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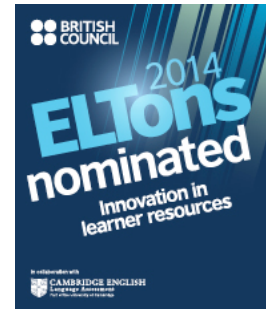
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Level 3

Number of children in Japan at record low

7th May, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>



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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>

The number of children in Japan aged 14 and under is the lowest ever. Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications released figures yesterday, just before the country's Children's Day national holiday on May the 5th. The figures show that the number of children in Japan fell by 160,000 from the previous year. It is the 33rd year in a row for the birth rate to decrease. There are 13 million fewer children in Japan today than there were in 1950. The Ministry said that out of 30 countries with a population of over 40 million, Japan has the smallest percentage of kids. Children make up 12.8 per cent of Japan's population. In France, the figure is 18.5 per cent and in the United States, it is 19.5 per cent.

While the number of children in Japan is going down, the number of old people is increasing. The over-65s now make up a record 25.6 per cent of the Japanese population. The government has warned that these trends will continue for decades to come. It said the proportion of people aged 65 or over could reach nearly 40 per cent in 2060. This will make life in Japan almost impossible for young, working people. They will have to pay much higher taxes to support the over-65s. The Japanese economy will also be in big trouble because there will not be enough young people to work. Japan's government has tried many things to get people to have more babies, but nothing seems to be working.

Sources: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/05/04/national/number-of-children-in-japan-drops-for-33rd-year/>
<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/asia/408089/number-of-children-in-japan-declines-for-33rd-year-in-a-row>
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/04/japan-population-age-children>

WARM-UPS

1. BIRTH RATES: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about birth rates. 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.

children / communications / figures / previous year / in a row / birth rate / population / old people / government / decades / impossible / economy / big trouble / babies

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

3. CHILDREN: What are they like at different stages of their life? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What they do	What they need most
Newborn		
6 months		
18 months		
4 years old		
9 years old		
14 years old		

4. BONUSES: Students A **strongly** believe governments should pay bonuses for couples to have children; Students B **strongly** believe that's silly. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. MORE BABIES: Rank these with your partner. Put the best ideas to get couples to have more babies at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- cash bonuses
- free house for four babies
- more holidays from work
- a daily helper from 4 babies
- free education to university
- award from the government
- free health care
- other _____

6. BABY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "baby". 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/1405/140507-children.html>

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

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. The number of children under 14 in Japan is the lowest ever. | T / F |
| b. There were only 160,000 births in Japan last year. | T / F |
| c. The birth rate has been falling for over 40 years. | T / F |
| d. Children make up almost 20 percent of population in the USA. | T / F |
| e. Just over a quarter of Japan's population is over 65. | T / F |
| f. The over-65s could be 40% of Japan's population by 2060. | T / F |
| g. There will always be enough young people to do jobs. | T / F |
| h. Japan's projects to get people to have more babies are working. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. ever | a. numbers |
| 2. released | b. attempted |
| 3. figures | c. going up |
| 4. in a row | d. issued |
| 5. decrease | e. advised |
| 6. increasing | f. go down |
| 7. warned | g. in history |
| 8. support | h. having an effect |
| 9. tried | i. one after the other |
| 10. working | j. look after |

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The number of children | a. will continue |
| 2. the lowest | b. children in Japan |
| 3. fell by 160,000 from | c. to be working |
| 4. There are 13 million fewer | d. 65s |
| 5. Children make up 12.8 per cent | e. ever |
| 6. The over- | f. in Japan aged 14 |
| 7. these trends | g. much higher taxes |
| 8. for decades | h. the previous year |
| 9. have to pay | i. to come |
| 10. nothing seems | j. of Japan's population |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>

The number of children in Japan aged 14 and under is the lowest (1) _____. Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications released (2) _____ yesterday, just before the country's Children's Day national holiday on May the 5th. The figures (3) _____ that the number of children in Japan fell by 160,000 from the (4) _____ year. It is the 33rd year in a row for the birth (5) _____ to decrease. There are 13 million (6) _____ children in Japan today than there were in 1950. The Ministry said that out of 30 countries with a population of over 40 million, Japan has the (7) _____ percentage of kids. Children (8) _____ up 12.8 per cent of Japan's population. In France, the figure is 18.5 per cent and in the United States, it is 19.5 per cent.

