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## Level 3

# Women should have babies before 35

13th September, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

## Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	14
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	15
Before Reading / Listening	4	Spelling	16
While Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	17
Match The Sentences And Listen	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	18
Listening Gap Fill	7	Circle The Correct Word	19
Comprehension Questions	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	20
Multiple Choice - Quiz	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	21
Role Play	10	Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are	22
After Reading / Listening	11	Free Writing	23
Student Survey	12	Academic Writing	24
Discussion (20 Questions)	13	Homework	25
		Answers	26

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

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

A top expert on fertility has said women should have babies before they are 35 years old. Professor Mary Herbert from the UK's University of Newcastle said the age of 35 is like when the "clock strikes 12". She said that after that age, it is riskier for a woman to become pregnant. She added that it was difficult for fertility treatment to work as women got older. Professor Herbert gave doctors and nurses a message in a speech at the British Science Festival. She said: "Perhaps the most important message to give is that the best cure of all is to have your babies before this clock strikes 12." She added: "I would be getting worried about my daughter if she hadn't had a child by 35."

Many women these days are choosing to put off having a baby until they are older. One of the biggest reasons for this is that women do not want to interrupt their career. Women are also marrying or settling down at a later age. Professor Herbert said society needed to think about how to help women have babies at a younger age. She said: "We need to understand what the barriers are to women having their children early." Childcare expert Belinda Phipps agreed with Professor Herbert. She said: "You can't always have babies to order. If you want to have a partner and a secure place to live, you don't necessarily get that all done by the time you are 32. The right man doesn't always just come along."

Sources: <http://www.nursingtimes.net/nursing-practice/clinical-zones/midwifery-and-neonatal-nursing-/women-should-have-babies-before-35-warns-professor/5063112.article>  
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/health/have-babies-by-age-of-35-say-experts-1-3086219>

# 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, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*fertility / before 35 / the clock strikes 12 / pregnant / massage / speech / festival / biggest reasons / career / settling down / society / barriers / childcare / the right man*

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

**3. BEST AGE?:** When is it best to do these things? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Best age to...	Age	Why?
own a mobile phone		
get married		
have children		
retire		
start learning English		
be		

**4. 35:** Students A **strongly** believe having a child at 35 is too late; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. ORDER:** Put these in order of which you should do first, and then share with your partner. Change partners often.

- Have a baby
- Learn English
- Travel the world
- Achieve your ambition
- Buy a house
- Get married
- Start saving for your retirement
- Climb Mount Everest

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

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

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

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. A president ordered all women to give birth before they were 35.  | T / F |
| b. A professor said the age of 35 is like when a clock strikes 12.   | T / F |
| c. The professor gave a speech about babies at a president's palace. | T / F |
| d. The professor said her daughter is over 35 and hasn't had a baby. | T / F |
| e. Following a career is a big reason women delay having a baby.     | T / F |
| f. The professor said society should help younger women have babies. | T / F |
| g. A childcare expert said people could not order babies.            | T / F |
| h. The childcare expert said the right man usually comes along.      | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. expert    | a. expectant      |
| 2. riskier   | b. safe           |
| 3. pregnant  | c. more dangerous |
| 4. treatment | d. delay          |
| 5. cure      | e. ideal          |
| 6. choosing  | f. specialist     |
| 7. put off   | g. opting         |
| 8. barriers  | h. care           |
| 9. secure    | i. answer         |
| 10. right    | j. obstacles      |

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

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A top expert                   | a. down                |
| 2. when the clock                 | b. treatment           |
| 3. it is riskier for a woman      | c. having a baby       |
| 4. fertility                      | d. strikes 12          |
| 5. the best cure                  | e. the time you are 32 |
| 6. put off                        | f. on fertility        |
| 7. women do not want to interrupt | g. of all              |
| 8. marrying or settling           | h. their career        |
| 9. We need to understand what     | i. to become pregnant  |
| 10. get that all done by          | j. the barriers are    |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

A top (1) \_\_\_\_\_ on fertility has said women should have babies before they are 35 years old. Professor Mary Herbert from the UK's University of Newcastle said the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of 35 is like when the "clock (3) \_\_\_\_\_ 12". She said that after that age, it is riskier for a woman to become (4) \_\_\_\_\_. She added that it was difficult for fertility treatment to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ as women got older. Professor Herbert gave doctors and nurses a message in a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ at the British Science Festival. She said: "Perhaps the most important message to give is that the best (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of all is to have your babies before this clock strikes 12." She added: "I would be getting (8) \_\_\_\_\_ about my daughter if she hadn't had a child by 35."

