruhiko Kuroda. [6]
15. Environmental degradation is the single biggest factor that (**could/will**) possibly inhibit the region's economic development in the longer term. [7]
16. If Asian leaders make the right moves, the study authors estimate that by 2020 per capita income (**could/must**) double to about \$8,000, and the region (**can/would**) account for 45 percent of global economic activity, up from 35 percent today. [7]
17. Asia (**may/will**) certainly rid itself of abject poverty by 2020.
18. (**Can/Ought to**) we explore this possibility?
19. Unless things change, Asia (**must/will**) continue to lose money.
20. Asian investors (**can't/won't**) afford to ignore environmental issues any more.

### **Answer Key**

1. could; 2. would; 3. won't; 4. will have to; 5. could; 6. may; 7. will; 8. won't; 9. would; 10. would;  
11. would have to; 12. could; 13. could; 14. will; 15. could; 16. could, would; 17. will; 18. Can; 19. will; 20. can't

### **Meet the Author of the Newsweek English Program:**

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