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Level 3 – 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.com2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

The United Nations has said the world is experiencing a birth rate crisis. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has released a report called "State of World Population 2025". It highlights how fewer and fewer children are being born all over the world. At the same time, people are living longer. Falling birth rates and increased longevity are creating many problems. Smaller numbers of workers are having to pay the pensions of older people who have retired. Dr Natalia Kanem, executive director of UNFPA, said: "Many countries are [struggling] with ageing and shrinking populations, labour shortages, and rising healthcare and pension costs. These are real concerns."

The United Nations surveyed over 14,000 people in 14 countries on five continents to make its report. One of the key findings was of the global fertility crisis. The UN said the high cost of parenthood is the biggest reason for women not having children. Many couples want children, but they cannot afford them. Nearly 20 per cent of adults believe they will not be able to have the number of children they want. There were other reasons for falling birth rates. These include low salaries, expensive housing, and worries about the future of our world. The UN said one solution to the crisis is to create "family-friendly policies, such as affordable childcare and paid leave for all 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>

WARM-UPS

1. BABIES: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about babies. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

United Nations / birth rate / crisis / report / population / children / pension / concerns
continents / fertility / parenthood / couples / salaries / housing / the future / carers

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. THREE BABIES: Students A **strongly** believe all couples should have three or more babies; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. UNITED NATIONS: What do you know about these United Nations agencies? What would you like to know? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	What I Want To Know
UNESCO		
WHO		
WFP		
FAO		
UNICEF		
IAEA		

5. BIRTH: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "birth". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. CHILDREN: Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Money
- No sleep
- Work-life balance
- Worries about their future
- Non-stop responsibility
- Safety
- Childcare
- Bad behaviour

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. birth rate | a. Gave or showed something to the public. |
| 2. crisis | b. How many babies are born in a place each year. |
| 3. released | c. Living for a long time. |
| 4. longevity | d. Money people get when they stop working because they are old. |
| 5. pension | e. A big and serious problem. |
| 6. struggling | f. Becoming smaller and smaller. |
| 7. shrinking | g. Having a hard time doing something. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 8. surveyed | h. The seven big areas of land - Africa, Europe, South America, North America, Asia, Australia, and Antarctica. |
| 9. continent | i. Have enough money to buy or do something. |
| 10. key | j. Asked people questions to learn what they think. |
| 11. couple | k. Very (most) important. |
| 12. afford | l. The answer to a problem. |
| 13. solution | m. Two people in a relationship (like a husband and wife). |
| 14. policy | n. A plan or rule made by a group or government for people to follow. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The WHO said there will be a crisis because fewer babies are being born. **T / F**
2. Fewer babies are being born and people are living longer. **T / F**
3. There are fewer workers to pay for the pensions of retired people. **T / F**
4. Many countries are having problems finding workers. **T / F**
5. The U.N. questioned people in 140 countries about having children. **T / F**
6. A key finding of the report was a global virility crisis. **T / F**
7. One in five adults worry they can't have the number of kids they want. **T / F**
8. The U.N. said there should be more paid leave only for mothers. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. crisis | a. questioned |
| 2. released | b. getting smaller |
| 3. longevity | c. pay for |
| 4. shrinking | d. issued |
| 5. concerns | e. strategies |
| 6. surveyed | f. answer |
| 7. afford | g. disaster |
| 8. reasons | h. worries |
| 9. solution | i. causes |
| 10. policies | j. long life |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. the world is experiencing | a. and shrinking populations |
| 2. At the same time, people are | b. on five continents |
| 3. pay the pensions of older people | c. costs |
| 4. countries are struggling with ageing | d. over 14,000 people |
| 5. rising healthcare and pension | e. affordable childcare |
| 6. The United Nations surveyed | f. who have retired |
| 7. 14 countries | g. future of our world |
| 8. the biggest reason for women | h. a birth rate crisis |
| 9. worries about the | i. not having children |
| 10. family-friendly policies, such as | j. living longer |

GAP FILL

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

The United Nations has said the world is (1) _____ a birth rate crisis. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has (2) _____ a report called "State of World Population 2025". It highlights how fewer and fewer children are being (3) _____ all over the world. At the same time, people are living longer. Falling birth rates and increased (4) _____ are creating many problems. Smaller numbers of workers are having to pay the (5) _____ of older people who have (6) _____. Dr Natalia Kanem, executive director of UNFPA, said: "Many countries are [struggling] with ageing and shrinking populations, labour (7) _____, and rising healthcare and pension costs. These are real (8) _____."