*speech*  
*pregnant*  
*worried*  
*age*  
*cure*  
*expert*  
*strikes*  
*work*

Many women these days are choosing to put (9) \_\_\_\_\_ having a baby until they are older. One of the biggest reasons for this is that women do not want to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ their career. Women are also marrying or settling (11) \_\_\_\_\_ at a later age. Professor Herbert said society needed to think about how to help women have babies at a younger age. She said: "We need to understand what the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ are to women having their children early." Childcare expert Belinda Phipps (13) \_\_\_\_\_ with Professor Herbert. She said: "You can't always have babies to (14) \_\_\_\_\_. If you want to have a partner and a (15) \_\_\_\_\_ place to live, you don't necessarily get that all done by the time you are 32. The (16) \_\_\_\_\_ man doesn't always just come along."

*order*  
*barriers*  
*right*  
*interrupt*  
*secure*  
*down*  
*off*  
*agreed*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

- 1) A top expert \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. on frailty
  - b. on fertility
  - c. on fur till a tea
  - d. on futility
- 2) the age of 35 is like when the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. clock strikes 12
  - b. clock strikes 13
  - c. clock strikes 20
  - d. clock strikes 11
- 3) it is riskier for a woman to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. become pregnant
  - b. become pregnancy
  - c. become pregnancies
  - d. became pregnant
- 4) a message in a speech at the British \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Science Festivity
  - b. Science Festive All
  - c. Science Fertility
  - d. Science Survival
- 5) the best \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. cure over
  - b. cure of all
  - c. cure all of
  - d. cure overall
- 6) Many women these days are choosing \_\_\_\_\_ having a baby
  - a. to put of
  - b. to put over
  - c. to put off
  - d. to put if
- 7) women do not want to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. interruption their career
  - b. interrupted their career
  - c. interrupt their career
  - d. interrupting their career
- 8) We need to understand what \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the barriers were
  - b. the barriers are
  - c. the barrier are
  - d. the barriers aren't
- 9) You can't always have \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. babies to older
  - b. babies to ward or
  - c. babies to warder
  - d. babies to order
- 10) The right man doesn't always \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. just come a wrong
  - b. just come along
  - c. just come a left
  - d. just come all along

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

A (1) \_\_\_\_\_ has said women should have babies before they are 35 years old. Professor Mary Herbert from the UK's University of Newcastle said the age of 35 is like when (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 12". She said that after that age, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ woman to become pregnant. She added that it was difficult (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to work as women got older. Professor Herbert gave doctors and nurses a message in a speech at the British Science Festival. She said: "Perhaps the most important message to give is that (5) \_\_\_\_\_ all is to have your babies before this clock strikes 12." She added: "I would be getting worried about my daughter (6) \_\_\_\_\_ a child by 35."

Many women these days are choosing to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ baby until they are older. One of the biggest reasons for this is that women do not want to (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Women are also marrying or settling down at a later age. Professor Herbert (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to think about how to help women have babies at a younger age. She said: "We need to understand what (10) \_\_\_\_\_ women having their children early." Childcare expert Belinda Phipps agreed with Professor Herbert. She said: "You can't always have (11) \_\_\_\_\_. If you want to have a partner and a secure place to live, you don't necessarily get that all done by the time you are 32. The (12) \_\_\_\_\_ always just come along."

