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Level 6

Workaholic fathers 'leave orphans'

30th January, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

The head of the Roman Catholic Church Pope Francis has issued a stern warning to fathers who work long hours. He criticised workaholic dads for being 'symbolically absent' from their families, and of effectively making their children 'orphans'. The Pope was speaking to a congregation at the Vatican on Wednesday when he made his plea for fathers to spend more time with their children and get more involved in family life. He told worshippers that the absence of fathers in the family is one of the reasons that children experience problems growing up. He said fathers who focused too much on their jobs was one of the causes of "deviances of children and adolescents".

Pope Francis said this problem of fathers being obsessed with their jobs and not spending quality time with their family was particularly prevalent in Europe and North America. He said: "Fathers are so focused on themselves, on their work, and at times their personal fulfillment, that they even forget their families, leaving children and the young to their own devices." He added: "The feeling of orphanhood experienced by many young people is more profound than we might think. They are orphans in their families because their fathers are often absent from the home, but also, and above all, because when they are present, they do not act like fathers." He warned that fatherless families are being accepted as the norm.

Sources: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pope-criticizes-workaholic-dads-says-theyre-symbolically-absent>
<http://www.sconews.co.uk/news/43247/pope-warns-absent-working-fathers-leave-orphans/>

WARM-UPS

1. FATHERS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about fathers. 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?

head / church / workaholic / orphans / plea / absence / experience / problems / causes / obsessed / prevalent / focused / personal / profound / fathers / accepted / the norm

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

3. FAMILY LIFE: What is the real and ideal role of parents? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Reality	Ideal situation
Breakfast		
Internet		
Homework		
Holidays		
Advice		
Discipline		

4. WORKAHOLIC: Students A **strongly** believe being a workaholic is bad; Students B **strongly** believe it's OK. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. DAD: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important roles of dads at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- money earner
- disciplinarian
- breakfast maker
- bedtime-book reader
- friend
- careers advisor
- playmate
- joke teller

6. ORPHAN: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "orphan". 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/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. The head of the Christian Church has warned fathers who overwork. | T / F |
| b. The Pope was speaking to people on Wednesday at the Vatican. | T / F |
| c. The Pope said absentee fathers cause children to have problems. | T / F |
| d. The Pope said workaholic fathers means children get into trouble. | T / F |
| e. The article said most workaholic fathers are in Japan and China. | T / F |
| f. The Pope said children have too many children devices. | T / F |
| g. The Pope said children's suffering is worse than we think it is. | T / F |
| h. The Pope said workaholic fathers act like fathers at home. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. head | a. preoccupied |
| 2. stern | b. reasons |
| 3. congregation | c. far-reaching |
| 4. plea | d. serious |
| 5. causes | e. common |
| 6. obsessed | f. gathering |
| 7. prevalent | g. average |
| 8. fulfillment | h. top |
| 9. profound | i. satisfaction |
| 10. the norm | j. appeal |

3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Francis has issued a stern | a. the causes |
| 2. He criticised workaholic dads for being | b. to their own devices |
| 3. The Pope was speaking | c. 'symbolically absent' |
| 4. get more involved | d. in Europe |
| 5. one of | e. in family life |
| 6. fathers being obsessed | f. warning to fathers |
| 7. particularly prevalent | g. we might think |
| 8. leaving children and the young | h. to a congregation |
| 9. more profound than | i. accepted as the norm |
| 10. fatherless families are being | j. with their jobs |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

The head of the Roman Catholic Church Pope Francis has (1) _____ a stern warning to fathers who work long hours. He criticised (2) _____ dads for being 'symbolically absent' from their families, and of (3) _____ making their children 'orphans'. The Pope was speaking to a congregation at the Vatican on Wednesday when he made his (4) _____ for fathers to spend more time with their children and get more (5) _____ in family life. He told worshippers that the (6) _____ of fathers in the family is one of the reasons that children experience problems (7) _____ up. He said fathers who focused too much on their jobs was one of the (8) _____ of "deviancies of children and adolescents".

effectively
involved
growing
issued
causes
workaholic
absence
plea

Pope Francis said this problem of fathers being (9) _____ with their jobs and not spending quality time with their family was particularly (10) _____ in Europe and North America. He said: "Fathers are so (11) _____ on themselves, on their work, and at times their personal fulfillment, that they even forget their families, leaving children and the young to their own (12) _____." He added: "The feeling of orphanhood experienced by many young people is more (13) _____ than we might think. They are orphans in their families because their fathers are often (14) _____ from the home, but also, and above all, because when they are present, they do not (15) _____ like fathers." He warned that fatherless families are being accepted as the (16) _____.

