

Woman gives birth to nine children

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We all know what twins and triplets are. Most of us are familiar with the terms quadruplets and quintuplets. But what is the word to describe nine babies being born at the same time? The answer is... nonuplets. A 25-year-old Malian woman, Halima

Cisse, has given birth to nine healthy babies. This is a new record. The previous record was by a woman in the US who delivered eight babies (octuplets) at a single birth. People in Mali were avidly following the progress of Ms Cisse's pregnancy and she was inundated with well wishes. Malians were not the only ones who were pleasantly surprised when doctors announced the nonuplets. Ms Cisse was told she was only carrying seven babies (septuplets) after having scans.

Ms Cisse's husband told the BBC that she is in good health and that the babies (five boys and four girls) were doing well. Fanta Siby, Mali's health minister, congratulated the couple on the "happy outcome". He also praised medical teams in Morocco, which is where Ms Cisse gave birth. He also thanked Mali's president for the "political leadership and generosity" which "expedited" support for Halima. The outcome is wonderful news as it was a little touch-and-go in the early stages of the pregnancy. Gynecologists in Mali were concerned about Ms Cisse's welfare and the chances of her babies' survival. They sought the help of the hospital in Morocco where they believed she would receive better pre- and postnatal care.

Sources: bbc.com / moroccoworldnews.com / cnn.com

Writing

It would be great to be one of nine nonuplets. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

twins / triplets / babies / Mali / record / birth / pregnancy / surprised / doctors / husband / health minister / congratulations / Morocco / wonderful news / postnatal

True / False

- 1) The article says we all know what the word "triplets" means. T / F
- 2) The word to describe nine babies born at a single birth is "octuplets". T / F
- 3) The previous record was eight babies by a Mexican woman. T / F
- 4) The woman who broke the record thought she was having seven babies. T / F
- 5) The woman gave birth to five girls and four boys. T / F
- 6) Mali's president helped the woman who broke the record. T / F
- 7) Gynecologists had no concerns about the woman's welfare. T / F
- 8) Doctors thought the woman would get better care in Morocco. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. term | a. gave birth to |
| 2. previous | b. result |
| 3. delivered | c. declared |
| 4. avidly | d. looked for |
| 5. announced | e. earlier |
| 6. congratulated | f. kindness |
| 7. generosity | g. risky |
| 8. outcome | h. word |
| 9. touch-and-go | i. applauded |
| 10. sought | j. enthusiastically |

Discussion – Student A

- a) How important are siblings?
- b) What would having eight same-age siblings be like?
- c) What would the fun things be about nonuplets?
- d) Would you rather be an only child or a nonuplet?
- e) What help will the parents of the nonuplets need?
- f) How many children is it best to have?
- g) How difficult is parenting?
- h) What advice do you have for the mother?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Most of us are familiar | a. of Ms Cisse's pregnancy |
| 2. avidly following the progress | b. help of the hospital |
| 3. she was inundated with well | c. (septuplets) |
| 4. pleasantly | d. news |
| 5. she was only carrying seven babies | e. postnatal care |
| 6. congratulated the couple on the | f. with the terms |
| 7. The outcome is wonderful | g. happy outcome |
| 8. it was a little touch-and-go | h. wishes |
| 9. They sought the | i. surprised |
| 10. receive better pre- and | j. in the early stages |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What might the difficulties be of having nonuplets?
- What message would you like to send the mother?
- What gift would you buy the parents?
- Would it be difficult to name nine babies?
- How will the siblings get along with each other?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- What questions would you like to ask the mother?

Spelling

- Most of us are aifilmar with the terms
- uarqlpuedts and quintuplets
- eight babies (cuolptets) at a single birth
- avidly following the rogperss
- she was tunndaeid with well wishes
- she was only carrying seven babies - tsepetspul
- He also sidreap medical teams
- the political leadership and gseoernyti
- tpedexide support for Halima
- in the early stages of the cganrenpy
- concerned about Ms Cisse's ewrlfae
- pre- and toaspanlt care

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Their Smile

You think their smile is the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): photos, hugs or playing.

Role B – Photos

You think photos are the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): their smile, hugs or playing.

Role C – Hugs

You think hugs are the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): photos, their smile or playing.

Role D – Playing

You think playing is the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): photos, hugs or their smile.

Speaking – Babies

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about babies at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| • Hugs | • Their smile |
| • Their sleep | • Their smell |
| • Their laugh | • Their clothes |
| • Their first tooth | • Photos |

Answers – True False

1 T	2 F	3 F	4 T	5 F	6 T	7 F	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.