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Celebrity deaths increase suicide in Korea

16th January, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

Korea's Ministry of Health and Welfare has told reporters that 15,000 people a year kill themselves in South Korea. This means the country has the highest suicide rate of any developed country in the world. Another 100,000 people end up in hospital after trying to commit suicide. Every day, about 43 Koreans take their own life. The Ministry said that the biggest reason is stress at school or work. Other reasons include loneliness, and the sadness when another family member commits suicide. A church official said the high rate is a danger to Korean society because the country's birth rate is so low. He said: "If the high suicide trend continues, the whole society could find itself on the edge of a cliff."

This growing problem is made worse because of copycat behaviour when a celebrity commits suicide in Korea. Research shows that the suicide rate jumps around 30 per cent in the two months after a celebrity suicide. News reports of a star's suicide can result in 600 Koreans ending their own life. Many people say television is to blame because it spends too much time reporting on news of suicides and this gives people the idea they too can end their life. The Korea Times newspaper said the government should do more to help people. It said: "To lower the suicide rate, Korea should become a more compassionate and caring society even at the expense of a slower-growing economy."

Sources: http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2013/01/09/2013010901227.html
<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/South-Korea-tops-Asia-in-unstoppable-scourge-of-suicide-26830.html>

WARM-UPS

1. SUICIDE: Walk around the class and talk to other students about suicide. 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.

health and welfare / suicide rate / developed nation / hospital / biggest reason / trend / copycat behavior / celebrity / television is to blame / newspaper / compassionate

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

3. SOCIETY: What can we do about these problems? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How big a problem is it?	How to help people?
Loneliness		
Stress		
Crime		
No jobs		
Divorce		
Poor health		

4. TV: Students A **strongly** believe TV is a bad influence on people; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. STRESS: What is the biggest reason for stress? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the biggest at the top. Change partners often.

- exams
- English level
- money
- family
- friends
- transport
- your town / city
- life

6. COPYCAT: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'copycat'. 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/1301/130116-suicide.html>

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

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. Around 15,000 Koreans kill themselves every year. | T / F |
| b. S. Korea has the second highest suicide rate of all developed nations. | T / F |
| c. About 100,000 failed suicides end up in hospital. | T / F |
| d. A church official said many Koreans will jump off a cliff. | T / F |
| e. A Korean celebrity suicide leads to a 30% rise in the suicide rate. | T / F |
| f. A Korean celebrity suicide leads to around 600 other deaths. | T / F |
| g. Very few people blame television for the suicide rate. | T / F |
| h. The Korea Times said the government should do nothing. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. reporters | a. finish |
| 2. nation | b. actions |
| 3. end up | c. carries on |
| 4. loneliness | d. country |
| 5. continues | e. at fault |
| 6. behaviour | f. reduce |
| 7. jumps | g. increases |
| 8. to blame | h. journalists |
| 9. lower | i. sympathetic |
| 10. compassionate | j. lack of friends |

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. 15,000 people a year kill | a. up in hospital |
| 2. the highest suicide rate | b. is to blame |
| 3. 100,000 people end | c. rate is so low |
| 4. the biggest reason | d. of any developed nation |
| 5. the country's birth | e. behaviour |
| 6. copycat | f. too can end their life |
| 7. the suicide rate jumps | g. themselves in S. Korea |
| 8. Many people say television | h. and caring society |
| 9. this gives people the idea they | i. is stress |
| 10. a more compassionate | j. around 30 per cent |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

Korea's Ministry of Health and Welfare has told reporters that 15,000 people a year kill (1) _____ in South Korea. This means the country has the highest suicide rate of any (2) _____ country in the world. Another 100,000 people (3) _____ up in hospital after trying to commit suicide. Every day, about 43 Koreans take their (4) _____ life. The Ministry said that the biggest reason is stress at school or work. Other reasons (5) _____ loneliness, and the sadness when another family (6) _____ commits suicide. A church official said the high rate is a danger to Korean society because the country's (7) _____ rate is so low. He said: "If the high suicide trend continues, the whole society could find itself on the (8) _____ of a cliff."

include
end
themselves
edge
own
member
developed
birth

This growing problem is made worse because of (9) _____ behaviour when a celebrity commits suicide in Korea. Research shows that the suicide rates (10) _____ around 30 per cent in the two months after a (11) _____ suicide. News reports of a star's suicide can result in 600 Koreans ending their own life. Many people say television is to (12) _____ because it spends too much time reporting on news of suicides and this gives people the (13) _____ they too can end their life. The Korea Times newspaper said the government should do more to help people. It said: "To (14) _____ the suicide rate, Korea should become a more compassionate and (15) _____ society even at the expense of a slower-growing (16) _____."

