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Having children makes women live longer

7th December, 2012

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

A new report says that women who do not have children may die earlier than those who do. Researchers from Aarhus University in Denmark looked at over 21,000 couples between 1994 and 2005. They all tried to have children, without success. The women all went to special clinics for IVF treatment – a technique where doctors fertilize the woman’s egg in a laboratory. The researchers said that women who could not have children were four times likelier than mothers to die early. Some doctors have said the report might cause childless women to worry about dying early. The truth is there is a very small risk of an early death. Just 316 women died during the 11-year study. Very few of those died earlier than average.

One critic of the report said the study was very misleading. Dr Ingrid Collins, a psychologist, told the BBC: "This is a very specific situation of people who are trying to have children. The study's findings cannot be used to [talk about] the whole general population." She added: "People having IVF tend to be desperate for a child. If they are unsuccessful, they may be depressed. It may be this [depression] rather than the childlessness that [causes an earlier death]." Another psychologist, Dr Helen Nightingale, agreed, saying: "Being childless without a doubt reduces your fight for life...The support of a family, the focus on your children and grandchildren, and the desire to watch how they turn out drives your [will] to survive."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-20613131>
<http://www.webmd.com/parenting/news/20121204/secret-longer-life-children>

WARM-UPS

1. HAVING CHILDREN: Walk around the class and talk to other students about having children. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

report / researchers / couples / special clinics / IVF / being childless / small risk / misleading / psychologist / population / desperate / depression / fight for life / desire

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. CHILDREN: What are the joys and worries? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Age	Joys	Worries
Newborn		
Four		
Ten		
Twelve		
Eighteen		
Forty		

4. MUST HAVE: Students A **strongly** believe all couples must have children; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. FIGHT FOR LIFE: What makes you want to live longer? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- children and grandchildren
- partner
- hobbies
- love of life
- money
- desire to be 120
- fear of death
- travel

6. MOTHER: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'mother'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. A report says women who don't have children die young. | T / F |
| b. The report looked at 21,000 couples over an 11-year period. | T / F |
| c. IVF is where the human egg is fertilized outside the woman's body. | T / F |
| d. 316 women died at a younger age than usual in the researchers' study. | T / F |
| e. A doctor said the report might make women believe wrong information. | T / F |
| f. The doctor said the report was not about most women in society. | T / F |
| g. The doctor said depression causes childlessness. | T / F |
| h. Another doctor said children harm your will to live a long life. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1. earlier | a. confusing |
| 2. couples | b. in great need |
| 3. clinics | c. husbands and wives |
| 4. likelier | d. danger |
| 5. risk | e. desire |
| 6. misleading | f. before |
| 7. specific | g. sad |
| 8. desperate | h. medical centres |
| 9. depressed | i. particular |
| 10. will | j. more probable |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. looked at over 21,000 | a. to worry |
| 2. fertilize | b. for a child |
| 3. the report might cause childless women | c. situation |
| 4. there is a very small risk | d. than average |
| 5. Very few of those died earlier | e. out |
| 6. This is a very specific | f. the woman's egg |
| 7. people who are trying | g. of an early death |
| 8. desperate | h. doubt |
| 9. without a | i. couples |
| 10. watch how they turn | j. to have children |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

A new report says that women who do not have children (1) _____ die earlier than those who do. Researchers from Aarhus University in Denmark looked at (2) _____ 21,000 couples between 1994 and 2005. They all tried to have children, (3) _____ success. The women all went to special clinics for IVF treatment – a technique (4) _____ doctors fertilize the woman's egg in a laboratory. The researchers said that women who could not have children were four (5) _____ likelier than mothers to die early. Some doctors have said the report might (6) _____ childless women to worry about dying early. The truth is there is a (7) _____ small risk of an early death. Just 316 women died during the 11-year study. Very (8) _____ of those died earlier than average.

cause
where
over
very
may
few
times
without

One critic of the report said the study was very (9) _____. Dr Ingrid Collins, a (10) _____, told the BBC: "This is a very specific situation of people who are trying to have children. The study's (11) _____ cannot be used to [talk about] the whole general population." She added: "People having IVF tend to be (12) _____ for a child. If they are unsuccessful, they may be (13) _____. It may be this [depression] rather than the childlessness that [causes an earlier death]." Another psychologist, Dr Helen Nightingale, (14) _____, saying: "Being childless without a doubt reduces your fight for life....The support of a family, the (15) _____ on your children and grandchildren, and the desire to watch how they turn out drives your [will] to (16) _____."

