

Surrogate mother donates 5 boys (Thu 28 Apr, 2005)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about: kindness / selflessness / baby boys / surrogacy / multiple births / huge surprises / making ends meet / financial problems ... For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

BABY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word “baby”. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

KINDNESS: Write down some kind things you have done recently and some of the kindest things you have ever done. Talk with your partner about these acts of kindness. Repeat the activity by writing down the kind (or unkind) things people have done for you.

BE KIND: Look at the following list of kind acts. Talk with your partner / group about which you do / would do. How often do you do these? When was the last time you did any of these? How did you feel after? Was it a sudden decision to help?

- Give your seat on the train or bus to someone else.
- Allow another shopper at the supermarket checkout to go ahead of you.
- Smile and say “hello” to a stranger in the street.
- Donate some money to charity.
- Tell someone that they are great at their job.
- Lend someone some money and tell the person you don’t want it back.
- When asked for directions, take the person to where they want to go.
- Give a homeless person some food or money.

FIVE BABY BOYS: (1) In pairs / groups, spend a minute or two writing down (a) the problems and (b) the joys and good things about having five baby boys. After you have finished, talk about the things you wrote. (2) Change partners. Tell your new partners the problems you wrote down. Your new partners will give you reasons why these are not problems at all.

2-MINUTE BOYS OR GIRLS DEBATES: Face each other in pairs and engage in the following fun 2-minute “debates”. Students A take the first argument, students B the second. Rotate pairs to ensure a lively pace and noise level is kept:

- a. Baby boys are cuter. vs. Baby girls are cuter.
- b. Boys are naughtier. vs. Girls are naughtier.
- c. Girls are more intelligent. vs. Boys are more intelligent.
- d. Girls are quieter and better mannered. vs. Boys are better fun.
- e. Boys sulk too much. vs. Girls cry too much.
- f. You can play sports with boys. vs. You can play the same sports with girls.
- g. Boys grow up to be nicer teenagers. vs. Teenage boys are not nice.
- h. Girls need expensive clothes. vs. Boys need expensive toys.
- i. Girls are more useful around the house. vs. Boys are way more useful.
- j. Girls getting boyfriends is a worry. vs. Boys getting girlfriends is a bigger worry.

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PRE-READING

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'give' and 'birth'.

TRUE / FALSE: Look at the headline and guess whether these sentences are true or false:

- a. A woman was unbelievably kind. T / F
- b. A woman gave birth to five babies in five minutes. T / F
- c. A woman gave birth and suddenly decided to give her babies to a childless couple. T / F
- d. A woman tried to sell her babies for \$15,000 each. T / F
- e. The woman was very surprised at being pregnant with five babies. T / F
- f. The genetic parents of the babies are amazingly rich. T / F
- g. The surrogate mother said raising five kids isn't so expensive. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | | |
|----|----------------|---------------|
| a. | amazing | substitute |
| b. | selflessness | gigantic |
| c. | surrogate | survive |
| d. | sum | bringing up |
| e. | huge | unbelievable |
| f. | accept | amount |
| g. | make ends meet | take |
| h. | raising | unselfishness |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| a. | amazing act | a sum of \$15,000 |
| b. | gave | problem |
| c. | surrogate | birth |
| d. | They agreed on | payment |
| e. | Teresa got a huge | ends meet |
| f. | she refused to accept | mother |
| g. | make | surprise |
| h. | financial | of kindness and selflessness |

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READING:

SPOT THE MISTAKES: Half of the words in bold in each paragraph are right and half are wrong. Circle the incorrect words and try to replace them with words that fit.

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BNE: An amazing **act** of kindness and selflessness happened earlier today. A woman **took** birth to five baby boys in five minutes and then **handed** them to a couple who were unable to have **parents**. Teresa Anderson, 25, decided one year ago to be a surrogate mother for Luisa Gonzalez and Enrique Moreno. They agreed on a **sum** of \$15,000 for Ms Anderson to have Ms Gonzalez and Mr Morenos' child. The agreement was, of course, for just one baby. Teresa got a **tiny** surprise when she was told she was **pregnant** with five babies. Following her discovery, she refused to accept payment from the genetic parents. She knew they had to make **beginnings** meet and thought that raising five kids would be a financial problem. Teresa is a student nurse and has two children of her own.

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DISCUSSION

- a. How did this article make you feel?
- b. Were you surprised at anything you read in the article?
- c. Did reading the article change your opinion of people?
- d. What do you think of babies?
- e. Which are better, baby boys or baby girls?
- f. How many babies would you like?
- g. Are you a very kind person?
- h. Have you ever done anything amazingly kind?
- i. What is the kindest thing anyone has done for you?
- j. Is everyone in the world kind?
- k. Do you know any unkind people?
- l. What do you know about surrogacy?
- m. What do you think about surrogacy?
- n. What do you think about Teresa Anderson's act of kindness?
- o. Would you have said no to the \$15,000?
- p. When was the last time you got a huge surprise?
- q. Do you have any financial problems?
- r. Is it difficult for you to make ends meet?
- s. Did you like this discussion?
- t. Teacher / Student additional questions.

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 information on surrogacy. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. MY KIND SCHEDULE:** Write a list of kind things you will do within the next week. Try and do them. Report to your classmates on your success.
- 4. LETTER:** Write a letter to Teresa Anderson telling her what you think of her kind act.

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SPEAKING:

KIND PERSON: Think of a person you know who should be kinder. Write down the things you want that person to do to be kinder. Tell your partner about this person and why he/she is unkind. Think of reasons why the person might be unkind and what you could do to make him/her become kinder.

KIND HEADLINES: In pairs / groups, choose one of these (imaginary) headlines below and make a story about it. You need to develop the background, characters, what happened, what people said etc. Change partners / groups and report the story you created. Be prepared to answer questions from your new partners.

China and Japan are friends again
Roses for everyone
Israelis and Palestinians have a big party

World Kindness Day is a huge success
George W. Bush changes his mind
Old lady helps the man who stole her car

Story headline:	
Background	
People	
What happened?	
Why was it kind?	
What did the main character say?	
What did the other main character say?	
What did person X say?	
Conclusion	

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SPOT THE MISTAKES: The correct words are those in bold.

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BNE: An amazing act of kindness and selflessness happened earlier today. A woman **gave** birth to five baby boys in five minutes and then handed them to a couple who were unable to have **children**. Teresa Anderson, 25, decided one year ago to be a surrogate mother for Luisa Gonzalez and Enrique Moreno. They agreed on a sum of \$15,000 for Ms Anderson to have Ms Gonzalez and Mr Morenos' child. The agreement was, of course, for just one baby. Teresa got a **huge** surprise when she was told she was pregnant with five babies. Following her discovery, she refused to accept payment from the genetic parents. She knew they had to make **ends** meet and thought that raising five kids would be a financial problem. Teresa is a student nurse and has two children of her own.