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Level 0 – 12th June

U.N. issues report on global birth rate crisis

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis-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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis-0.html>

The U.N. said there is a "birth rate crisis". It issued a report that highlights how fewer babies are being born. At the same time, people are living longer. Fewer workers must pay the pensions of more and more elderly people. Many countries are having problems with fewer babies and ageing.

The U.N. questioned 14,000 people in 14 countries. It found that children are becoming too expensive. Couples want children, but cannot afford them. Reasons for this include low salaries, expensive houses, and worries about the future. One solution to this is cheaper childcare.

Sources: <https://news.sky.com/story/global-birth-rates-crisis-people-do-still-want-to-have-children-but-many-cant-heres-why-13381290>
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/jun/10/un-population-fund-unfpa-report-reasons-falling-global-fertility>
<https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/swp25-highlights-%5Beng%5D-v250530-web.pdf>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis-0.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. there is a | a. pensions |
| 2. It issued | b. having problems |
| 3. fewer babies | c. longer |
| 4. people are living | d. a report |
| 5. pay the | e. more elderly people |
| 6. more and | f. babies |
| 7. Many countries are | g. are being born |
| 8. fewer | h. birth rate crisis |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The U.N. questioned | a. to this |
| 2. children are becoming | b. want children |
| 3. Couples | c. childcare |
| 4. Reasons for this include low | d. houses |
| 5. expensive | e. too expensive |
| 6. worries | f. 14,000 people |
| 7. One solution | g. salaries |
| 8. cheaper | h. about the future |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis-0.html>

The U.N. (1) _____ a "birth rate crisis". It
(2) _____ that highlights how
(3) _____ being born. At
(4) _____, people are living longer. Fewer
workers must pay the (5) _____ and more
elderly people. Many countries are having problems with fewer
(6) _____.

The U.N. questioned 14,000 (7) _____
countries. (8) _____ children are becoming
too expensive. (9) _____, but cannot afford
them. Reasons (10) _____ low salaries,
expensive houses, and worries (11) _____.
One solution to (12) _____ childcare.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250515-carlo-ancelotti-0.html>

The U.N. said there is a "birth rate crisis". It issued a report that highlights

how fewer babies are being born. At the same time, people are living long

er. Fewer workers must pay the pensions of more and more elderly people.

Many countries are having problems with fewer babies and ageing. The

U.N. questioned 14,000 people in 14 countries. It found that children are

becoming too expensive. Couples want children, but cannot afford them

. Reasons for this include low salaries, expensive houses, and worries about

the future. One solution to this is cheaper childcare.

FOOTBALL / SOCCER SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis-0.html>

Write five GOOD questions about football / soccer 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) _____

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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) _____

