

Woman gives birth at 66

WARM UPS

1. CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about babies / motherhood / fatherhood / giving birth / being pregnant at 65 / aged parenting / twins and multiple births...

To make things more dynamic, try telling your students they only have one minute (or 2) on each chat topic before changing topics / partners. Change topic / partner frequently to energize the class.

2. BABY BRAINSTORM: Write down any words you associate with babies. Use these words as a springboard for further conversation.

3. MY BABYHOOD: Talk about and ask each other about what you know and have been told about your earliest years.

4. AGED PARENTING: Talk in pairs / groups about the pros and cons of becoming a parent at 67. In pairs look on the bright side and try to turn the con into a pro – Test these ideas on other partners.

5. MY TWIN: Become ‘twins’ for ten minutes with a partner. Mingle with other ‘twins’ in the class and talk about your lives, personalities, different looks etc as twins.

PRE READING EXERCISES

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries, or a search engine, to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words ‘fertility’, and ‘record’.

TRUE / FALSE: Predict from the headline whether these statements are true or false:

- (a) The woman’s birth was a new fertility world record. T / F
- (b) The woman was expecting twins. T / F
- (c) Two healthy twin girls were successfully delivered. T / F
- (d) The woman conceived by accident. She hadn’t planned on having a child. T / F
- (e) She gave birth by caesarean section. T / F
- (f) Her baby was born six weeks premature. T / F
- (g) Mother and baby are both doing well. T / F
- (h) The woman has three other children in their thirties. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| (a) fertility | delivered |
| (b) set | double |
| (c) gave birth | care |
| (d) record-breaking | early |
| (e) treatment | reproductive |
| (f) premature | overjoyed |
| (g) double | in the end |
| (h) twin | established |
| (i) elated | world-beating |
| (j) finally | twice |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases based on the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| (a) new | treatment |
| (b) A woman gave | both doing well |
| (c) The woman was expecting | section |
| (d) fertility | unit |
| (e) artificially | world record |
| (f) caesarean | weight of |
| (g) born six weeks | birth |
| (h) double the | premature |
| (i) Mother and baby are | inseminated |
| (j) intensive care | twins |

Woman gives birth at 66 (Mon 17 Jan)

bNE: A new fertility world _____ was set earlier today as a 66-year-old woman gave birth to a baby girl. The woman was _____ twins, however, one was stillborn. The record-breaking mother is Adriana Iliescu, from Bucharest, Romania. She had been _____ fertility treatment for almost ten years before being artificially inseminated, and _____ giving birth by caesarean section. Her daughter, Eliza Marie, was born six weeks _____ and had a birth weight of 1.45kg (3.2lb). She was _____ the weight of her twin sister who _____ her life in the womb. Mother and baby are both doing well, although Eliza Marie will spend some time in ICU (intensive care unit). Ms. Iliescu is elated at _____ becoming a mother for the first time.

premature
receiving
record
lost
finally
finally
double
expecting

DISCUSSION: Students ask each other the following questions:

- (a) What do you think of this record-breaking mother?
- (b) Do you think 66 is too old?
- (c) How would you feel about being 20 and your mother is 86?
- (d) When's the best age to have children?
- (e) Would you like to be a twin, or a triplet, or a quadruplet?
- (f) Is it better to be a twin or an only child?
- (g) Is it ethically correct to artificially inseminate a 65-year-old woman?
- (h) What is your message for Ms. Iliescu?
- (i) Will men one day be able to give birth?
- (j) What does a newborn baby think about?
- (k) Teacher's / Students' additional questions