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**Level 5 – 17th June, 2018**

## Japan lowers age of adulthood to 18

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood-5.html>

### Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood-5.html>

Japan has lowered the age at which people become adults for the first time since 1876. From the year 2022, teenagers will become adults at 18. This is two years earlier than the current age of adulthood. Even though the age has been lowered, there are still things that will not change. The legal age for drinking alcohol, smoking and gambling will stay at 20. The new law will enable 18-year-olds to marry without parental consent. They can also apply for loans and credit cards. Transgender men and women over 18 will be able to apply to have their gender officially recognized.

The new law should help the economy in Japan. The government hopes more young people will get married and start families. This will help to address Japan's falling birth rate and ageing population. More financial freedom could boost the economy and provide more tax revenue. This will help the government with increasing pension and healthcare payments. Many of Japan's young people were more worried about how the law will affect the traditional Coming of Age Day. This is a national holiday in which 20-year-olds dress up in traditional kimonos to celebrate adulthood.

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2018/06/14/asia/japan-age-adulthood-bill/index.html>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/14/japan-lowers-age-adulthood-20-to-18>  
<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/06/13/national/crime-legal/japan-enacts-law-lower-adulthood-age-18/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. two years earlier than       | a. men and women         |
| 2. the age has                  | b. for drinking alcohol  |
| 3. The legal age                | c. consent               |
| 4. The new law will enable      | d. been lowered          |
| 5. without parental             | e. recognized            |
| 6. They can also apply          | f. the current age       |
| 7. Transgender                  | g. for loans             |
| 8. have their gender officially | h. 18-year-olds to marry |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. help the                      | a. birth rate          |
| 2. get married and               | b. payments            |
| 3. address Japan's falling       | c. adulthood           |
| 4. financial                     | d. more tax revenue    |
| 5. boost the economy and provide | e. economy in Japan    |
| 6. pension and healthcare        | f. traditional kimonos |
| 7. dress up in                   | g. start families      |
| 8. celebrate                     | h. freedom             |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood-5.html>

Japan has lowered the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ people become adults for the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 1876. From the year 2022, teenagers will become adults at 18. This is two years earlier than (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of adulthood. Even though the age has been lowered, there are still things that will not change. The (4) \_\_\_\_\_ drinking alcohol, smoking and gambling will stay at 20. The new law will enable 18-year-olds to marry (5) \_\_\_\_\_. They can also apply for loans and credit cards. Transgender men and women over 18 will be able (6) \_\_\_\_\_ have their gender officially recognized.

The new law (7) \_\_\_\_\_ economy in Japan. The government hopes more young people will get married and start families. This will help to address Japan's (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and ageing population. More financial freedom (9) \_\_\_\_\_ economy and provide more tax revenue. This will help the government with (10) \_\_\_\_\_ healthcare payments. Many of Japan's young people were more worried about how the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the traditional Coming of Age Day. This is a national holiday in which 20-year-olds (12) \_\_\_\_\_ traditional kimonos to celebrate adulthood.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood-5.html>

Japan has lowered the age at which people become adults for the first time since 1876. From the year 2022, teenagers will become adults at 18. This is two years earlier than the current age of adulthood. Even though the age has been lowered, there are still things that will not change. The legal age for drinking alcohol, smoking and gambling will stay at 20. The new law will enable 18-year-olds to marry without parental consent. They can also apply for loans and credit cards. Transgender men and women over 18 will be able to apply to have their gender officially recognized. The new law should help the economy in Japan. The government hopes more young people will get married and start families. This will help to address Japan's falling birth rate and ageing population. More financial freedom could boost the economy and provide more tax revenue. This will help the government with increasing pension and healthcare repayments. Many of Japan's young people were more worried about how the law will affect the traditional coming of Age Day. This is a national holiday in which 20-year-olds dress up in traditional kimono to celebrate adulthood.

# ADULTHOOD SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about adulthood 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Japan lowers age of adulthood to 18 – 17th June, 2018*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