idea
celebrity
caring
copycat
economy
jumps
lower
blame

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

- 1) the country has the highest suicide rate _____ in the world
 - a. of all developed nations
 - b. of any developed nation
 - c. of an e-developed nation
 - d. of any developed national
- 2) Another 100,000 people end up in hospital after _____.
 - a. trying too commit suicide
 - b. trying to commit suicidal
 - c. trying to come it suicide
 - d. trying to commit suicide
- 3) The Ministry said that the biggest reason is _____ work
 - a. stress at school or
 - b. stress of school or
 - c. stress at school and
 - d. stresses at school or
- 4) A church official said the high _____ Korean society
 - a. rates are a danger to
 - b. rate is a danger to
 - c. rate is a dangerous to
 - d. rate is a real danger to
- 5) the whole society could find itself on _____.
 - a. the edge of a cliff
 - b. the side of a cliff
 - c. the bottom of a cliff
 - d. the top of a cliff
- 6) This growing problem is made worse because _____.
 - a. of copycat behaviour
 - b. of top-dog behaviour
 - c. of bullish behaviour
 - d. of monkeying around behaviour
- 7) the suicide rate jumps around 30 per cent in the two months _____.
 - a. after a celebrity suicide
 - b. before a celebrity suicide
 - c. during a celebrity suicide
 - d. while a celebrity suicide
- 8) Many people say _____.
 - a. television is too blame
 - b. television is two blames
 - c. television is too blamed
 - d. television is to blame
- 9) this gives people the idea _____ their life
 - a. they toucan end
 - b. they too canned
 - c. them too can end
 - d. they too can end
- 10) Korea should become a more compassionate _____.
 - a. and careful society
 - b. but caring society
 - c. so caring society
 - d. and caring society

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LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

Korea's Ministry of Health and Welfare has told reporters that 15,000 people a year (1) _____ South Korea. This means the country has the highest suicide (2) _____ country in the world. Another 100,000 people end up in hospital (3) _____ suicide. Every day, about 43 Koreans take their own life. The Ministry said that the biggest reason is stress at school or work. Other (4) _____, and the sadness when another family member commits suicide. A church official said the (5) _____ to Korean society because the country's birth rate is so low. He said: "If the high suicide trend continues, the whole society could find itself on (6) _____."

This growing problem is made worse (7) _____ behaviour when a celebrity commits suicide in Korea. Research shows that the suicide rates (8) _____ per cent in the two months after a celebrity suicide. News reports of a star's suicide can result in 600 Koreans (9) _____. Many people say television is to blame because it spends too much time reporting on news of suicides and this gives people the idea (10) _____ their life. The Korea Times newspaper said the government (11) _____ help people. It said: "To lower the suicide rate, Korea should become a more compassionate and caring society (12) _____ of a slower-growing economy."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

1. What ministry is mentioned in the first sentence?

2. How many people end up in hospital?

3. Around how many Koreans commit suicide every day?

4. What is the biggest reason for suicide in Korea?

5. What rate is very low in Korea?

6. What behaviour does a celebrity suicide lead to in Korea?

7. How many people will also commit suicide after a celebrity death?

8. What do many people blame for the high suicide rate?

9. What does the Korea Times think the government should do?

10. What did the Korea Times say Korea should become?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

1. What ministry is mentioned in the first line?
 - a) Foreign Affairs
 - b) Trade and Industry
 - c) Education
 - d) Health and Welfare
2. What does the article say is the highest in Korea?
 - a) developed country
 - b) suicide rate
 - c) age of people to live
 - d) number of births
3. What happens to 100,000 who attempt suicide but fail?
 - a) they must join a special help group
 - b) nothing
 - c) they have to go to a police station
 - d) they end up in hospital
4. Which of these is not given as a reason for suicide in the article?
 - a) stress
 - b) sadness
 - c) divorce
 - d) loneliness
5. What did a church official say Korea could be on the edge of?
 - a) a black hole
 - b) a road
 - c) a cube
 - d) a cliff
6. What kind of behaviour makes the problem of suicides worse?
 - a) monkeying around
 - b) bullish
 - c) copycat
 - d) top-dog
7. For how long does the suicide rate jump 30%?
 - a) two months
 - b) two days
 - c) two weeks
 - d) two years
8. How many people can end their life after a celebrity death?
 - a) 60,000
 - b) 6,000
 - c) 600
 - d) 60
9. What do many people blame for the high suicide rate?
 - a) the Internet
 - b) television
 - c) the government
 - d) globalisation
10. What did the Korea Times say the government should do?
 - a) more
 - b) something
 - c) introduce new laws
 - d) build more hospitals

LINE-BY-LINE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

With a partner, read the first line of the article. Talk about it. Repeat for the rest of the article.