focused
profound
act
prevalent
norm
obsessed
absent
devices

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

- 1) Pope Francis has issued _____
 - a. a stern warning
 - b. as turn warning
 - c. ace turn warning
 - d. a stein warning
- 2) He criticised workaholic dads for being 'symbolically _____'
 - a. absence' from their families
 - b. absentee' from their families
 - c. absences' from their families
 - d. absent' from their families
- 3) spend more time with their children and get more _____
 - a. involved on family life
 - b. involved an family life
 - c. involved in family life
 - d. involved un-family life
- 4) one of the reasons that children experience _____
 - a. problems grown up
 - b. problems growing up
 - c. problems glow in up
 - d. problems glowing up
- 5) one of the causes of "deviances of children _____"
 - a. and adolescence
 - b. and adolescents
 - c. and adolescent
 - d. and idol essence
- 6) Fathers are so focused _____
 - a. in themselves
 - b. on themself
 - c. on themselves
 - d. in themself
- 7) leaving children and the young to _____
 - a. their own device
 - b. their own devises
 - c. their own device is
 - d. their own devices
- 8) The feeling of orphanhood experienced by many young people is _____ we might think
 - a. more profound than
 - b. more profundity than
 - c. more preferred than
 - d. more pro-found than
- 9) when they are present, they do not _____
 - a. acts like fathers
 - b. acted like fathers
 - c. action like fathers
 - d. act like fathers
- 10) He warned that fatherless families are being _____
 - a. accepted was the norm
 - b. accepted has the norm
 - c. accepted as the norm
 - d. accepted is the norm

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

The head of the Roman Catholic Church Pope Francis (1) _____ warning to fathers who work long hours. He criticised (2) _____ being 'symbolically absent' from their families, and of effectively making their children 'orphans'. The Pope was speaking (3) _____ the Vatican on Wednesday when he (4) _____ fathers to spend more time with their children and get more (5) _____. He told worshippers that the absence of fathers in the family is one of the reasons that children experience problems growing up. He said fathers who focused too much on their jobs was (6) _____ of "deviances of children and adolescents".

Pope Francis said this problem of fathers (7) _____ their jobs and not (8) _____ with their family was particularly prevalent in Europe and North America. He said: "Fathers are so focused on themselves, on their work, (9) _____ personal fulfillment, that they even forget their families, leaving children (10) _____ their own devices." He added: "The feeling of orphanhood experienced by many young people is more profound than we might think. They are orphans in their families because their fathers are (11) _____ home, but also, and above all, because when they are present, they do not act like fathers." He warned that fatherless families are being (12) _____.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

1. What is Pope Francis the head of?

2. Who did Pope Francis criticise?

3. Where did Pope Francis make a speech?

4. What did Pope Francis tell fathers to get more involved in?

5. When do children experience problems?

6. Where did Pope Francis say the problem was common, besides Europe?

7. What did Pope Francis say fathers are so focused on?

8. What did Pope Francis say fathers left children to?

9. What do workaholic fathers not do when they are at home?

10. What did Pope Francis warn was becoming the norm?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

1. What is Pope Francis the head of?
 - a) the Workaholics Anonymous group
 - b) Working Fathers Worldwide
 - c) the Catholic Church
 - d) Christianity
2. Who did Pope Francis criticise?
 - a) workaholic fathers
 - b) his congregation
 - c) Vatican workers
 - d) children
3. Where did Pope Francis make a speech?
 - a) the Vatican
 - b) London
 - c) Mexico
 - d) Liberia
4. What did Pope Francis tell fathers to get more involved in?
 - a) problem solving
 - b) family life
 - c) religion
 - d) work
5. When do children experience problems?
 - a) when they get older
 - b) mornings
 - c) when doing maths
 - d) when growing up
6. Where did Pope Francis say the problem was common, besides Europe?
 - a) Japan
 - b) North America
 - c) Jordan
 - d) Fiji
7. What did Pope Francis say fathers are so focused on?
 - a) themselves
 - b) nature
 - c) video games
 - d) family life
8. What did Pope Francis say fathers left children to?
 - a) the dishes
 - b) poverty
 - c) their own devices
 - d) fend for themselves
9. What do workaholic fathers not do when they are at home?
 - a) work
 - b) the washing up
 - c) cut the grass
 - d) act like fathers
10. What did Pope Francis warn was becoming the norm?
 - a) fatherless families
 - b) global warming
 - c) reduced numbers at church
 - d) work

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

Role A – Money earner

You think the role of money earner is the most important one for a father. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their roles aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): joke teller, bedtime-book reader or disciplinarian.