longevity
retired
released
concerns
pensions
experiencing
shortages
born

The United Nations (9) _____ over 14,000 people in 14 countries on five continents to make its report. One of the (10) _____ findings was of the global fertility crisis. The UN said the high (11) _____ of parenthood is the biggest reason for women not having children. Many couples want children, but they cannot (12) _____ them. Nearly 20 per cent of adults believe they will not be able to have the (13) _____ of children they want. There were other reasons for (14) _____ birth rates. These include low salaries, expensive housing, and worries about the future of our world. The UN said one (15) _____ to the crisis is to create "family-friendly policies, such as affordable childcare and (16) _____ leave for all carers".

key
number
solution
surveyed
paid
afford
falling
cost

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) The United Nations has said the world is experiencing a _____
 - a. birth late crisis
 - b. bath rate crisis
 - c. birth rate crisis
 - d. birth rate crises
- 2) The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has _____
 - a. released the report
 - b. released a reports
 - c. release a report
 - d. released a report
- 3) It highlights how fewer and fewer children are being born all _____
 - a. over a world
 - b. over the worlds
 - c. cover the world
 - d. over the world
- 4) workers are having to pay the pensions of older people _____
 - a. who has retired
 - b. who have retired
 - c. whom have retired
 - d. who have retire
- 5) shrinking populations, labour shortages, and rising healthcare _____
 - a. and person costs
 - b. and pension costs
 - c. end pension costs
 - d. and pension accosts
- 6) The United Nations surveyed over 14,000 people in 14 countries _____
 - a. on five continents
 - b. on five incontinence
 - c. on five contents
 - d. on five containments
- 7) One of the key findings was of the _____
 - a. global philately crisis
 - b. global fertility crisis
 - c. global formality crisis
 - d. global fragility crisis
- 8) Many couples want children, but they _____
 - a. cannot afford them
 - b. cannot afford there
 - c. cannot afford then
 - d. cannot afford thumb
- 9) These include low salaries, expensive housing, and worries _____
 - a. about a future
 - b. about that future
 - c. about the future
 - d. about this future
- 10) the crisis is to create family-friendly policies, such as affordable childcare _____
 - a. end paid leave
 - b. and plaid leave
 - c. and paid leave
 - d. and paid leaf

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

The United Nations has said the world (1) _____ birth rate crisis. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has released a report called "State of World Population 2025". It (2) _____ and fewer children are being born all over the world. At (3) _____, people are living longer. Falling birth rates and increased (4) _____ many problems. Smaller numbers of workers are having to (5) _____ of older people who have retired. Dr Natalia Kanem, executive director of UNFPA, said: "Many countries are [struggling] with ageing and shrinking populations, labour shortages, (6) _____ and pension costs. These are real concerns."

The United Nations surveyed over 14,000 people in 14 countries (7) _____ to make its report. One of the key findings was of the global fertility crisis. The UN said the (8) _____ parenthood is the biggest reason for women not having children. Many couples want children, but they (9) _____. Nearly 20 per cent of adults believe they will not be able to have the number of children they want. There were (10) _____ falling birth rates. These include low salaries, expensive housing, and worries about the future of our world. The UN said (11) _____ the crisis is to create "family-friendly policies, (12) _____ childcare and paid leave for all carers".

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What U.N. agency is responsible for the report in the article?
2. What is the name of the report?
3. What is happening at the same time as falling birth rates?
4. What do young workers have to pay for?
5. What does the article say are shrinking?
6. How many people did the U.N. interview?
7. What was one of the key findings of the report?
8. How many adults worry about not having the number of kids they want?
9. What are young people worrying about the future of?
10. What kind of policies did the U.N. say needed to be introduced?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What U.N. agency is responsible for the report in the article?
 - a) UNESCO
 - b) UNFPA
 - c) WHO
 - d) UNICEF
- 2) What is the name of the report?
 - a) World State of Population
 - b) Population State of World
 - c) State of World Population
 - d) State of Population World
- 3) What is happening at the same time as falling birth rates?
 - a) A.I. is taking over.
 - b) Immigration is increasing.
 - c) Climate change
 - d) People are living longer.
- 4) What do young workers have to pay for?
 - a) travel
 - b) pensions
 - c) insurance
 - d) healthcare
- 5) What does the article say are shrinking?
 - a) populations
 - b) waistlines
 - c) budgets
 - d) hopes
- 6) How many people did the U.N. interview?
 - a) more than 14,000 people
 - b) exactly 14,000
 - c) around 14,000
 - d) just fewer than 14,000
- 7) What was one of the key findings of the report?
 - a) domestic violence
 - b) global hunger
 - c) A.I. is a danger
 - d) the global fertility crisis
- 8) How many adults worry about not having the number of kids they want?
 - a) nearly 40%
 - b) nearly 30%
 - c) nearly 20%
 - d) nearly 10%
- 9) What are young people worrying about the future of?
 - a) investments
 - b) children
 - c) money
 - d) our world
- 10) What kind of policies did the U.N. say needed to be introduced?
 - a) new laws
 - b) family-friendly policies
 - c) payments to parents
 - d) more schools