Korea's Ministry of Health and Welfare has told reporters that 15,000 people a year kill themselves in South Korea. This means the country has the highest suicide rate of any developed nation in the world. Another 100,000 people end up in hospital after trying to commit suicide. Every day, about 43 Koreans take their own life. The Ministry said that the biggest reason is stress at school or work. Other reasons include loneliness, and the sadness when another family member commits suicide. A church official said the high rate is a danger to Korean society because the country's birth rate is so low. He said: "If the high suicide trend continues, the whole society could find itself on the edge of a cliff."

This growing problem is made worse because of copycat behaviour when a celebrity commits suicide in Korea. Research shows that the suicide rate jumps around 30 per cent in the two months after a celebrity suicide. News reports of a star's suicide can result in 600 Koreans ending their own life. Many people say television is to blame because it spends too much time reporting on news of suicides and this gives people the idea they too can end their life. The Korea Times newspaper said the government should do more to help people. It said: "To lower the suicide rate, Korea should become a more compassionate and caring society even at the expense of a slower-growing economy."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

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

commit	suicide
---------------	----------------

- 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">• reporters• 100,000• 43• reasons• birth• edge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• copycat• jumps• result• spends• lower• slower
---	--

SUICIDE SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

Write five GOOD questions about suicide 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.

SUICIDE 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 'suicide'?
- c) What do you think of the numbers of suicides in this article?
- d) What can society do to stop people taking their own lives?
- e) Is suicide a taboo subject in your culture?
- f) What do you think doctors say to people who attempted suicide?
- g) Is committing suicide being selfish?
- h) What do you think of websites that tell people how to end their life?
- i) What do you think of assisted suicide?
- j) Why might Korea "find itself on the edge of a cliff"?

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SUICIDE DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What do you think of celebrity copycat suicides?
- c) Why do you think copycat suicide happens?
- d) Someone said was is a fundamental human right. What do you think?
- e) How much is TV to blame for suicide?
- f) Should there be a limit on the time a TV station can spend on reporting a suicide?
- g) If you commit suicide, do you go to heaven or hell?
- h) What should the government do to prevent suicide?
- i) How caring and compassionate is your country?
- j) What questions would you like to ask a suicide expert?

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. _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

Korea's Ministry of Health and Welfare has (1) _____ reporters that 15,000 people a year kill themselves in South Korea. This means the country has the highest suicide rate of (2) _____ developed country in the world. Another 100,000 people (3) _____ up in hospital after trying to commit suicide. Every day, about 43 Koreans take their own (4) _____. The Ministry said that the biggest reason is stress at school or work. Other reasons (5) _____ loneliness, and the sadness when another family member commits suicide. A church official said the high rate is a danger to Korean society because the country's birth rate is so low. He said: "If the high suicide trend continues, the whole society could (6) _____ itself on the edge of a cliff."

This growing problem is made worse because of (7) _____ behaviour when a celebrity commits suicide in Korea. Research shows that the suicide rate jumps around 30 per cent (8) _____ the two months after a celebrity suicide. News reports of a star's suicide can result (9) _____ 600 Koreans ending their own life. Many people say television is to blame because it spends too much time reporting on news of suicides and this gives people the idea they (10) _____ can end their life. The Korea Times newspaper said the government should do more to help people. It said: "To (11) _____ the suicide rate, Korea should become a more compassionate and caring society even at the expense of a (12) _____ -growing economy."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) spoken | (b) said | (c) shouted | (d) told |
| 2. | (a) most | (b) some | (c) all | (d) any |
| 3. | (a) send | (b) end | (c) mend | (d) lend |
| 4. | (a) living | (b) death | (c) life | (d) alive |
| 5. | (a) includes | (b) including | (c) include | (d) inclusion |
| 6. | (a) find | (b) search | (c) look for | (d) mistake |
| 7. | (a) top-dog | (b) copycat | (c) bullish | (d) fishy |
| 8. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) at | (d) by |
| 9. | (a) by | (b) in | (c) on | (d) at |
| 10. | (a) although | (b) well | (c) too | (d) very |
| 11. | (a) lowly | (b) lows | (c) lower | (d) low |
| 12. | (a) reverse | (b) speed | (c) stopping | (d) slower |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

