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Vatican criticizes IVF Nobel award

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/101005-ivf.html>

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5th October, 2010

THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/101005-ivf.html>

Vatican officials have hit out at the awarding of the Nobel Prize for Medicine to the pioneer of in-vitro fertilization, Dr Robert Edwards. They said the award to the British researcher was "completely out of place" and went against all Christian teaching on procreation. Spokesman Monsignor Ignacio Carrasco de Paula told the ANSA news agency that IVF has led to "incomprehensible situations like children born from grandmothers and mothers 'for hire'". He expressed his horror at "the great number of frozen embryos around the world, which at best are waiting to be transferred to wombs but will most probably end up being abandoned or dying". The current Pope Benedict XVI believes IVF is morally wrong because it replaced the natural sexual union between husband and wife.

In-vitro fertilization is the process of fertilizing human egg cells by sperm outside a woman's womb. It created the world's first "test-tube baby" in 1978 and has since created four million babies. IVF has changed the lives of millions of infertile couples who could not have children. The Nobel Prize committee said Professor Edwards' pioneering work had brought "joy to infertile people all over the world". They added: "His achievements have made it possible to treat infertility, a medical condition afflicting a large proportion of humanity, including more than 10% of all couples worldwide." The first baby born via IVF, Louise Brown, 32, said the award was "fantastic news". She told reporters she was "so glad that one of the pioneers of IVF has been given the recognition he deserves".

WARM-UPS

1. NOBEL PRIZE: Walk around the class and talk to other students about Nobel Prizes. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) 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.

Vatican / Nobel Prize / pioneers / IVF / incomprehensible / embryos / horror / union / human eggs / test-tube baby / achievements / medical conditions / fantastic news

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

3. NOBEL PRIZE: Make new rules for who gets Nobel Prizes. Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Nobel Prize for...	Rules
Peace	
Medicine	
Literature	
Economics	
Physics	
Other _____	

4. IVF: Students A **strongly** believe IVF is a good thing; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. FANTASTIC NEWS: What's yours? Talk about news of these things with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you heard.

- studying news
- family news
- money news
- home news
- computer news
- hair news
- clothes / shopping news
- food news

6. PIONEER: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'pioneer'. 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/101005-ivf.html>

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

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. A Vatican official hit a member of the Nobel Prize committee. | T / F |
| b. The official said IVF is not in line with the way Christians should live. | T / F |
| c. The official said an advantage of IVF was women could hire babies. | T / F |
| d. The Pope believes IVF isn't good because it's unnatural. | T / F |
| e. IVF almost always takes place inside a woman's body. | T / F |
| f. Babies born via IVF are created inside test tubes. | T / F |
| g. IVF accounts for around 10% of all babies born in the world. | T / F |
| h. The world's first "test-tube baby" is still alive. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. officials | a. unintelligible |
| 2. pioneer | b. by means of |
| 3. procreation | c. method |
| 4. incomprehensible | d. representatives |
| 5. abandoned | e. hitting |
| 6. process | f. dumped |
| 7. infertile | g. innovator |
| 8. afflicting | h. merits |
| 9. via | i. reproduction |
| 10. deserves | j. sterile |

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. the awarding of | a. via IVF |
| 2. the pioneer of in- | b. teaching on procreation |
| 3. went against all Christian | c. he deserves |
| 4. probably end up | d. human egg cells |
| 5. Pope Benedict XVI believes IVF | e. the Nobel Prize |
| 6. the process of fertilizing | f. of infertile couples |
| 7. changed the lives of millions | g. being abandoned |
| 8. afflicting a large proportion | h. vitro fertilization |
| 9. The first baby born | i. is morally wrong |
| 10. given the recognition | j. of humanity |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/101005-ivf.html>

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Vatican officials have hit out at the _____ of the Nobel Prize for Medicine to the _____ of in-vitro fertilization, Dr Robert Edwards. They said the award to the British researcher was "completely out of _____" and went against all Christian teaching on procreation. Spokesman Monsignor Ignacio Carrasco de Paula told the ANSA news _____ that IVF has led to "incomprehensible situations like children born from grandmothers and mothers 'for hire'". He expressed his horror at "the great number of _____ embryos around the world, which at best are waiting to be transferred to wombs but will most _____ end up being abandoned or _____". The current Pope Benedict XVI believes IVF is morally wrong because it replaced the natural sexual _____ between husband and wife.

