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Level 1 – 12th June 2025

U.N. issues report on global birth rate crisis

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis-1.html>

The United Nations (U.N.) says the world is in a birth rate crisis. The U.N. created a report called "State of World Population 2025". It highlights how fewer babies are being born. At the same time, people are living longer. This is creating problems. Fewer workers have to pay the pensions of more older people. The U.N. said: "Many countries are [having problems] with ageing and shrinking populations, labour shortages, and rising...pension costs."

The U.N. asked 14,000 people in 14 countries for its report. It found that having children is becoming too expensive. Couples want children, but cannot afford them. Couples cannot have the number of children they want. Reasons for this include low salaries, expensive houses, and worries about the future. One solution to this crisis is "family-friendly" policies, like cheaper childcare and paid holidays for carers.

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-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. the world is in a birth | a. pay the pensions |
| 2. The U.N. created a | b. time |
| 3. fewer babies are | c. problems |
| 4. At the same | d. report |
| 5. people are living | e. costs |
| 6. This is creating | f. longer |
| 7. Fewer workers have to | g. rate crisis |
| 8. rising pension | h. being born |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The U.N. asked | a. too expensive |
| 2. having children is becoming | b. about the future |
| 3. Couples want | c. of children they want |
| 4. Couples cannot have the number | d. children |
| 5. Reasons for | e. salaries |
| 6. low | f. 14,000 people |
| 7. worries | g. like cheaper childcare |
| 8. family-friendly policies, | h. this |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis-1.html>

The United Nations (U.N.) (1) _____ is in a birth rate crisis. The U.N. (2) _____ called "State of World Population 2025". (3) _____ fewer babies are being born. At (4) _____, people are living longer. This is creating problems. Fewer workers have to (5) _____ of more older people. The U.N. said: "Many countries are [having problems] with ageing and shrinking populations, (6) _____ rising...pension costs."

The U.N. asked 14,000 (7) _____ countries for its report. It (8) _____ children is becoming too expensive. Couples want children, but cannot afford them. Couples cannot (9) _____ of children they want. Reasons for (10) _____ salaries, expensive houses, and worries (11) _____. One solution to this crisis is "family-friendly" policies, like cheaper childcare and (12) _____ carers.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis-1.html>

TheUnitedNations(U.N.)saystheworldisinabirthratecrisis.TheU.N.cre
atedareportcalled"StateofWorldPopulation2025".Ithighlightshowf
ewerbabiesarebeingborn.Atthesametime,peoplearelivinglonger.Thi
siscreatingproblems.Fewerworkershavetopaythepensionsofmoreol
derpeople.TheU.N.said:"Manycountriesare[havingproblems]witha
geingandshrinkingpopulations,labourshortages,andrising...pension
costs."TheU.N.asked14,000peoplein14countriesforitsreport.Itfoun
dthathavingchildrenisbecomingtooexpensive.Coupleswantchildren,
butcannotaffordthem.Couplescannot havethenumberofchildrenthey
want.Reasonsforthisincludelowsalaries,expensivehouses,andworri
esaboutthefuture.Onesolutiontothiscrisisis"family-friendly"policies
,likecheaperchildcareandpaidholidaysforcarers.

BABIES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about babies 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis-1.html>

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

[illegible]