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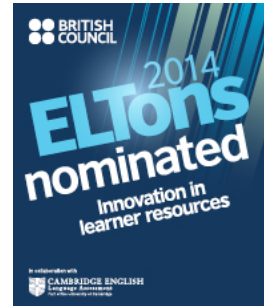
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Level 1

Number of children in Japan at record low

7th May, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140507-children-1.html>



Contents

The Reading	2
Vocabulary Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Writing and Speaking	6
Writing	7

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140507-children-1.html>

Japan has its lowest number of children ever. Figures released the day before the country's Children's Day holiday on May the 5th show that the number of children fell by 160,000 from last year. It is the 33rd year in a row for the birth rate to drop. Japan has 13 million fewer children than in 1950. Of 30 countries with a population of over 40 million, Japan has the smallest percentage of kids - just 12.8 per cent. In the USA, this figure is 19.5 per cent.

The number of children is going down, but the number of old people is increasing. The over-65s make up a record 25.6 per cent of the Japanese population. This will continue for many decades. The over-65s could be 40 per cent of the population in 2060. This will be hard for young people. They will pay higher taxes to support the over-65s. There will not be enough young people to work. Japan has tried 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-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Figures released the | a. than in 1950 |
| 2. the number of children fell | b. rate |
| 3. It is the 33rd | c. percentage of kids |
| 4. birth | d. by 160,000 |
| 5. 13 million fewer children | e. figure is 19.5 per cent |
| 6. a population of | f. year in a row |
| 7. Japan has the smallest | g. day before |
| 8. In the USA, this | h. over 40 million |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The number of children is | a. enough young people |
| 2. The over- | b. many decades |
| 3. a record 25.6 per cent of | c. 65s |
| 4. This will continue for | d. higher taxes |
| 5. 40 per cent of the population | e. going down |
| 6. pay | f. in 2060 |
| 7. There will not be | g. to have more babies |
| 8. Japan has tried to get people | h. the Japanese population |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140507-children-1.html>

Japan (1) _____ number of children ever. Figures released (2) _____ the country's Children's Day holiday on May the 5th show that the number (3) _____ 160,000 from last year. It is the 33rd year in a row for the birth (4) _____. Japan has 13 million fewer children than in 1950. Of 30 countries with a population (5) _____ million, Japan has the smallest percentage of kids - just 12.8 per cent. In the USA, this (6) _____.

The number of children (7) _____, but the number of old people is increasing. (8) _____ up a record 25.6 per cent of (9) _____. This will continue (10) _____. The over-65s could be 40 per cent of the population in 2060. This will be hard for young people. They will pay higher taxes to (11) _____. There will not be enough young people to work. Japan has tried to get people to have more babies, (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140507-children-1.html>

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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)

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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)