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Money

You think money is the biggest worry about having children. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as worrying. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): no sleep, bad behaviour or worries about children's future.

Role B – No Sleep

You think no sleep is the biggest worry about having children. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as worrying. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): money, bad behaviour or worries about children's future.

Role C – Bad Behaviour

You think bad behaviour is the biggest worry about having children. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as worrying. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): no sleep, money or worries about children's future.

Role D – Worries About Their Future

You think worries about children's future is the biggest worry about having children. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as worrying. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): no sleep, bad behaviour or money.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'birth' and 'crisis'.

birth	crisis

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• experiencing• born• workers• smaller• ageing• real	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•14•key•high•adults•future•such
---	--

BABIES SURVEY

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

BABIES DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'birth'?
3. What do you know about the United Nations?
4. What do you think of the state of the world population?
5. Why are fewer and fewer babies being born?
6. Why might it be good if the global population becomes smaller?
7. Is it a good or bad thing that people are living longer?
8. What are the problems of people living longer?
9. Do you worry about your old age?
10. What will the world be like in 50 years from now?

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BABIES DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'crisis'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How expensive is it to have children?
15. Should the government pay people to have children?
16. What are the problems of fewer babies being born?
17. What worries do you have about the future?
18. Do you worry about bringing babies into this world?
19. Is there a maximum number of people that can live on Earth?
20. What questions would you like to ask the United Nations?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

The United Nations has said the world is experiencing a birth rate crisis. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has (1) ____ a report called "State of World Population 2025". It highlights how fewer and fewer children are being (2) ____ all over the world. At the same time, people are living (3) _____. Falling birth rates and increased longevity are creating many problems. Smaller numbers of workers are having to (4) _____ the pensions of older people who have (5) _____. Dr Natalia Kanem, executive director of UNFPA, said: "Many countries are [struggling] with ageing and shrinking populations, labour shortages, and rising healthcare and pension costs. These are real (6) _____."

The United Nations surveyed over 14,000 people (7) _____ 14 countries on five continents to make its report. One of the key findings was (8) _____ the global fertility crisis. The UN said the high cost of parenthood is the biggest reason (9) _____ women not having children. Many couples want children, but they cannot afford them. Nearly 20 per cent of adults (10) _____ they will not be able to have the number of children they want. There were other reasons for falling birth rates. These include low salaries, expensive (11) _____, and worries about the future of our world. The UN said one solution to the crisis is to create "family-friendly policies, such as affordable childcare and paid (12) _____ for all carers".

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) releases | (b) releasing | (c) release | (d) released |
| 2. | (a) berthed | (b) birthed | (c) birth | (d) born |
| 3. | (a) lengthen | (b) longer | (c) longing | (d) longs |
| 4. | (a) paying | (b) paid | (c) pay | (d) payee |
| 5. | (a) retired | (b) retried | (c) fired | (d) refired |
| 6. | (a) concerns | (b) corners | (c) concertinas | (d) curtains |
| 7. | (a) by | (b) as | (c) at | (d) in |
| 8. | (a) of | (b) at | (c) up | (d) down |
| 9. | (a) from | (b) for | (c) of | (d) free |
| 10. | (a) belief | (b) believer | (c) believe | (d) believes |
| 11. | (a) house | (b) housed | (c) housing | (d) household |
| 12. | (a) remain | (b) leave | (c) stay | (d) depart |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. reengnipxeci a birth rate crisis
2. eardsele a report
3. Falling birth rates and increased otliveyng
4. Many countries are igtuglgsrn
5. labour geshroast
6. These are real nconsecr