Paragraph 1

1. 15,000 people a year kill mstsehvlee
2. of any dpelvedoe nation
3. Other reasons Inuecid loneliness
4. sctmiom suicide
5. the high suicide rnted
6. the whole seicyto

Paragraph 2

7. coatpyc behaviour
8. after a terclbey suicide
9. gnendi their own life
10. television is to elabm
11. more compassionate and gancir
12. a slower-growing ymoeonc

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () themselves in South Korea. This means the country has the highest suicide rate of any developed
- () government should do more to help people. It said: "To lower the suicide rate, Korea should become
- () low. He said: "If the high suicide trend continues, the whole society could find itself on the edge of a cliff."
- () 43 Koreans take their own life. The Ministry said that the biggest reason is stress at school or work. Other reasons include
- () This growing problem is made worse because of copycat behaviour when a celebrity commits
- () loneliness, and the sadness when another family member commits suicide. A church
- () official said the high rate is a danger to Korean society because the country's birth rate is so
- () people the idea they too can end their life. The Korea Times newspaper said the
- () blame because it spends too much time reporting on news of suicides and this gives
- () nation in the world. Another 100,000 people end up in hospital after trying to commit suicide. Every day, about
- (**1**) Korea's Ministry of Health and Welfare has told reporters that 15,000 people a year kill
- () reports of a star's suicide can result in 600 Koreans ending their own life. Many people say television is to
- () a more compassionate and caring society even at the expense of a slower-growing economy."
- () suicide in Korea. Research shows that the suicide rates jumps around 30 per cent in the two months after a celebrity suicide. News

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PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

1. has suicide This country highest the the rate means.

2. end hospital 100,000 people in Another up .

3. life Every day , about 43 Koreans take their own.

4. rate danger society high a Korean The is to.

5. a on cliff the edge Find of itself.

6. behavior Made because copycat worse of.

7. a suicide News of star's reports.

8. is television say people Many blame to.

9. much time It reporting spends on too news.

10. people do more The to government help should.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

Korea's Ministry of Health and Welfare has *told* / *telling* reporters that 15,000 people a year kill *ourselves* / *themselves* in South Korea. This means the country has the highest *suicidal* / *suicide* rate of any developed country in the world. Another 100,000 people end *up* / *down* in hospital after trying to commit suicide. Every day, about 43 Koreans *take* / *taken* their own life. The Ministry said that the biggest *reason* / *reasoning* is stress at school or work. Other reasons *including* / *include* loneliness, and the sadness when *another* / *other* family member commits suicide. A church official said the high rate is a danger *at* / *to* Korean society because the country's birth rate is so low. He said: "If the high suicide trend *continues* / *continuing*, the whole society could find itself on the edge of a cliff."

This growing problem is made *worsen* / *worse* because of copycat behaviour when a *celebrity* / *celebration* commits suicide in Korea. Research shows that the suicide rate *jumpers* / *jumps* around 30 per cent in the two months after a celebrity suicide. News reports *at* / *of* a star's suicide can result in 600 Koreans *ending* / *ended* their own life. Many people *speak* / *say* television is to *blame* / *flame* because it spends too much time reporting on news of suicides and this *makes* / *gives* people the idea they too can end their life. The Korea Times newspaper said the government should do more to help people. It said: "To *lower* / *low* the suicide rate, Korea should become a more compassionate and caring society even at the *expensive* / *expense* of a slower-growing economy."

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/1301/130116-suicide.html>

K_r__'s M_n_stry _f H__lth _nd W_lf_r_ h_s t_ld
r_p_r_t_rs th_t 15,000 p__pl_ _y__r k_ll th_ms_lv_s _n
S__th K_r__. Th_s m__ns th_ c__ntry h_s th_ h_g_h_st
s__c_d_r_t_ _f _ny d_v_l_p_d c__ntry _n th_ w_rld.
_n_th_r 100,000 p__pl_ _nd _p _n h_sp_t_l _ft_r
try_ng t_ c_m_m_t s__c_d_. _v_ry d_y, _b__t 43
K_r__ns t_k_ th__r _wn l_f_. Th_ M_n_stry s__d th_t
th_ b_gg_st r__s_n _s str_ss _t sch__l _r w_rk. _th_r
r__s_ns _ncl_d l_n l_n_ss, _nd th_ s_dn_ss wh_n
_n_th_r f_m_ly m_mb_r c_m_m_ts s__c_d_. _ch_rch
_ff_c__l s__d th_ h_g_h_r_t_ s __d_ng_r_t_ K_r__n
s_c__ty b_c__s th_ c__ntry's b_rth_r_t_ s_s_l_w. H_
s__d: "_f th_ h_g_h_s__c_d_tr_nd c_nt_n__s, th_ wh_l_
s_c__ty c__ld f_nd _ts_lf _n th_ _dg_ _f _cl_ff."