Role B – Joke teller

You think the role of joke teller is the most important one for a father. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their roles aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): money earner, bedtime-book reader or disciplinarian.

Role C – Bedtime-book reader

You think the role of bedtime-book reader is the most important one for a father. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their roles aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): joke teller, money earner or disciplinarian.

Role D – Disciplinarian

You think the role of disciplinarian is the most important one for a father. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their roles aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): joke teller, bedtime-book reader or money earner.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

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

orphan	children
---------------	-----------------

- 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">• issued• criticised• effectively• plea• reasons• causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• obsessed• quality• personal• own• above• norm
---	--

FATHERS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

Write five GOOD questions about fathers 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.

FATHERS DISCUSSION

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

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'father'?
- 3) How difficult is it for fathers to get the work/family balance right?
- 4) What do you think about what the Pope said?
- 5) What problems are there with being a workaholic?
- 6) How much of workaholic are you?
- 7) To what degree are we slaves to our jobs?
- 8) What is the perfect job for you?
- 9) Do you think the kids of workaholic fathers become deviant?
- 10) How would a workaholic explain his absences to his/her kids?

Workaholic fathers 'leave orphans' – 30th January, 2015
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FATHERS DISCUSSION

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

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) What problems arise with fathers being obsessed with their jobs?
- 13) Why didn't the Pope talk about workaholic mothers too?
- 14) Who has the biggest responsibility as a parent – the father or mother?
- 15) Is it wrong for parents to be so focused on themselves?
- 16) How true is it that kids of workaholics are like orphans?
- 17) Is it bad for a father (or mother) to work so hard?
- 18) What does a working father do to be perfect?
- 19) What advice do you have for workaholic fathers?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask Pope Francis?

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/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

The (1) _____ of the Roman Catholic Church Pope Francis has issued a stern warning to fathers who work long hours. He criticised workaholic dads for being 'symbolically absent' from their families, and of (2) _____ making their children 'orphans'. The Pope was speaking to a (3) _____ at the Vatican on Wednesday when he made his (4) _____ for fathers to spend more time with their children and get more involved in family life. He told worshippers that the absence of fathers in the family is one of the reasons (5) _____ children experience problems growing up. He said fathers who focused too much (6) _____ their jobs was one of the causes of "deviances of children and adolescents".

Pope Francis said this problem of fathers being obsessed (7) _____ their jobs and not spending quality time with their family was (8) _____ prevalent in Europe and North America. He said: "Fathers are so focused on themselves, on their work, and at times their personal fulfillment, that they (9) _____ forget their families, leaving children and the young to their own (10) _____." He added: "The feeling of orphanhood experienced by many young people is more profound than we might think. They are orphans in their families because their fathers are often absent from the home, but also, and (11) _____ all, because when they are present, they do not act like fathers." He warned that fatherless families are being accepted (12) _____ the norm.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) headed | (b) heading | (c) header | (d) head |
| 2. | (a) affectively | (b) affective | (c) effective | (d) effectively |
| 3. | (a) congressional | (b) congregation | (c) congregate | (d) congealment |
| 4. | (a) plead | (b) please | (c) plea | (d) pleased |
| 5. | (a) when | (b) where | (c) that | (d) who |
| 6. | (a) on | (b) to | (c) of | (d) by |
| 7. | (a) from | (b) with | (c) as | (d) which |
| 8. | (a) particularly | (b) particulars | (c) particles | (d) peculiar |
| 9. | (a) ever | (b) even | (c) eves | (d) every |
| 10. | (a) devises | (b) devious | (c) devices | (d) devils |
| 11. | (a) over | (b) up | (c) above | (d) top |
| 12. | (a) is | (b) was | (c) has | (d) as |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