Paragraph 2

7. The UN uesrvyed over 14,000 people
8. 14 countries on five esticontnn
9. the global rietflyti crisis
10. they cannot daorff them
11. low srlsaeai
12. one otulnsoi to the crisis

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () (UNFPA) has released a report called "State of World Population 2025". It highlights how fewer and
- () continents to make its report. One of the key findings was of the global fertility crisis. The UN said the high
- () cost of parenthood is the biggest reason for women not having children. Many couples want children, but
- () crisis is to create "family-friendly policies, such as affordable childcare and paid leave for all carers".
- () fewer children are being born all over the world. At the same time, people are living longer. Falling birth rates and
- () increased longevity are creating many problems. Smaller numbers of workers are having to pay the pensions
- () of children they want. There were other reasons for falling birth rates. These include low
- () of older people who have retired. Dr Natalia Kanem, executive director
- () of UNFPA, said: "Many countries are [struggling] with ageing and shrinking populations, labour
- () salaries, expensive housing, and worries about the future of our world. The UN said one solution to the
- () shortages, and rising healthcare and pension costs. These are real concerns."
- (**1**) The United Nations has said the world is experiencing a birth rate crisis. The United Nations Population Fund
- () The United Nations surveyed over 14,000 people in 14 countries on five
- () they cannot afford them. Nearly 20 per cent of adults believe they will not be able to have the number

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. The crisis world a is birth rate experiencing .
2. Fewer children and being fewer are born .
3. Smaller having to are workers of numbers pay .
4. The retired people have who pensions of older .
5. Countries populations and with shrinking ageing struggling are .
6. People on countries five in 14 continents .
7. High reason is the of costs parenthood biggest .
8. Have want the they of children number .
9. There reasons rates were other birth falling for .
10. Childcare for paid leave carers and all .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

The United Nations has said the world is experiencing *the / a* birth rate crisis. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has released *a / the* report called "State of World Population 2025". It highlights how *few / fewer* and fewer children are being born all *over / under* the world. At the same time, people are living *long / longer*. Falling birth rates and increased longevity are creating many problems. Smaller numbers of *works / workers* are having to *pay / paid* the pensions of older people who have *retiring / retired*. Dr Natalia Kanem, executive director of UNFPA, said: "Many countries are [struggling] with *agent / ageing* and shrinking populations, labour shortages, and rising healthcare and pension costs. These are real *concern / concerns*."

The United Nations surveyed over 14,000 people in 14 countries on five continents *for / to* make its report. One of the *key / keyed* findings was of the global *virility / fertility* crisis. The UN said the *high / height* cost of parenthood is the biggest *reason / reasons* for women not having children. Many couples want children, but they cannot afford them. Nearly 20 per cent of adults believe they will not be *ability / able* to have the number of children they want. There were other reasons for *filling / falling* birth rates. These include *slow / low* salaries, expensive housing, and worries about the future of our world. The UN said *once / one* solution to the crisis is to create "family-friendly policies, such as affordable childcare and paid *leave / leaf* for all carers".

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Th_ _n_t_d N_t__ns h_s s__d th_ w_rld _s
_xp_r__nc_ng _ b_rth r_t_ cr_s_s. Th_ _n_t_d N_t__ns
P_p_l_t__n F_nd (_NFP_) h_s r_l__s_d _ r_p_r_t c_ll_d
"St_t_ _f W_rld P_p_l_t__n 2025". _t h_ghl_ghts h_w
f_w_r _nd f_w_r ch_ldr_n _r_ b__ng b_rn _ll _v_r th_
w_rld. _t th_ s_m_ t_m_, p__pl_ _r_ l_v_ng l_ng_r.
F_ll_ng b_rth r_t_s _nd _ncr__s_d l_ng_v_t_y _r_
cr__t_ng m_ny pr_bl_ms. Sm_ll_r n_mb_rs _f w_rk_rs
r h_v_ng t_ p_y th_ p_ns__ns _f _ld_r p__pl_ wh_
h_v_ r_t_r_d. Dr N_t_l__ K_n_m, _x_c_t_v_ d_r_c_t_r _f
NFP, s__d: "M_ny c__ntr__s _r_ [str_ggl_ng] w_th
_g__ng _nd shrnk_ng p_p_l_t__ns, l_b__r sh_r_t_g_s,
_nd r_s_ng h__lthc_r_ _nd p_ns__n c_sts. Th_s_ _r_
r__l c_nc_rns."