Th_s gr_w_ng pr_bl_m _s m_d_w_rs_b_c__s _f
c_pyc_t b_h_v__r wh_n _c_l_br_ty c_m_m_ts s__c_d_
_n K_r__. R_s__rch sh_ws th_t th_ s__c_d_r_t_ j_mps
_r__nd 30 p_r_c_nt _n th_ tw_ m_nths _ft_r _c_l_br_ty
s__c_d_. N_ws r_p_rts _f _st_r's s__c_d_c_n_r_s_l_t
_n 600 K_r__ns _nd_ng th__r _wn l_f_. M_ny p__pl_
s_y_t_l_v_s__n _s_t bl_m_b_c__s _t sp_nds t__
m_ch t_m_r_p_r_tng _n n_ws _f s__c_d_s _nd th_s
g_v_s p__pl_ th_ _d__ th_y t__c_n _nd th__r l_f_.
Th_ K_r__ T_m_s n_wsp_p_r s__d th_ g_v_rnm_nt
sh__ld d_m_r_t_h_l_p p__pl_. _t s__d: "T_l_w_r th_
s__c_d_r_t_, K_r__ sh__ld b_c_m_ _m_r_
c_m_p_ss__n_t _nd c_r_ng s_c__ty _v_n _t th_
_xp_ns_ _f _sl_w_r-gr_w_ng _c_n_my."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

korea's ministry of health and welfare has told reporters that 15000 people a year kill themselves in south korea this means the country has the highest suicide rate of any developed country in the world another 100000 people end up in hospital after trying to commit suicide every day about 43 koreans take their own life the ministry said that the biggest reason is stress at school or work other reasons include loneliness and the sadness when another family member commits suicide a church official said the high rate is a danger to korean society because the country's birth rate is so low he said "if the high suicide trend continues the whole society could find itself on the edge of a cliff"

this growing problem is made worse because of copycat behaviour when a celebrity commits suicide in korea research shows that the suicide rate jumps around 30 per cent in the two months after a celebrity suicide news reports of a star's suicide can result in 600 koreans ending their own life many people say television is to blame because it spends too much time reporting on news of suicides and this gives people the idea they too can end their life the korea times newspaper said the government should do more to help people it said "to lower the suicide rate korea should become a more compassionate and caring society even at the expense of a slower-growing economy"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

Korea's Ministry of Health and Welfare has told reporters that 15,000 people a year kill themselves in South Korea. This means the country has the highest suicide rate of any developed country in the world. Another 100,000 people end up in hospital after trying to commit suicide. Every day, about 43 Koreans take their own life. The Ministry said that the biggest reason is stress at school or work. Other reasons include loneliness, and the sadness when another family member commits suicide. A church official said the high rate is a danger to Korean society because the country's birth rate is so low. He said: "If the high suicide trend continues, the whole society could find itself on the edge of a cliff." This growing problem is made worse because of copycat behaviour when a celebrity commits suicide in Korea. Research shows that the suicide rate jumps around 30 percent in the two months after a celebrity suicide. News reports of a star's suicide can result in 600 Koreans ending their own life. Many people say television is to blame because it spends too much time reporting on news of suicides and this gives people the idea they too can end their life. The Korea Times newspaper said the government should do more to help people. It said: "To lower the suicide rate, Korea should become a more compassionate and caring society even at the expense of a slower-growing economy."

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1301/130116-suicide.html>

A high suicide rate in a country means the government is doing something wrong.
Discuss.

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 organizations that try to prevent suicide. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. COPYCAT: Write a magazine article about the copycat suicides in Korea. Include imaginary interviews with government officials.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

4. LETTER: Write a letter to Korea's. Ask her three questions about the high suicide rate in Korea. Give her three ideas on how to reduce it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. reporters | a. journalists |
| 2. nation | b. country |
| 3. end up | c. finish |
| 4. loneliness | d. lack of friends |
| 5. continues | e. carries on |
| 6. behaviour | f. actions |
| 7. jumps | g. increases |
| 8. to blame | h. at fault |
| 9. lower | i. reduce |
| 10. compassionate | j. sympathetic |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Health and Welfare
2. 100,000
3. 43
4. Stress
5. The birth rate
6. Copycat behaviour
7. 600
8. Television
9. More to help
10. A more compassionate and caring society

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 ;-)