previous
smallest
figures
make
ever
rate
fewer
show

While the number of children in Japan is going down, the number of old people is (9) _____. The over-65s now make up a record 25.6 per cent of the Japanese population. The government has (10) _____ that these trends will continue for (11) _____ to come. It said the proportion of people aged 65 or over could reach (12) _____ 40 per cent in 2060. This will make life in Japan almost (13) _____ for young, working people. They will have to pay much higher taxes to support the over-65s. The Japanese economy will also be in big (14) _____ because there will not be enough young people to work. Japan's government has tried many (15) _____ to get people to have more babies, but nothing (16) _____ to be working.

trouble
things
decades
increasing
seems
nearly
warned
impossible

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>

- 1) The number of children in Japan aged 14 and under is _____
 - a. the low its ever
 - b. the lowest even
 - c. the lowest never
 - d. the lowest ever
- 2) the number of children in Japan fell by 160,000 from _____
 - a. the previously year
 - b. the previous ear
 - c. the previous year
 - d. the previously ear
- 3) It is the 33rd year in a row for the birth _____
 - a. rate too decrease
 - b. rate to decrease
 - c. rate two decrease
 - d. rate tow decrease
- 4) There are 13 million fewer children in Japan today than there _____
 - a. were in 1950s
 - b. were in 1950
 - c. were in 1951
 - d. were in 1915
- 5) In France, the figure is 18.5 per cent and in the United States, _____
 - a. it is 19.5 per cent
 - b. it is 90.5 per cent
 - c. it is 19.9 per cent
 - d. it is 90.9 per cent
- 6) While the number of children in Japan is going down, the number of old _____
 - a. people are increasing
 - b. people this increasing
 - c. people is increasing
 - d. people is increase in
- 7) The government has warned that these trends will continue for _____
 - a. decades to come
 - b. arcades to come
 - c. recedes to come
 - d. barricades to come
- 8) They will have to pay much higher taxes to support _____
 - a. the uner-65s
 - b. the overly-65s
 - c. the over-60's fives
 - d. the over sixty and fives
- 9) The Japanese economy will also be _____
 - a. in big trouble
 - b. on big trouble
 - c. in bigger trouble
 - d. on bigger trouble
- 10) Japan's government has tried many things to get people to _____
 - a. have more babe ease
 - b. have most babies
 - c. have many babies
 - d. have more babies

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>

The number of children in Japan aged (1) _____ the lowest ever. Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications released figures yesterday, (2) _____ Children's Day national holiday on May the 5th. The figures show that the number of children in Japan fell by 160,000 (3) _____ year. It is the 33rd year in a row for the birth rate to decrease. There are 13 (4) _____ in Japan today than there were in 1950. The Ministry said that out of 30 countries with a population of over 40 million, Japan has (5) _____ of kids. Children make up 12.8 per cent of Japan's population. In France, the (6) _____ and in the United States, it is 19.5 per cent.

While the number of children in Japan is going down, the number of old (7) _____. The over-65s now make up a record 25.6 per cent of the Japanese population. The government has warned (8) _____ will continue for decades to come. It said the proportion of people aged 65 or over (9) _____ 40 per cent in 2060. This will make life in Japan almost impossible for young, working people. They will have to (10) _____ taxes to support the over-65s. The Japanese economy will also be in big trouble because there will (11) _____ young people to work. Japan's government has tried many things to get people to have more babies, (12) _____ to be working.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>

