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## **Level 0**

# Number of children in Japan at record low

**7th May, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140507-children-0.html>



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**Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140507-children-0.html>

Japan has its lowest number of children. The number of children fell by 160,000 last year. It is the 33rd year for the birth rate to drop. There are 13 million fewer children now than in 1950. Japan has the smallest number of kids for a big population - just 12.8 per cent. In the USA, this number is 19.5 per cent.

The number of old people in Japan is going up. The over-65s make up 25.6% of the population. This could be 40% in 2060. This will be difficult for young people. They have to work for the over-65s. There will not be enough young people. Japan is trying to get people to have more babies, but nothing works.

Sources: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/05/04/national/number-of-children-in-japan-drops-for-33rd-year/>  
<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/asia/408089/number-of-children-in-japan-declines-for-33rd-year-in-a-row>  
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/04/japan-population-age-children>

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140507-children-0.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. lowest number                       | a. year                   |
| 2. The number of children fell         | b. is 19.5 per cent       |
| 3. last                                | c. by 160,000             |
| 4. It is the 33rd year for             | d. now than in 1950       |
| 5. There are 13 million fewer children | e. population             |
| 6. Japan has the smallest              | f. the birth rate to drop |
| 7. a big                               | g. of children            |
| 8. In the USA, this number             | h. number of kids         |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. The number          | a. 65s            |
| 2. going               | b. more babies    |
| 3. The over-           | c. up             |
| 4. 25.6% of            | d. in 2060        |
| 5. This could be 40%   | e. of old people  |
| 6. difficult for young | f. works          |
| 7. get people to have  | g. the population |
| 8. nothing             | h. people         |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140507-children-0.html>

Japan has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of children. The number of children (2) \_\_\_\_\_ last year. It is the 33rd year for the birth (3) \_\_\_\_\_. There are 13 million fewer children now (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Japan has the smallest number of kids for (5) \_\_\_\_\_ - just 12.8 per cent. In the USA, this number (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The number (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in Japan is going up. The over-65s (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of the population. This could be 40% in 2060. This (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for young people. They (10) \_\_\_\_\_ for the over-65s. There will (11) \_\_\_\_\_ young people. Japan is trying to get people to have more babies, (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140507-children-0.html>

Japanhasitslowestnumberofchildren.Thenumberofchildrenfellby1  
60,000lastyear.Itisthe33rdyearforthebirthratetodrop.Thereare1  
3millionfewerchildrennowthanin1950.Japanhasthesmallestnumb  
erofkidsforabigpopulation-just12.8percent.IntheUSA,thisnum  
beris19.5percent.ThenumberofoldpeopleinJapanisgoingup.Theo  
ver-65smakeup25.6%ofthepopulation.Thiscouldbe40%in20  
60.Thiswillbedifficultforyoungpeople.Theyhavetoworkfortheover-  
65s.Therewillnotbeenoughyoungpeople.Japanistryingtogetpeopl  
etohavemorebabies,butnothingworks.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

*Number of children in Japan at record low – 7th May, 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) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140507-children-0.html>

Write about **children** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

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