probably

place

union

awarding

frozen

pioneer

dying

agency

In-vitro fertilization is the _____ of fertilizing human egg cells by sperm outside a woman's womb. It created the world's first "test-_____ baby" in 1978 and has since created four million babies. IVF has changed the _____ of millions of infertile couples who could not have children. The Nobel Prize committee said Professor Edwards' pioneering work had brought "_____ to infertile people all over the world". They added: "His achievements have made it possible to _____ infertility, a medical condition afflicting a large _____ of humanity, including more than 10% of all couples worldwide." The first baby born _____ IVF, Louise Brown, 32, said the award was "fantastic news". She told reporters she was "so glad that one of the pioneers of IVF has been given the recognition he _____".

lives

treat

deserves

process

joy

proportion

tube

via

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/101005-ivf.html>

Vatican officials _____ awarding of the Nobel Prize for Medicine to the pioneer of in-vitro fertilization, Dr Robert Edwards. They said the award to the British researcher was "_____ " and went against all Christian teaching on procreation. Spokesman Monsignor Ignacio Carrasco de Paula told the ANSA news agency that IVF has led to "_____ like children born from grandmothers and mothers 'for hire' ". He _____ "the great number of frozen embryos around the world, which at best are waiting to be transferred to wombs but will most probably _____ or dying ". The current Pope Benedict XVI believes IVF is morally wrong because it replaced _____ between husband and wife.

In-vitro fertilization is _____ human egg cells by sperm outside a woman's womb. It created the world's first "test-tube baby" in 1978 _____ four million babies. IVF has changed the lives of millions of infertile couples who could not have children. The Nobel Prize committee said Professor Edwards' _____ brought "joy to infertile people all over the world". They added: "His achievements have _____ treat infertility, a medical condition afflicting a large proportion of humanity, including more than _____ worldwide." The first baby born via IVF, Louise Brown, 32, said the award was "fantastic news". She told reporters she was "so glad that one of the pioneers of IVF has been given the _____ ".

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/101005-ivf.html>

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

medicine	prize

- 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">• awarding• place• against• hire• frozen• union	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• cells• since• lives• possible• fantastic• deserves
--	---

STUDENT IVF SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/101005-ivf.html>

Write five GOOD questions about IVF 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.

IVF 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 'Nobel'?
- c) Do you think the Vatican is right to be angry over this?
- d) What do you know about IVF?
- e) Do you think religions should get more up to date, or are the old teachings the best?
- f) Do you think the "incomprehensible situations" are as bad as the Vatican suggests?
- g) Are you also horrified at labs freezing embryos?
- h) What do you think of IVF as a scientific advance?
- i) Is IVF morally wrong?
- j) Would you ever consider IVF if you couldn't have children?

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IVF DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you think the Vatican believes the four million babies have no right to life?
- c) What would infertile couples think about the Vatican's views?
- d) Is joy and happiness at the birth of a baby more important than how it was created?
- e) How surprised are you at the 10% statistic?
- f) Are there limits to where IVF should go next (e.g. cloning, etc.)?
- g) What did the world think of the first ever "test-tube baby"?
- h) What do you think Louise Brown thinks of the Vatican's views?
- i) Do you think Dr Edwards deserves the Prize?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Dr Robert Edwards?

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LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/101005-ivf.html>

Vatican officials have hit out at the (1) _____ of the Nobel Prize for Medicine to the pioneer of in-vitro fertilization, Dr Robert Edwards. They said the award to the British researcher was "completely out of (2) _____" and went against all Christian teaching (3) _____ procreation. Spokesman Monsignor Ignacio Carrasco de Paula told the ANSA news agency that IVF has led to "incomprehensible situations like children born from grandmothers and mothers '(4) _____ hire'". He expressed his horror at "the great number of frozen embryos around the world, which at best are waiting to be transferred to (5) _____ but will most probably end up being abandoned or dying". The current Pope Benedict XVI believes IVF is morally wrong because it replaced the natural sexual (6) _____ between husband and wife.