agreed
psychologist
survive
misleading
desperate
depressed
findings
focus

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

- 1) A new report says that _____ have children may die earlier...
 - a. women who don't want
 - b. women who do not
 - c. a woman who doesn't
 - d. women who never
- 2) The women all went to special clinics for _____ ...
 - a. VIF treats
 - b. FIV treats
 - c. IVF treatment
 - d. IFV treatment
- 3) a technique where _____ egg in a laboratory
 - a. doctors fertility the woman's
 - b. women fertilize the doctor's
 - c. doctors fertilize the woman's
 - d. doctors fertilize the women's
- 4) ... were _____ than mothers to die early.
 - a. times four likelier
 - b. for times more liked
 - c. four times likelier
 - d. four times likelihood
- 5) The truth is there is _____ an early death
 - a. a very small risk of
 - b. a very smallish risk of
 - c. a really small risk of
 - d. a very small risk from
- 6) One critic of the report said the _____.
 - a. study was very misleading
 - b. study wasn't misleading
 - c. studying was miss lead in
 - d. study was missed leading
- 7) This is a very _____ of people ...
 - a. specific station
 - b. special situation
 - c. specifically situation
 - d. specific situation
- 8) People having IVF _____ desperate for a child.
 - a. ten to three
 - b. tend to be
 - c. ten, two three
 - d. ten too be
- 9) It may be this depression rather than the childlessness _____ death.
 - a. that cause is an earlier
 - b. that causes an earlier
 - c. that cause easy an earlier
 - d. that because it's an earlier
- 10) the desire to watch how they _____ your will to survive.
 - a. turn out brides
 - b. turn out drives
 - c. turn out drivers
 - d. turn up drives

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

A new report says that women who do not have children may die earlier (1) _____. Researchers from Aarhus University in Denmark (2) _____ couples between 1994 and 2005. They all tried to have children, without success. The women all went to special clinics for IVF treatment – (3) _____ doctors fertilize the woman's egg in a laboratory. The researchers said that women who could not have children were (4) _____ than mothers to die early. Some doctors have said the report might cause childless women to (5) _____. The truth is there is a very small risk of an early death. Just 316 women died during the 11-year study. Very few of those died (6) _____.

One critic of the report said the study (7) _____. Dr Ingrid Collins, a psychologist, told the BBC: "This is a (8) _____ of people who are trying to have children. The study's findings cannot be used to [talk about] (9) _____ neral population." She added: "People having IVF tend to (10) _____ a child. If they are unsuccessful, they may be depressed. It may be this [depression] rather than the childlessness that [causes an earlier death]." Another psychologist, Dr Helen Nightingale, agreed, saying: "Being childless (11) _____ reduces your fight for life....The support of a family, the focus on your children and grandchildren, and the desire to watch how they (12) _____ [will] to survive."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

1. Where are the researchers from?

2. How many couples did the researchers look at?

3. What is the name of the treatment at the special clinics?

4. What might the report cause childless women to worry about?

5. How many women died during the 11-year study?

6. What did a critic of the report say about it?

7. Who spoke to the BBC about the report?

8. What are people having IVF desperate for?

9. What did the doctor say is a more likely cause for an earlier death?

10. What did a second doctor say drives your will to live?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

1. What nationality are the researchers who made the report?
 - a) Austrian
 - b) Danish
 - c) Swedish
 - d) Dominican
2. How many couples did the researchers look at?
 - a) 12,000
 - b) 12,021
 - c) 20,000
 - d) 21,000
3. Where did the women go for IVF treatment?
 - a) special clinics
 - b) maternity wards
 - c) city hospitals
 - d) their local doctor
4. In truth, how much risk is there of a childless woman dying earlier?
 - a) 0.005%
 - b) none at all
 - c) a smallish risk
 - d) one in several million
5. How many women died over the period of the study?
 - a) 360
 - b) 316
 - c) 306
 - d) 613
6. What is Dr Ingrid Collins' job?
 - a) she's a gynaecologist
 - b) she's a medical researcher
 - c) she's a psychologist
 - d) she's a childcare expert
7. What did Dr Collins say the report cannot be used to describe?
 - a) the general whole population
 - b) the population whole general
 - c) whole general the population
 - d) the whole general population
8. How did Dr Collins say childless women having IVF might feel?
 - a) depressed
 - b) hopeless
 - c) determined
 - d) hapless
9. What did Dr Collins say could be the cause of any earlier deaths?
 - a) depression
 - b) disease
 - c) drugs
 - d) danger signals
10. What did Dr Nightingale say drives our will to survive?
 - a) babies
 - b) the desire to see our kids and grandkids grow up
 - c) food, warmth and shelter
 - d) making money for our old age

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

Role A – Parent

You think children are the best things in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. You think children are the same as angels. If they do bad things, it isn't their fault but their parents. You think the best thing in the world is playing with children and teaching them to do things.

