

Optional listening activity:

Look at these statements, then listen and decide if they are true or false. See Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Alberto supports the anti-global movement that is against the globalisation of trade.
 2. This is the first time that people have said that Brazil will be a great economic power.
 3. Alberto is optimistic that predictions of Brazil's success may be right this time.
 4. Rich people in Brazil live in the favelas.
 5. Today there is a big gap between the rich and the poor in Brazil.
 6. Alberto wants Brazil to have an education system similar to the one in China.
 7. According to Alberto Brazil needs to develop its own industries, not just export raw materials.
 8. If the money Brazil earns from trade is spent on health and education Brazil could become a wealthy country.
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Presenter: Today in the studio we have Alberto Cortes, the well-known Brazilian advocate of the anti-global movement, he's here to talk about the recent report stating that by 2050 Brazil will be one of the world's wealthiest and most successful countries. Alberto what's your reaction to this report?

Alberto: You know this isn't the first time that people are saying Brazil will be a great economic power, the same thing was said over a hundred years ago when the rubber tree was brought to this country from Malaysia – it didn't happen

Presenter: Yes, but you must admit the world's a very different place now ...

Alberto: Of course, in fact I believe there may be some truth in the predictions this time around. First of all though we must remember the problems facing Brazil at the moment.

Presenter: Such as

Alberto: There is an enormous gap between the rich and the poor in this country, in Sao Paolo you can see shopping malls full of designer goods right next door to huge favelas, you know, the slum areas without proper water or electricity supplies. A lot of work needs to be done to help people in the favelas improve their lives ..

Presenter: What needs to be done?

Alberto: Education is an important factor. For Brazil to be successful we need to offer education to all Brazilians including those in the favelas. Education brings opportunities in the favelas as it does for the middle classes. Successful countries like South Korea and Singapore have excellent education systems. Brazil needs to learn from these countries

Presenter: Other problems?

Alberto: You know at the moment a lot of money is coming into Brazil from China as Chinese industry buys Brazilian raw materials. How is this money being used? Nobody knows ... We should use this money to improve our infrastructure, our health service. We need to develop our own industries, it's no good just exporting raw materials such as timber or iron ore, this approach in the longer term just isn't sustainable

Presenter: So, you are hopeful for the future?

Alberto: As I said earlier, I am hopeful. This isn't an easy job, we need to make sure that these important opportunities for Brazil aren't wasted, as they were in the past.

Answers: 1 T, 2 F, 3 T, 4 F, 5 T, 6 F, 7 T, 8 T