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

1. Who said women should have babies before the age of 35?

---

2. To what did the professor liken the age of 35?

---

3. What is it riskier for an older women to do?

---

4. Who did the professor talk to at a festival?

---

5. Whom might the professor worry about?

---

6. What don't women want to interrupt?

---

7. When are women settling down?

---

8. What does society need to understand?

---

9. What is Belinda Phipps' job?

---

10. Who doesn't always come along?

---



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

1. Who said women should have babies before the age of 35?
  - a) a nurse
  - b) a president
  - c) a mother of 12
  - d) a fertility specialist
2. To what did the professor liken the age of 35?
  - a) a clock with the number 12 missing
  - b) a clock striking 12
  - c) 12 clocks
  - d) a 12-year-old clock
3. What is it riskier for an older women to do?
  - a) strike a clock
  - b) start a career
  - c) become 35
  - d) become pregnant
4. Who did the professor talk to at a festival?
  - a) clockmakers
  - b) scientists
  - c) medical workers
  - d) mothers
5. Whom might the professor worry about?
  - a) herself
  - b) babies
  - c) women
  - d) her daughter
6. What don't women want to interrupt?
  - a) fertility
  - b) having a baby
  - c) their career
  - d) the clock striking 12
7. When are women settling down?
  - a) at a later age
  - b) in 2015
  - c) before their career
  - d) when they are tired
8. What does society need to understand?
  - a) experts
  - b) fertility
  - c) barriers
  - d) childcare
9. What is Belinda Phipps' job?
  - a) writer
  - b) childcare expert
  - c) professor
  - d) nurse
10. Who doesn't always come along?
  - a) the right guy
  - b) a secure partner
  - c) a baby
  - d) a childcare expert

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

## **Role A – One child**

You think having one child is best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their numbers. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): having two kids, having no children or having four kids.

## **Role B – Two children**

You think having two kids is best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their numbers. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): having one child, having no children or having four kids.

## **Role C – No children**

You think having no children is best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their numbers. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): having two kids, having one child or having four kids.

## **Role D – Four children**

You think having four kids is best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their numbers. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): having two kids, having no children or having one child.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'right' and 'man'.

<b>right</b>	<b>man</b>
--------------	------------

- 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"><li>• top</li><li>• 12</li><li>• riskier</li><li>• pregnant</li><li>• nurses</li><li>• worried</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• put</li><li>• career</li><li>• down</li><li>• understand</li><li>• order</li><li>• man</li></ul>
--	--

# BABIES SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.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)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'baby'?
- c) What do you think about what you read?
- d) When do you think the best age is to have a baby?
- e) Do you agree with the professor?
- f) Why is being 35 like a clock striking 12?
- g) Why is it riskier for a woman to have a baby after 35?
- h) What's the best number of children to have?
- i) Would you worry about a childless 35-year-old daughter?
- j) Do you think women will take Professor Herbert's advice?

*Women should have babies before 35 – 13th September, 2013*  
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## **BABIES DISCUSSION**

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Which is more important, a career or a family?
- c) Should women think more about children and less about their career?
- d) Is it natural that women want to settle down at a later age?
- e) Is 18 too young for a woman to start having children?
- f) What barriers are there for younger women to have children?
- g) Is it so important to find a nice home before having children?
- h) How important is it to do everything before you are 32?
- i) Are parents over 35 better than parents under 25?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Professor Herbert?

## **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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

A top expert (1) \_\_\_\_\_ fertility has said women should have babies before they are 35 years old. Professor Mary Herbert from the UK's University of Newcastle said the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of 35 is like when the "clock strikes 12". She said that after that age, it is riskier (3) \_\_\_\_\_ a woman to become pregnant. She added that it was difficult for fertility treatment to work as women got older. Professor Herbert gave doctors and nurses a message in a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ at the British Science Festival. She said: "Perhaps the most important message to give is that the best cure of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ is to have your babies before this clock strikes 12." She (6) \_\_\_\_\_: "I would be getting worried about my daughter if she hadn't had a child by 35."

Many women these days are choosing to put (7) \_\_\_\_\_ having a baby until they are older. One of the biggest reasons for this is that women do not want to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ their career. Women are also marrying or settling down at a later age. Professor Herbert said society needed to think about how to help women have babies at a younger age. She said: "We need to understand what the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ are to women having their children early." Childcare expert Belinda Phipps (10) \_\_\_\_\_ with Professor Herbert. She said: "You can't always have babies to order. If you want to have a partner and a (11) \_\_\_\_\_ place to live, you don't necessarily get that all done by the time you are 32. The (12) \_\_\_\_\_ man doesn't always just come along."