Role B – Childless person

You think children are far from the best things on Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. You think children should be seen and not heard. You are tired of noisy kids in restaurants, on trains, at airports, etc. You think there should be many childfree zones.

Role C – A kid

You think kids are the best things in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. You are tired of adults telling you what to do. You have the same rights as adults. Grown ups should give you more respect. They should let you play, run around screaming and climb on chairs.

Role D – Sociologist

You are worried that people are having fewer children today. The population is getting older and we need more children. You are also worried about the behaviour of today's children. It is bad. The parents are responsible. You think all adults in society should help children grow up.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'live' and 'long'.

live	long
-------------	-------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• looked• success• special• mothers• truth• average	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• misleading• trying• tend• depression• without• drives
--	--

HAVING CHILDREN SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

Write five GOOD questions about having children in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HAVING CHILDREN DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'children'?
- c) What do you think about what you read?
- d) Have you ever thought about the effect on health of not having a child?
- e) How many children is it best to have?
- f) Why do some people not want to have children?
- g) What is the best thing about having children?
- h) Do you worry about dying early?
- i) Do you think the researchers were wrong to say childless women could die earlier?
- j) Should all couples have children?

Having children makes women live longer – 7th December, 2012
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HAVING CHILDREN DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What do you think of people who always complain about other people's children?
- c) Are you good with children?
- d) Should children "be seen and not heard"?
- e) Which is best – having a boy or a girl?
- f) Do you think children are spoilt nowadays?
- g) How expensive is raising children?
- h) Would you like your children to be like you?
- i) Is it more fun to spend time with children or adults?
- j) What questions would you like to ask a child expert?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

A new report says that women who do not have children may die (1) _____ than those who do. Researchers from Aarhus University in Denmark looked (2) _____ over 21,000 couples between 1994 and 2005. They all tried to have children, without (3) _____. The women all went to special clinics for IVF treatment – a technique where doctors (4) _____ the woman's egg in a laboratory. The researchers said that women who could not have children were four times (5) _____ than mothers to die early. Some doctors have said the report might cause childless women to worry about dying early. The truth is there is a very small (6) _____ of an early death. Just 316 women died during the 11-year study. Very few of those died earlier than average.

One critic of the report said the study was very (7) _____. Dr Ingrid Collins, a psychologist, told the BBC: "This is a very specific situation of people who are trying to (8) _____ children. The study's findings cannot be used to [talk about] the (9) _____ general population." She added: "People having IVF tend to be desperate for a child. If they are unsuccessful, they may be depressed. It may be this [depression] (10) _____ than the childlessness that [causes an earlier death]." Another psychologist, Dr Helen Nightingale, agreed, saying: "Being childless without a (11) _____ reduces your fight for life...The support of a family, the focus on your children and grandchildren, and the desire to watch how they turn out drives your (12) _____ to survive."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) earlier | (b) early | (c) earliest | (d) early riser |
| 2. | (a) up | (b) on | (c) at | (d) through |
| 3. | (a) successful | (b) successfully | (c) success | (d) succeed |
| 4. | (a) analyze | (b) dissect | (c) examine | (d) fertilize |
| 5. | (a) likelihood | (b) likeliest | (c) likelier | (d) liked |
| 6. | (a) risky | (b) risk | (c) risked | (d) riskiness |
| 7. | (a) mistake | (b) misleading | (c) misfortune | (d) misbehaving |
| 8. | (a) do | (b) have | (c) give | (d) born |
| 9. | (a) all | (b) every | (c) whole | (d) intact |
| 10. | (a) prefer | (b) instead | (c) but | (d) rather |
| 11. | (a) double | (b) debt | (c) douse | (d) doubt |
| 12. | (a) may | (b) could | (c) should | (d) will |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

Paragraph 1

1. eacsererhrs from Aarhus University
2. 21,000 pcelous
3. special clinics for IVF ttnemeart
4. doctors eieiztrlf the woman's egg in a laboratory
5. four times ieleirlk
6. earlier than eeavgar

Paragraph 2

7. the study was very nmdieisgla
8. Dr Ingrid Collins, a splictgsyhoo, told the BBC...
9. the whole eegnalr population
10. they may be sdesdeper
11. without a todub
12. drives your will to vurvsei