1. What is at the lowest ever rate in Japan?

2. What happened on May the 5th?

3. For how many years has the birth rate been declining in Japan?

4. How many fewer children are there in Japan today than in 1950?

5. What percentage of the USA population are children?

6. What is increasing in Japan?

7. What is the proportion of over-65s in Japan?

8. When might the over-65s be 40% of the population?

9. What will young people have to pay in the future?

10. What has Japan's government tried to do?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>

1. What is at the lowest ever rate in Japan?
 - a) figures
 - b) inflation
 - c) the number of under-14s
 - d) children over 15
2. What happened on May the 5th?
 - a) Children's Day
 - b) Figures Day
 - c) Baby's Day
 - d) Communications Day
3. For how many years has the birth rate been declining in Japan?
 - a) 30
 - b) 31
 - c) 32
 - d) 33
4. How many fewer children are there in Japan today than in 1950?
 - a) 130,000
 - b) 13,000,000
 - c) 13 billion
 - d) 30 million
5. What percentage of the USA population are children?
 - a) 12.8%
 - b) 18.5%
 - c) 19.5%
 - d) 33%
6. What is increasing in Japan?
 - a) the price of baby food
 - b) the number of old people
 - c) records
 - d) the population
7. What is the proportion of over-65s in Japan?
 - a) 26.5%
 - b) 56.2%
 - c) 62.5%
 - d) 25.6%
8. When might the over-65s be 40% of the population?
 - a) 2050
 - b) 2060
 - c) 2080
 - d) 2090
9. What will young people have to pay in the future?
 - a) higher taxes
 - b) a baby tax
 - c) new Japanese dollars
 - d) the price
10. What has Japan's government tried to do?
 - a) support the over-65s
 - b) increase the retirement age
 - c) get people working
 - d) get couples to have babies

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>

Role A – Cash bonus for each baby

You think a cash bonus for each baby is the best way to get couples to have more children. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a free home helper, longer paid maternity leave or free lifetime education.

Role B – Free home helper

You think a free home helper is the best way to get couples to have more children. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a cash bonus for each baby, longer paid maternity leave or free lifetime education.

Role C – Longer paid maternity leave

You think longer paid maternity leave is the best way to get couples to have more children. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a free home helper, a cash bonus for each baby or free lifetime education.

Role D – Free lifetime education

You think free lifetime education is the best way to get couples to have more children. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a free home helper, longer paid maternity leave or a cash bonus for each baby.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>

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

record	low
---------------	------------

- 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">• ever• before• previous• row• 30• 19.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• down• warned• come• big• things• nothing
--	---

CHILDREN SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>

Write five GOOD questions about children 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.

CHILDREN 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 'children'?
- c) How important are children to a country?
- d) What do you think of the record low number of children in Japan?
- e) What's the best number of children for a couple to have?
- f) Is it too expensive to have more than a few children?
- g) What are the reasons for falling birthrates?
- h) Is it better to have just a few siblings or many?
- i) How many children do (or did) you want?
- j) Is having children as important today as it was 100 years ago?

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CHILDREN DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What problems are there with an ageing population?
- c) What are the advantages of an ageing population?
- d) How can the Japanese government reverse this trend?
- e) How can a country survive if it is full of old people?
- f) Should Japan increase the retirement age to 75?
- g) What kind of trouble might the Japanese economy be in?
- h) How can the government avoid economic problems?
- i) What do you think the government should do to get couples to have more babies?
- j) What questions would you ask the Japanese leader about this?

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/1405/140507-children.html>

The number of children in Japan aged 14 and under is the lowest ever. Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (1) _____ figures yesterday, just before the country's Children's Day national holiday on May the 5th. The figures show that the number of children in Japan fell (2) _____ 160,000 from the previous year. It is the 33rd year in a (3) _____ for the birth rate to decrease. There are 13 million (4) _____ children in Japan today than there were in 1950. The Ministry said that out of 30 countries with a population of over 40 million, Japan has the smallest percentage (5) _____ kids. Children make (6) _____ 12.8 per cent of Japan's population. In France, the figure is 18.5 per cent and in the United States, it is 19.5 per cent.