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

- |     |                 |               |                  |                |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) at          | (b) in        | (c) on           | (d) by         |
| 2.  | (a) age         | (b) old       | (c) years        | (d) era        |
| 3.  | (a) at          | (b) for       | (c) because      | (d) from       |
| 4.  | (a) speaker     | (b) speak     | (c) speaking     | (d) speech     |
| 5.  | (a) whole       | (b) every     | (c) all          | (d) each       |
| 6.  | (a) subtracted  | (b) added     | (c) multiplied   | (d) divided    |
| 7.  | (a) on          | (b) in        | (c) down         | (d) off        |
| 8.  | (a) interrupted | (b) interrupt | (c) interrupting | (d) interrupts |
| 9.  | (a) carriers    | (b) barriers  | (c) harriers     | (d) warriors   |
| 10. | (a) agreed      | (b) matched   | (c) harmony      | (d) accepted   |
| 11. | (a) security    | (b) securely  | (c) secure       | (d) securing   |
| 12. | (a) right       | (b) fully     | (c) well         | (d) correct    |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. A top expert on tlftyiire
2. osfrrPseo Mary Herbert
3. become ptengran
4. inccese festival
5. important esagsem
6. worried about my hreutgda

## Paragraph 2

7. interrupt their earrce
8. yicteos needed to think
9. understand what the seiarrbr are
10. drIchicea expert
11. a uersce place to live
12. you don't yisarIcesen get that



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) or settling down at a later age. Professor Herbert said society needed to think about how to help women have babies
- ( ) all done by the time you are 32. The right man doesn't always just come along."
- ( ) "I would be getting worried about my daughter if she hadn't had a child by 35."
- ( ) expert Belinda Phipps agreed with Professor Herbert. She said: "You can't always have babies
- ( ) reasons for this is that women do not want to interrupt their career. Women are also marrying
- ( ) message to give is that the best cure of all is to have your babies before this clock strikes 12." She added:
- ( ) 12". She said that after that age, it is riskier for a woman to become pregnant. She added that it was difficult
- ( ) Many women these days are choosing to put off having a baby until they are older. One of the biggest
- ( ) at a younger age. She said: "We need to understand what the barriers are to women having their children early." Childcare
- ( ) nurses a message in a speech at the British Science Festival. She said: "Perhaps the most important
- ( ) to order. If you want to have a partner and a secure place to live, you don't necessarily get that
- ( **1** ) A top expert on fertility has said women should have babies before they are 35 years old. Professor Mary Herbert from
- ( ) for fertility treatment to work as women got older. Professor Herbert gave doctors and
- ( ) the UK's University of Newcastle said the age of 35 is like when the "clock strikes

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

1. "clock when 35 The strikes the is age 12" like of .

---

2. a become It for to riskier woman pregnant is.

---

3. nurses a message in a speech Herbert gave doctors and.

---

4. 12 before this Have clock your strikes babies.

---

5. worried I about would my be daughter getting.

---

6. Women baby a having off put to choosing are days these.

---

7. career want to Women interrupt do their not.

---

8. how women needed about help Society think to to.

---

9. barriers to are understand what We the need.

---

10. man along doesn't always The just right come.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

A top *expert / expertise* on fertility has said women should have babies before they *are / be* 35 years old. Professor Mary Herbert from the UK's University of Newcastle said the age of 35 is *like / same* when the "clock strikes 12". She said that after that *old / age*, it is riskier for a woman to become pregnant. She added that it was *difficulty / difficult* for fertility treatment to work as women got older. Professor Herbert gave doctors and nurses a message in a *speaking / speech* at the British Science Festival. She said: "Perhaps the most *importantly / important* message to give is that the best *cure / care* of all is to have your babies before this clock strikes 12." She added: "I would be *getting / get* worried about my daughter if she *didn't / hadn't* had a child by 35."