Paragraph 1

1. suedsi a stern warning
2. being msociylally absent
3. eivetcefyfl making their children 'orphans'
4. He told wresisproh
5. oufdecs too much on their jobs
6. children and sosednlitcea

Paragraph 2

7. fathers being eeosbdss with their jobs
8. particularly nrpetlvae in Europe
9. to their own icedsv
10. more norfodpu than we might think
11. fathers are often btsaen
12. accepted as the rnom

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

()	effectively making their children 'orphans'. The Pope was speaking to a congregation at the Vatican
()	on Wednesday when he made his plea for fathers to spend more time with their children and get more
()	hours. He criticised workaholic dads for being 'symbolically absent' from their families, and of
()	their families, leaving children and the young to their own devices." He added: "The feeling of orphanhood
()	Pope Francis said this problem of fathers being obsessed with their jobs and not spending quality
()	not act like fathers." He warned that fatherless families are being accepted as the norm.
(1)	The head of the Roman Catholic Church Pope Francis has issued a stern warning to fathers who work long
()	involved in family life. He told worshippers that the absence of fathers in the family is one of the
()	focused on themselves, on their work, and at times their personal fulfillment, that they even forget
()	experienced by many young people is more profound than we might think. They are orphans in their families
()	reasons that children experience problems growing up. He said fathers who focused too
()	time with their family was particularly prevalent in Europe and North America. He said: "Fathers are so
()	because their fathers are often absent from the home, but also, and above all, because when they are present, they do
()	much on their jobs was one of the causes of "deviances of children and adolescents".

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

1. warning a has to stern Pope fathers issued Francis .

2. 'symbolically workaholic absent' dads for He being criticised .

3. for plea His children their with time more spend to fathers .

4. of of family fathers The the is in absence reasons one the .

5. focused jobs too much Fathers on who their .

6. time quality spending Not family their with .

7. the their and to devices children young own Leaving .

8. The many by experienced orphanhood of feeling .

9. present are they When fathers like act not do they , .

10. as families the are norm being accepted Fatherless .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

The *head / header* of the Roman Catholic Church Pope Francis has *issuance / issued* a stern warning to fathers who work long hours. He criticised workaholic dads *for / from* being 'symbolically absent' from their families, and of *effectively / effective* making their children 'orphans'. The Pope was speaking to a congregation at the Vatican on Wednesday when he *made / did* his plea for fathers to spend *more / most* time with their children and get more *involving / involved* in family life. He told worshippers that the *absent / absence* of fathers in the family is one *by / of* the reasons that children experience problems growing up. He said fathers who focused *very / too* much on their jobs was one of the causes of "deviances of children and adolescents".

Pope Francis said this problem of fathers being *obsession / obsessed* with their jobs and not *spending / spends* quality time with their family was particularly *prevalence / prevalent* in Europe and North America. He said: "Fathers are so focused *in / on* themselves, on their work, and at times their personal fulfillment, that they *ever / even* forget their families, leaving children and the young to their own *device / devices*." He added: "The feeling of orphanhood experienced *by / so* many young people is more profound than we might *thought / think*. They are orphans in their families because their fathers are often absent from the home, but also, and above all, because when they are *presented / present*, they do not act like fathers." He warned that fatherless families are being accepted *as / has* the norm.

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/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

Th_ h__d _f th_ R_m_n C_th_l_c Ch_rch P_p_ Fr_nc_s
h_s __ss__d __st_rn w_rn_ng t_ f_th_rs wh_ w_rk l_ng
h__rs. H_ cr_t_c_s_d w_rk_h_l_c d_ds f_r b__ng
'symb_l_c_lly __bs_nt' fr_m th__r f_m_l__s, __nd _f
__ff_ct_v_ly m_k_ng th__r ch_ldr_n '_rph_ns'. Th_ P_p_
w_s sp__k_ng t_ __c_ngr_g_t__n __t th_ V_t_c_n __n
W_dn_sd_y wh_n h_m_d_h_s pl__f_r f_th_rs t_sp_nd
m_r_t_m_w_th th__r ch_ldr_n __nd g_t m_r__nv_lv_d
__n f_m_ly l_f_. H_t_ld w_rsh_pp_rs th_t th_ __bs_nc_
__f f_th_rs __n th_f_m_ly_s __n __f th_r__s_ns th_t
ch_ldr_n __xp_r__nc__pr_bl_ms gr_w_ng __p. H_s__d
f_th_rs wh_f_c_s_d t__m_ch __n th__r j_bs w_s __n __f
th__c__s_s __f "d_v__nc_s __f ch_ldr_n __nd
__d_l_sc_nts".