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () One critic of the report said the study was very misleading. Dr Ingrid Collins, a psychologist, told the BBC: "This is a very specific
- () situation of people who are trying to have children. The study's findings cannot be used to [talk about] the whole
- (**1**) A new report says that women who do not have children may die earlier than those who
- () treatment – a technique where doctors fertilize the woman's egg in a laboratory. The researchers said that women who could not have
- () depressed. It may be this [depression] rather than the childlessness that [causes an earlier death]." Another
- () do. Researchers from Aarhus University in Denmark looked at over 21,000 couples between 1994
- () death. Just 316 women died during the 11-year study. Very few of those died earlier than average.
- () and 2005. They all tried to have children, without success. The women all went to special clinics for IVF
- () doubt reduces your fight for life....The support of a family, the focus on your children and
- () general population." She added: "People having IVF tend to be desperate for a child. If they are unsuccessful, they may be
- () children were four times likelier than mothers to die early. Some doctors have said the report might cause childless
- () women to worry about dying early. The truth is there is a very small risk of an early
- () grandchildren, and the desire to watch how they turn out drives your [will] to survive."
- () psychologist, Dr Helen Nightingale, agreed, saying: "Being childless without a

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

1. over at Looked 2005 and 1994 between couples 21,000 .

2. without They to , tried children success all have.

3. the laboratory woman's egg Doctors in fertilize a.

4. The there very is a risk truth is small.

5. died Very earlier few than of average those.

6. of critic One misleading very was study the said report the.

7. talk population about the Used whole to general.

8. are they depressed they , be If unsuccessful may.

9. your on focus The grandchildren and children.

10. they desire turn to out watch how The.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

A new report says that *women / woman* who do not have children may die earlier than those who *do / don't*. Researchers from Aarhus University in Denmark looked at over 21,000 couples between 1994 and 2005. They all tried to have children, without *successful / success*. The women all *want / went* to special clinics for IVF treatment – a *technique / technician* where doctors fertilize the woman's egg *in / by* a laboratory. The researchers said that women who could not have children were four times *likely / likelier* than mothers to die early. Some doctors have said the report might *caused / cause* childless women to worry about dying early. The *truth / true* is there is a very small risk of an early death. Just 316 women died during the 11-year study. Very *few / little* of those died earlier than average.

One critic of the report said the study was very *mistake / misleading*. Dr Ingrid Collins, a psychologist, *told / said* the BBC: "This is a very specific situation of people who are trying to have children. The study's *found / findings* cannot be used to [talk about] the *whole / all* general population." She added: "People having IVF tend to be desperate *for / by* a child. If they are unsuccessful, they may be *depression / depressed*. It may be this [depression] rather than the childlessness that [causes an earlier death]." Another psychologist, Dr Helen Nightingale, agreed, *saying / said*: "Being childless without a *debt / doubt* reduces your fight for life....The support of a family, the focus *on / in* your children and grandchildren, and the desire to watch how they turn out drives your *would / will* to survive."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

_ n_w r_p_r_t s_y_s th_t w_m_n wh_ d_ n_t h_v_ ch_ldr_n m_y d_ _r_l_r th_n th_s_ wh_ d_. R_s_ rch_rs fr_m _rh_s _n_v_rs_ty _n D_nm_rk l_k_d_t_v_r 21,000 c_pl_s b_tw_ _n 1994 _nd 2005. Th_y _ll tr_d_t h_v_ ch_ldr_n, w_th_ t_s_cc_ss. Th_w_m_n _ll w_nt t_sp_c_l cl_n_cs f_r_VF tr_tm_nt - t_chn_q_ wh_r_d_ct_rs f_rtl_z_ th_w_m_n's_gg _n_l_b_r_t_ry. Th_r_s_ rch_rs s_d th_t w_m_n wh_c_ld n_t h_v_ ch_ldr_n w_r_f_r_t_m_s l_k_l_r th_n m_th_rs t_d_ _rly. S_m_d_ct_rs h_v_s_d th_r_p_r_t m_gh_t c_s_ ch_ldl_ss w_m_n t_w_rry_b_t dy_ng_ _rly. Th_tr_th_s th_r_s_v_ry sm_ll_r_sk_f _n_ _rly d_th. J_st 316 w_m_n d_d_d_rng th_11-y_r st_dy. V_ry f_w_f th_s_ d_d_ _r_l_r th_n _v_r_g_.