Many women these days are *chosen / choosing* to put *off / on* having a baby until they are older. One of the biggest *reasoning / reasons* for this is that women do not want to *interrupt / interruption* their career. Women are also marrying or settling *up / down* at a later age. Professor Herbert said society needed to think about how to help women have babies at a younger age. She said: "We need to understand what the *carriers / barriers* are to women having their children early." Childcare expert Belinda Phipps *agreeing / agreed* with Professor Herbert. She said: "You can't always have babies to *order / ordering*. If you want to have a partner and a *secure / security* place to live, you don't necessarily get that all done by the time you are 32. The *right / correct* man doesn't always just come along."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

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

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

\_ t \_ p \_ xp \_ rt \_ n f \_ rt \_ l \_ ty h \_ s \_ s \_ d w \_ m \_ n sh \_ \_ ld h \_ v \_  
b \_ b \_ s b \_ f \_ r \_ th \_ y \_ r \_ 35 y \_ \_ rs \_ ld. Pr \_ f \_ ss \_ r M \_ ry  
H \_ rb \_ rt fr \_ m th \_ \_ K's \_ n \_ v \_ rs \_ ty \_ f N \_ wc \_ stl \_ s \_ d  
th \_ \_ g \_ \_ f 35 \_ s l \_ k \_ wh \_ n th \_ "cl \_ ck str \_ k \_ s 12". Sh \_  
s \_ d th \_ t \_ ft \_ r th \_ t \_ g \_ , \_ t \_ s \_ r \_ sk \_ \_ r \_ f \_ r \_ w \_ m \_ n t \_  
b \_ c \_ m \_ pr \_ gn \_ nt. Sh \_ \_ dd \_ d th \_ t \_ t w \_ s \_ d \_ ff \_ c \_ lt \_ f \_ r  
f \_ rt \_ l \_ ty tr \_ \_ tm \_ nt t \_ w \_ rk \_ \_ s w \_ m \_ n g \_ t \_ ld \_ r.  
Pr \_ f \_ ss \_ r H \_ rb \_ rt g \_ v \_ d \_ ct \_ rs \_ nd n \_ rs \_ s \_ \_ m \_ ss \_ g \_  
\_ n \_ \_ sp \_ ch \_ t th \_ Br \_ t \_ sh Sc \_ \_ nc \_ F \_ st \_ v \_ l. Sh \_  
s \_ d: "P \_ rh \_ ps th \_ m \_ st \_ mp \_ rt \_ nt m \_ ss \_ g \_ t \_ g \_ v \_ \_ s  
th \_ t th \_ b \_ st \_ c \_ r \_ \_ f \_ ll \_ s \_ t \_ h \_ v \_ y \_ \_ r b \_ b \_ s b \_ f \_ r \_  
th \_ s cl \_ ck str \_ k \_ s 12." Sh \_ \_ dd \_ d: " \_ w \_ ld b \_ g \_ tt \_ ng  
w \_ rr \_ d \_ b \_ \_ t my d \_ \_ ght \_ r \_ f sh \_ h \_ dn't h \_ d \_ \_ ch \_ ld  
by 35."

M \_ ny w \_ m \_ n th \_ s \_ d \_ ys \_ r \_ ch \_ \_ s \_ ng t \_ p \_ t \_ ff  
h \_ v \_ ng \_ b \_ by \_ nt \_ l th \_ y \_ r \_ \_ ld \_ r. \_ n \_ \_ f th \_ b \_ gg \_ st  
r \_ \_ s \_ ns f \_ r th \_ s \_ s th \_ t w \_ m \_ n d \_ n \_ t w \_ nt t \_  
\_ nt \_ rr \_ pt th \_ \_ r c \_ r \_ r. W \_ m \_ n \_ r \_ \_ ls \_ m \_ rry \_ ng \_ r  
s \_ ttl \_ ng d \_ wn \_ t \_ \_ l \_ t \_ r \_ g \_ . Pr \_ f \_ ss \_ r H \_ rb \_ rt s \_ d  
s \_ c \_ ty n \_ d \_ d t \_ th \_ nk \_ b \_ \_ t h \_ w \_ t \_ h \_ lp w \_ m \_ n  
h \_ v \_ b \_ b \_ s \_ t \_ y \_ \_ ng \_ r \_ g \_ . Sh \_ s \_ d: "W \_ n \_ d t \_  
\_ nd \_ rst \_ nd wh \_ t th \_ b \_ rr \_ \_ rs \_ r \_ t \_ w \_ m \_ n h \_ v \_ ng  
th \_ \_ r ch \_ldr \_ n \_ \_ rly." Ch \_ ldc \_ r \_ \_ xp \_ rt B \_ l \_ nd \_  
Ph \_ pps \_ gr \_ d w \_ th Pr \_ f \_ ss \_ r H \_ rb \_ rt. Sh \_ s \_ d: "Y \_ \_  
c \_ n't \_ lw \_ ys h \_ v \_ b \_ b \_ s t \_ \_ rd \_ r. \_ f y \_ \_ w \_ nt t \_  
h \_ v \_ \_ p \_ rtn \_ r \_ nd \_ \_ s \_ c \_ r \_ pl \_ c \_ t \_ l \_ v \_ , y \_ \_ d \_ n't  
n \_ c \_ ss \_ r \_ ly g \_ t th \_ t \_ ll \_ d \_ n \_ by th \_ t \_ m \_ y \_ \_ r \_ 32.  
Th \_ r \_ ght m \_ n d \_ \_ sn't \_ lw \_ ys j \_ st c \_ m \_ \_ l \_ ng."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