While the number of children in Japan is going down, the number of old people is (7) _____. The over-65s now make up a record 25.6 per cent of the Japanese population. The government has warned that these (8) _____ will continue for decades to come. It said the (9) _____ of people aged 65 or over could reach nearly 40 per cent in 2060. This will make life in Japan (10) _____ impossible for young, working people. They will have to pay much higher taxes to support the over-65s. The Japanese economy will also be in (11) _____ trouble because there will not be enough young people to work. Japan's government has tried many things to get people to have more babies, but (12) _____ seems to be working.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) rallied | (b) realised | (c) relayed | (d) released |
| 2. | (a) at | (b) for | (c) as | (d) by |
| 3. | (a) column | (b) row | (c) low | (d) line |
| 4. | (a) lesser | (b) smaller | (c) fewer | (d) reduced |
| 5. | (a) of | (b) from | (c) for | (d) if |
| 6. | (a) up | (b) for | (c) over | (d) it |
| 7. | (a) increase | (b) increased | (c) increases | (d) increasing |
| 8. | (a) trends | (b) makes | (c) styles | (d) marks |
| 9. | (a) promotion | (b) proportion | (c) probation | (d) prohibition |
| 10. | (a) impossibly | (b) possible | (c) almost | (d) right |
| 11. | (a) large | (b) heavy | (c) big | (d) volume |
| 12. | (a) something | (b) nothing | (c) anything | (d) thing |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>

Paragraph 1

1. the oswlet ever
2. ... released ersgifu yesterday
3. oanilnt holiday
4. ... for the birth rate to ecaesred
5. Japan has the smallest epcergtnae
6. 12.8 per cent of Japan's lappnoituo

Paragraph 2

7. the number of old people is csrieanggi
8. these sdrtrne will continue
9. for saeecdd to come
10. pay much higher atexs
11. uptoprs the over-65s
12. The Japanese emoocyn

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () 40 million, Japan has the smallest percentage of kids. Children make up 12.8 per cent of Japan's
- () trouble because there will not be enough young people to work. Japan's government has tried
- () While the number of children in Japan is going down, the number of old people is increasing. The over-
- () were in 1950. The Ministry said that out of 30 countries with a population of over
- (**1**) The number of children in Japan aged 14 and under is the lowest ever. Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and
- () 65s now make up a record 25.6 per cent of the Japanese population. The government has warned that these
- () year. It is the 33rd year in a row for the birthrate to decrease. There are 13 million fewer children in Japan today than there
- () much higher taxes to support the over-65s. The Japanese economy will also be in big
- () 2060. This will make life in Japan almost impossible for young, working people. They will have to pay
- () population. In France, the figure is 18.5 per cent and in the United States, it is 19.5 per cent.
- () trends will continue for decades to come. It said the proportion of people aged 65 or over could reach nearly 40 per cent in
- () Communications released figures yesterday, just before the country's Children's Day national holiday
- () many things to get people to have more babies, but nothing seems to be working.
- () on May the 5th. The figures show that the number of children in Japan fell by 160,000 from the previous

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>

1. of children in Japan aged 14 and under . The number

2. holiday country's Children's Just Day before national the.

3. from year by 160,000 previous Fell , the .

4. year for 33rd decrease row the to a is birthrate in It the.

5. population Japan's of cent per 12.8 up make Children.

6. of number The increasing is people old.

7. decades trends to will come continue for These.

8. over - 65s Pay much higher taxes to support the.

9. be people not young work will enough to There.

10. get people to have more babies Tried many things to.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>

The number of children in Japan aged 14 and under is the *fewest / lowest* ever. Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications *realised / released* figures yesterday, *just / justly* before the country's Children's Day national holiday on May the 5th. The figures *show / shows* that the number of children in Japan fell *by / up* 160,000 from the previous year. It is the 33rd year in a *row / column* for the birth rate to decrease. There are 13 million *lesser / fewer* children in Japan today than there were in 1950. The Ministry said that out of 30 countries with a population *for / of* over 40 million, Japan has the smallest percentage of kids. Children make *out / up* 12.8 per cent of Japan's population. In France, the *figure / figures* is 18.5 per cent and in the United States, it is 19.5 per cent.

While the number of children in Japan is going down, the number of old people is *increased / increasing*. The over-65s now make up a *record / recording* 25.6 per cent of the Japanese population. The government has warned that *these / them* trends will continue for *decadence / decades* to come. It said the proportion of people aged 65 or over could *reach / leach* nearly 40 per cent in 2060. This will make life in Japan almost *impossibility / impossible* for young, working people. They will have to pay much higher *taxes / taxis* to support the over-65s. The Japanese economy will also be in *big / large* trouble because there will not be *enough / plenty* young people to work. Japan's government has tried many things to get people to have more babies, but nothing seems to be *works / working*.