In-vitro fertilization is the process of fertilizing human egg cells by sperm outside a woman's womb. It created the world's first "test-(7) _____ baby" in 1978 and has (8) _____ created four million babies. IVF has changed the lives of millions of infertile couples who could not have children. The Nobel Prize committee said Professor Edwards' pioneering work had brought "(9) _____ to infertile people all over the world". They added: "His achievements have made it possible to (10) _____ infertility, a medical condition afflicting a large proportion of humanity, including more than 10% of all couples worldwide." The first baby born (11) _____ IVF, Louise Brown, 32, said the award was "fantastic news". She told reporters she was "so glad that one of the pioneers of IVF has been given the (12) _____ he deserves".

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

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. (a) awards | (b) award | (c) awarded | (d) awarding |
| 2. (a) location | (b) here | (c) place | (d) venue |
| 3. (a) in | (b) on | (c) at | (d) by |
| 4. (a) for | (b) at | (c) from | (d) by |
| 5. (a) tombs | (b) bombs | (c) wombs | (d) combs |
| 6. (a) reunion | (b) onion | (c) unison | (d) union |
| 7. (a) tubular | (b) tube | (c) tubby | (d) tub |
| 8. (a) since | (b) past | (c) for | (d) ago |
| 9. (a) joyful | (b) joy | (c) joyous | (d) joyously |
| 10. (a) treatment | (b) treats | (c) treat | (d) treated |
| 11. (a) via | (b) viva | (c) vie | (d) vim |
| 12. (a) recognized | (b) recognizes | (c) recognize | (d) recognition |

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WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/101005-ivf.html>

Write about **IVF** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

[illegible]

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 Nobel Prize for Medicine. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

4. HITTING OUT: Write a magazine article about the Nobel Prize for Medicine going to IVF research. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

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. LETTER: Write a letter to Monsignor Ignacio Carrasco de Paula. Ask him three questions about IVF. Give him three of your opinions on IVF. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. officials | a. representatives |
| 2. pioneer | b. innovator |
| 3. procreation | c. reproduction |
| 4. incomprehensible | d. unintelligible |
| 5. abandoned | e. dumped |
| 6. process | f. method |
| 7. infertile | g. sterile |
| 8. afflicting | h. hitting |
| 9. via | i. by means of |
| 10. deserves | j. merits |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. the awarding of | a. the Nobel Prize |
| 2. the pioneer of in- | b. vitro fertilization |
| 3. went against all Christian | c. teaching on procreation |
| 4. probably end up | d. being abandoned |
| 5. Pope Benedict XVI believes IVF | e. is morally wrong |
| 6. the process of fertilizing | f. human egg cells |
| 7. changed the lives of millions | g. of infertile couples |
| 8. afflicting a large proportion | h. of humanity |
| 9. The first baby born | i. via IVF |
| 10. given the recognition | j. he deserves |

GAP FILL:

Vatican criticizes IVF Nobel award

Vatican officials have hit out at the **awarding** of the Nobel Prize for Medicine to the **pioneer** of in-vitro fertilization, Dr Robert Edwards. They said the award to the British researcher was "completely out of **place**" and went against all Christian teaching on procreation. Spokesman Monsignor Ignacio Carrasco de Paula told the ANSA news **agency** that IVF has led to "incomprehensible situations like children born from grandmothers and mothers 'for hire'". He expressed his horror at "the great number of **frozen** embryos around the world, which at best are waiting to be transferred to wombs but will most **probably** end up being abandoned or **dying**". The current Pope Benedict XVI believes IVF is morally wrong because it replaced the natural sexual **union** between husband and wife.

In-vitro fertilization is the **process** of fertilizing human egg cells by sperm outside a woman's womb. It created the world's first "test-tube baby" in 1978 and has since created four million babies. IVF has changed the **lives** of millions of infertile couples who could not have children. The Nobel Prize committee said Professor Edwards' pioneering work had brought "**joy** to infertile people all over the world". They added: "His achievements have made it possible to **treat** infertility, a medical condition afflicting a large **proportion** of humanity, including more than 10% of all couples worldwide." The first baby born **via** IVF, Louise Brown, 32, said the award was "fantastic news". She told reporters she was "so glad that one of the pioneers of IVF has been given the recognition he **deserves**".

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - c 3 - b 4 - a 5 - c 6 - d 7 - b 8 - a 9 - b 10 - c 11 - a 12 - d

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