a top expert on fertility has said women should have babies before they are 35 years old professor mary herbert from the uk's university of newcastle said the age of 35 is like when the "clock strikes 12" she said that after that age it is riskier for a woman to become pregnant she added that it was difficult for fertility treatment to work as women got older professor herbert gave doctors and nurses a message in a speech at the british science festival she said "perhaps the most important message to give is that the best cure of all is to have your babies before this clock strikes 12" she added "i would be getting worried about my daughter if she hadn't had a child by 35"

many women these days are choosing to put off having a baby until they are older one of the biggest reasons for this is that women do not want to interrupt their career women are also marrying or settling down at a later age professor herbert said society needed to think about how to help women have babies at a younger age she said "we need to understand what the barriers are to women having their children early" childcare expert belinda phipps agreed with professor herbert she said "you can't always have babies to order if you want to have a partner and a secure place to live you don't necessarily get that all done by the time you are 32 the right man doesn't always just come along"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130913-fertility.html>

Atopexpertonfertilityhassaidwomenshouldhavebabiesbeforethey are35yearsold.ProfessorMaryHerbertfromtheUK'sUniversityof Newcastleaidtheageof35islikewhenthe"clockstrikes12".Shesaidthatafterthatage,itisriskierforawomantobecomepregnant.Sheadddedthatitwasdifficultforfertilitytreatmenttoworkaswomengotolder.ProfessorHerbertgavedoctorsandnursesamessageinaspeechattheBritishScienceFestival.Shesaid:"Perhapsthemostimportantmessagetogiveisthatthebestcureofallistohaveyourbabiesbeforetheclockstrikes12."Sheadded:"Iwouldbegettingworriedaboutmydaughterifshedn'thadachildby35."Manywomenthesedaysarechoosingtoputoffhavingababyuntiltheyareolder.Oneofthebiggestreasonsforthisisthatwomendonotwanttointerrupttheircareer.Womenarealsomarryingorsettlingdownatalaterage.ProfessorHerbertsaidsocietyneededtothinkabouthowtohelpwomenhavebabiesatayoungerage.Shesaid:"Weneedtounderstandwhatthebarriersaretowomenhavingtheirchildrenearly."ChildcareexpertBelindaPhippsagreedwithProfessorHerbert.Shesaid:"Youcan'talwayshaveababiestoorder.Ifyouwanttohaveapartnerandasecureplacetolive,youdon'tnecessarilygetthatalldonebythetimeyouare32.Therightman doesn'talwaysjustcomealong."







# 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 the best age to have a baby. 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. 35:** Write a magazine article about having a baby before or after 35. Include imaginary interviews with doctors, young mothers and older mothers.

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 a fertility expert. Ask him/her three questions about babies. Tell him/her three the best age to have a baby and three reasons why you think so. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F    b T    c F    d F    e T    f T    g T    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. expert    | a. specialist     |
| 2. riskier   | b. more dangerous |
| 3. pregnant  | c. expectant      |
| 4. treatment | d. care           |
| 5. cure      | e. answer         |
| 6. choosing  | f. opting         |
| 7. put off   | g. delay          |
| 8. barriers  | h. obstacles      |
| 9. secure    | i. safe           |
| 10. right    | j. ideal          |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. A top fertility expert
2. A clock striking 12
3. Become pregnant
4. Doctors and nurses
5. Her daughter
6. Their career
7. At a later age
8. The barriers to women having children younger
9. She's a childcare expert
10. The right man

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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