Th_ _n_t_d N_t__ns s_rv_y_d _v_r 14,000 p__pl_ _n
14 c__ntr__s _n f_v_ c_nt_n_nts t_ m_k_ _ts r_p_r_t.
n _f th_ k_y f_nd_ngs w_s _f th_ gl_b_l f_r_t_l_t_y
cr_s_s. Th_ _N s__d th_ h_gh c_st _f p_r_nth__d _s
th_ b_gg_st r__s_n f_r w_m_n n_t h_v_ng ch_ldr_n.
M_ny c__pl_s w_nt ch_ldr_n, b_t th_y c_nn_t _ff_r_d
th_m. N__rly 20 p_r c_nt _f _d_lts b_l__v_ th_y w_ll
n_t b_ _bl_ t_ h_v_ th_ n_mb_r _f ch_ldr_n th_y
w_nt. Th_r_ w_r_ _th_r r__s_ns f_r f_ll_ng b_rth
r_t_s. Th_s_ _ncl_d_ l_w s_l_r__s, _xp_ns_v_ h__s_ng,
_nd w_rr__s _b__t th_ f_t_r_ _f __r w_rld. Th_ _N
s__d _n_ s_l_t__n t_ th_ cr_s_s _s t_ cr__t_ "f_m_ly-
fr__ndly p_l_c__s, s_ch _s _ff_r_d_bl_ ch_ldc_r_ _nd
p__d l__v_ f_r _ll c_r_rs".

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

the united nations has said the world is experiencing a birth rate crisis the united nations population fund unfpa has released a report called state of world population 2025 it highlights how fewer and fewer children are being born all over the world at the same time people are living longer falling birth rates and increased longevity are creating many problems smaller numbers of workers are having to pay the pensions of older people who have retired dr natalia kanem executive director of unfpa said many countries are struggling with ageing and shrinking populations labour shortages and rising healthcare and pension costs these are real concerns

the united nations surveyed over 14000 people in 14 countries on five continents to make its report one of the key findings was of the global fertility crisis the un said the high cost of parenthood is the biggest reason for women not having children many couples want children but they cannot afford them nearly 20 per cent of adults believe they will not be able to have the number of children they want there were other reasons for falling birth rates these include low salaries expensive housing and worries about the future of our world the un said one solution to the crisis is to create familyfriendly policies such as affordable childcare and paid leave for all carers

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

The United Nations has said the world is experiencing a birth rate crisis. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has released a report called "State of World Population 2025". It highlights how fewer and fewer children are being born all over the world. At the same time, people are living longer. Falling birth rates and increased longevity are creating many problems. Smaller numbers of workers are having to pay the pensions of older people who have retired. Dr Natalia Kanem, executive director of UNFPA, said: "Many countries are [struggling] with ageing and shrinking populations, labour shortages, and rising health care and pension costs. These are real concerns." The United Nations surveyed over 14,000 people in 14 countries on five continents to make its report. One of the key findings was of the global fertility crisis. The UN said the high cost of parenthood is the biggest reason for women not having children. Many couples want children, but they cannot afford them. Nearly 20 percent of adults believe they will not be able to have the number of children they want. There were other reasons for falling birth rates. These include low salaries, expensive housing, and worries about the future of our world. The UN said one solution to the crisis is to create "family-friendly policies, such as affordable child care and paid leave for all carers".

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BABIES: Make a poster about babies. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. MORE BABIES: Write a magazine article about governments paying people to have more babies. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on babies. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to increase birth rates. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. b 2. e 3. a 4. c 5. d 6. g 7. f
8. j 9. h 10. k 11. m 12. i 13. l 14. n

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 T 3 T 4 T 5 F 6 F 7 T 8 F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. h
6. a	7. c	8. i	9. f	10. e

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
2. State of World Population 2025
3. People are living longer.
4. The pensions of older people
5. Populations
6. More than 14,000 people
7. The global fertility crisis
8. Nearly 20 per cent
9. Our world
10. Family-friendly policies

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. The world is experiencing a birth rate crisis.
2. Fewer and fewer children are being born.
3. Smaller numbers of workers are having to pay.
4. The pensions of older people who have retired.
5. Countries are struggling with ageing and shrinking populations.
6. People in 14 countries on five continents.
7. High costs of parenthood is the biggest reason.
8. Have the number of children they want.
9. There were other reasons for falling birth rates.
10. Childcare and paid leave for all carers.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. a 7. d 8. c 9. d 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)