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/1405/140507-children.html>

The number of children in Japan aged 14 and under is the lowest ever. Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications said figures yesterday, just before the country's Children's Day national holiday on May the 5th. The figures show that the number of children in Japan fell by 160,000 from the previous year. It's the 33rd year now for the birth rate to decrease. The rate is 13 million fewer children in Japan today than there were in 1950. The Ministry said that out of 30 countries with a population of over 40 million, Japan has the smallest percentage of kids. Children make up 12.8 percent of Japan's population. In France, the figure is 18.5 percent and in the United States, it's 19.5 percent.

While the number of children in Japan is going down, the number of old people is increasing. The over-65s now make up around 25.6 percent of the Japanese population. The government has warned that these trends will continue for decades to come. It said that proportion of people aged 65 or over could reach nearly 40 percent in 2060. This will make life in Japan almost impossible for young, working people. They will have to pay much higher taxes to support the over-65s. The Japanese economy will also be a big trouble because there will not be enough young people to work. Japan's government has tried many things to get people to have more babies, but nothing seems to be working.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>

the number of children in japan aged 14 and under is the lowest ever japan's ministry of internal affairs and communications released figures yesterday just before the country's children's day national holiday on may the 5th the figures show that the number of children in japan fell by 160000 from the previous year it is the 33rd year in a row for the birth rate to decrease there are 13 million fewer children in japan today than there were in 1950 the ministry said that out of 30 countries with a population of over 40 million japan has the smallest percentage of kids children make up 12.8 per cent of japan's population in france the figure is 18.5 per cent and in the united states it is 19.5 per cent

while the number of children in japan is going down the number of old people is increasing the over-65s now make up a record 25.6 per cent of the japanese population the government has warned that these trends will continue for decades to come it said the proportion of people aged 65 or over could reach nearly 40 per cent in 2060 this will make life in japan almost impossible for young working people they will have to pay much higher taxes to support the over-65s the japanese economy will also be in big trouble because there will not be enough young people to work japan's government has tried many things to get people to have more babies but nothing seems to be working

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>

The number of children in Japan aged 14 and under is the lowest ever. Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications released figures yesterday, just before the country's Children's Day national holiday on May the 5th. The figures show that the number of children in Japan fell by 160,000 from the previous year. It is the 33rd year in a row for the birth rate to decrease. There are 13 million fewer children in Japan today than there were in 1950. The Ministry said that out of 30 countries with a population of over 40 million, Japan has the smallest percentage of kids. Children make up 12.8 percent of Japan's population. In France, the figure is 18.5 percent and in the United States, it is 19.5 percent. While the number of children in Japan is going down, the number of old people is increasing. The over-65s now make up a record 25.6 percent of the Japanese population. The government has warned that these trends will continue for decades to come. It said the proportion of people aged 65 or over could reach nearly 40 percent in 2060. This will make life in Japan almost impossible for young, working people. They will have to pay much higher taxes to support the over-65s. The Japanese economy will also be in big trouble because there will not be enough young people to work. Japan's government has tried many things to get people to have more babies, but nothing seems to be working.

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1405/140507-children.html>

Having many children is better than having just a few. 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 birth rates. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. CHILDREN: Make a poster about the costs of raising children. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. BIRTH RATE: Write a magazine article about falling birth rates. Include imaginary interviews with people with ideas to reverse these falls.

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 an expert on children. Ask him/her three questions about children. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. 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 F d T e T f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. ever | a. in history |
| 2. released | b. issued |
| 3. figures | c. numbers |
| 4. in a row | d. one after the other |
| 5. decrease | e. go down |
| 6. increasing | f. going up |
| 7. warned | g. advised |
| 8. support | h. look after |
| 9. tried | i. attempted |
| 10. working | j. having an effect |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The number of children aged 14 and under
2. The Children's Day national holiday
3. 33
4. 13 million
5. 19.5%
6. The number of old people
7. 25.6%
8. 2060
9. Higher taxes
10. Get people to have more babies

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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