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## **Level 5**

### **Childcare fees higher than housing costs in UK**

**6th March, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140306-childcare.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140306-childcare.html>

British families pay more on childcare than on their mortgage. Annual costs are overtaking yearly housing loan repayments. This is according to a survey from Britain's Family and Childcare Trust. This organization says that nursery fees in some areas of the U.K. have risen by up to 13 per cent in the past year. Babysitting and child-minding costs have risen by an average of four per cent. The report's author said the findings showed that childcare in the U.K. is becoming less affordable. She said an insufficient number of nursery places showed the system isn't working.

The report could make would-be parents think twice about starting a family. A family of four with one child at nursery and another in an after-school club spends an average of \$12,571 a year on childcare. This is a quarter of their income. This does not include feeding, clothing and entertaining children. There are also toys, books and electronic gadgets to buy. The average yearly housing loan payment is \$12,000. The chief executive of the Trust warned that when many parents have to spend so much on childcare, it's clear that the system "isn't fit for purpose".

Sources: <http://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/nursery-world/news/1142471/childcare-fees-mortgage-rise-slows>  
<http://www.parentdish.co.uk/2014/03/03/childcare-costs-higher-than-average-uk-mortgage-payments/>  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-26373725>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140306-childcare.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. families pay           | a. child-minding costs |
| 2. housing                | b. isn't working       |
| 3. This is according      | c. affordable          |
| 4. nursery                | d. loan repayments     |
| 5. Babysitting and        | e. of nursery places   |
| 6. becoming less          | f. fees                |
| 7. an insufficient number | g. more on childcare   |
| 8. showed the system      | h. to a survey         |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. would-be                   | a. loan payment            |
| 2. think twice                | b. school club             |
| 3. in an after-               | c. gadgets                 |
| 4. This is a quarter          | d. parents                 |
| 5. electronic                 | e. executive               |
| 6. The average yearly housing | f. of their income         |
| 7. chief                      | g. for purpose             |
| 8. the system isn't fit       | h. about starting a family |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140306-childcare.html>

British families pay more on childcare (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Annual costs are overtaking (2) \_\_\_\_\_ repayments. This is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ from Britain's Family and Childcare Trust. This organization says that nursery fees in some areas of the U.K. have risen by up to 13 per cent in the past year. (4) \_\_\_\_\_ costs have risen by an average of four per cent. The report's author said the findings showed that childcare in the U.K. is (5) \_\_\_\_\_. She said an insufficient number of nursery places showed (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The report could (7) \_\_\_\_\_ think twice about starting a family. A family of four with (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and another in an after-school club spends an average of \$12,571 a year on childcare. This is a quarter of their income. This does (9) \_\_\_\_\_, clothing and entertaining children. There are also toys, books (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to buy. The (11) \_\_\_\_\_ loan payment is \$12,000. The chief executive of the Trust warned that when many parents have to spend so much on childcare, it's clear that the system "(12) \_\_\_\_\_".

# CHILDCARE COSTS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140306-childcare.html>

Write five GOOD questions about childcare costs 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.

# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

*Childcare fees higher than housing costs in UK – 6th March, 2014*  
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# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