n cr_t_c_f th_r_p_r_t s_d th_ st_dy w_s v_ry m_sl_d_ng. Dr_ngr_d C_ll_ns, _psych_l_g_st, t_ld th_BBC: "Th_s_s_v_ry sp_c_f_c_s t_t_n_f_p_pl_ wh_ _r_ try_ng t_h_v_ ch_ldr_n. Th_st_dy's f_nd_ngs c_nn_t b_s_d_t [t_lk_b_t] th_wh_l_g_n_r_l p_p_l_t_n." Sh_dd_d: "P_pl_h_v_ng_VF t_nd_t_b_d_sp_r_t_f_r_ch_ld. _f th_y_r_ _ns_ccssf_l, th_y m_y b_d_pr_ss_d. _t m_y b_th_s [d_pr_ss_n] r_th_r th_n th_ch_ldl_ssn_ss th_t [c_s_s_n_r_l_r d_th]." _n_th_r psych_l_g_st, Dr H_l_n N_gh_tng_l_, _gr_d, s_y_ng: "B_ng ch_ldl_ss w_th_ t_d_bt r_d_c_s y_r_f_gh_t_f_r_l_f....Th_s_pp_r_t_f_f_m_ly, th_f_c_s_n_y_r ch_ldr_n _nd gr_ndch_ldr_n, _nd th_d_s_r_t_w_tch h_w th_y t_rn _t dr_v_s y_r [w_ll] t_s_rv_v_."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

a new report says that women who do not have children may die earlier than those who do researchers from aarhus university in denmark looked at over 21000 couples between 1994 and 2005 they all tried to have children without success the women all went to special clinics for ivf treatment – a technique where doctors fertilize the woman’s egg in a laboratory the researchers said that women who could not have children were four times likelier than mothers to die early some doctors have said the report might cause childless women to worry about dying early the truth is there is a very small risk of an early death just 316 women died during the 11-year study very few of those died earlier than average

one critic of the report said the study was very misleading dr ingrid collins a psychologist told the bbc “this is a very specific situation of people who are trying to have children the study's findings cannot be used to [talk about] the whole general population” she added "people having ivf tend to be desperate for a child if they are unsuccessful they may be depressed it may be this [depression] rather than the childlessness that [causes an earlier death]” another psychologist dr helen nightingale agreed saying "being childless without a doubt reduces your fight for life...the support of a family the focus on your children and grandchildren and the desire to watch how they turn out drives your [will] to survive”

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

A new report says that women who do not have children may die earlier than those who do. Researchers from Aarhus University in Denmark looked at over 21,000 couples between 1994 and 2005. They all tried to have children, without success. The women all went to special clinics for IVF treatment, a technique where doctors fertilize the woman's egg in a laboratory. The researchers said that women who could not have children were four times more likely than mothers to die early. Some doctors have said the report might cause childless women to worry about dying early. The truth is there is a very small risk of an early death. Just 316 women died during the 11-year study. Very few of those died earlier than average. One critic of the report said the study was very misleading. Dr Ingrid Collins, a psychologist, told the BBC: "This is a very specific situation of people who are trying to have children. The study's findings cannot be used to [talk about] the whole general population." She added: "People having IVF tend to be desperate for a child. If they are unsuccessful, they may be depressed. It may be this [depression] rather than the childlessness that [causes an earlier death]." Another psychologist, Dr Helen Nightingale, agreed, saying: "Being childless without a doubt reduces your fight for life.... The support of a family, the focus on your children and grandchildren, and the desire to watch how they turn out drives your [will] to survive."

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

Write about **having children** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1212/121207-childlessness.html>

Children are the greatest things on Earth. Is this true? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of having children.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about IVF. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. HAVING CHILDREN: Make a poster about having children. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CHILDLESS: Write a magazine article about a childless couple who want children but cannot. Include imaginary interviews with them.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an IVF expert. Ask him/her three questions about IVF. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b T c T d F e T f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1. earlier | a. before |
| 2. couples | b. husbands and wives |
| 3. clinics | c. medical centres |
| 4. likelier | d. more probable |
| 5. risk | e. danger |
| 6. misleading | f. confusing |
| 7. specific | g. particular |
| 8. desperate | h. in great need |
| 9. depressed | i. sad |
| 10. will | j. desire |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Aarhus University in Denmark
2. 21,000
3. IVF
4. Dying early
5. 316
6. It was very misleading
7. A psychologist called Ingrid Collins
8. A child
9. Depression
10. The desire to see your children and grandchildren grow

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. c 7. d 8. a 9. a 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)