P_p_ Fr_nc_s s__d th_s pr_bl_m __f f_th_rs b__ng
__bs_ss_d w_th th__r j_bs __nd n_t sp_nd_ng q__l_ty
t_m_w_th th__r f_m_ly w_s p_rt_c_l_rly pr_v_l_nt __n
__r_p__nd N_rth __m_r_c_. H_s__d: "F_th_rs __r_s__
f_c_s_d __n th_ms_lv_s, __n th__r w_rk, __nd __t t_m_s
th__r p_rs_n_l f_l_f_llm_nt, th_t th_y __v_n f_rg_t th__r
f_m_l__s, l__v_ng ch_ldr_n __nd th_y__ng t__th__r
__wn d_v_c_s." H__dd_d: "Th_f__l_ng __f_rph_nh__d
__xp_r__nc_d by m_ny y__ng p__pl__s m_r__pr_f__nd
th_n w__m_ght th_nk. Th_y __r__rph_ns __n th__r
f_m_l__s b_c__s th__r f_th_rs __r__ft_n __bs_nt fr_m
th_h_m_, b_t_l_s_, __nd b_v__ll, b_c__s wh_n th_y
__r pr_s_nt, th_y d__n_t ct_l_k_f_th_rs." H_w_rn_d
th_t f_th_rl_ss f_m_l__s __r b__ng __cc_pt_d __s th_
n_rm.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1501/150130-workaholic-fathers.html>

the head of the roman catholic church pope francis has issued a stern warning to fathers who work long hours he criticised workaholic dads for being 'symbolically absent' from their families and of effectively making their children 'orphans' the pope was speaking to a congregation at the vatican on wednesday when he made his plea for fathers to spend more time with their children and get more involved in family life he told worshippers that the absence of fathers in the family is one of the reasons that children experience problems growing up he said fathers who focused too much on their jobs was one of the causes of "deviances of children and adolescents"

pope francis said this problem of fathers being obsessed with their jobs and not spending quality time with their family was particularly prevalent in europe and north america he said "fathers are so focused on themselves on their work and at times their personal fulfillment that they even forget their families leaving children and the young to their own devices" he added "the feeling of orphanhood experienced by many young people is more profound than we might think they are orphans in their families because their fathers are often absent from the home but also and above all because when they are present they do not act like fathers" he warned that fatherless families are being accepted as the norm

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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The head of the Roman Catholic Church Pope Francis has issued a stern warning to fathers who work long hours. He criticised workaholic dads for being 'symbolically absent' from their families, and of effectively making their children 'orphans'. The Pope was speaking to a congregation at the Vatican on Wednesday when he made his plea for fathers to spend more time with their children and get more involved in family life. He told worshippers that the absence of fathers in the family is one of the reasons that children experience problems growing up. He said fathers who focused too much on their jobs was one of the causes of "deviances of children and adolescents". Pope Francis said this problem of fathers being obsessed with their jobs and not spending quality time with their family was particularly prevalent in Europe and North America. He said: "Fathers are so focused on themselves, on their work, and at times their personal fulfillment, that they even forget their families, leaving children and the young to their own devices." He added: "The feeling of orphanhood experienced by many young people is more profound than we might think. They are orphans in their families because their fathers are often absent from the home, but also, and above all, because when they are present, they do not act like fathers." He warned that fatherless families are being accepted as the norm.

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 fathers. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

4. WORKAHOLIC: Write a magazine article about people being alcoholics. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against working long hours.

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 the Pope. Ask him three questions about fathers. Give him three ideas on how they can get a better work / family balance. 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 T d T e F f F g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. head | a. top |
| 2. stern | b. serious |
| 3. congregation | c. gathering |
| 4. plea | d. appeal |
| 5. causes | e. reasons |
| 6. obsessed | f. preoccupied |
| 7. prevalent | g. common |
| 8. fulfillment | h. satisfaction |
| 9. profound | i. far-reaching |
| 10. the norm | j. average |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The Catholic Church
2. Workaholic fathers
3. The Vatican
4. Family life
5. When they are growing up
6. North America
7. Themselves, their work, their personal fulfilment
8. Their own devices
9. Act like fathers
10. Fatherless families

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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