

## China ends one-child policy to allow couples 2 children

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China has ended its decades-long one-child policy to allow all couples to have two children. The ruling Communist Party of China made the announcement on Thursday. The one-child policy, officially called the family planning policy, was a population control measure that was introduced in 1979. Policy makers hoped to restrict the country's surging population and therefore control rates of poverty. It wasn't adhered to strictly and many exceptions were allowed. In 2007, around 36 per cent of China's population was subject to a strict one-child restriction. An additional 53 per cent was allowed to have a second child if the first child was a girl. The new two-child policy will reverse China's very low fertility rate.

The new two-child policy is expected to provide a huge economic boost for China and prevent it from developing into an ageing society. China's labour force reached a peak of 940 million in 2012. However, this decreased to 930 million in 2014 and was expected to fall by another 29 million by 2020. Predictions from Peking University are that there will be an average of 2.5 million extra newborns per year. This will result in more workers and an additional \$11.8 billion in annual consumption. Shares in many international baby goods companies jumped by over 10 per cent after the news was announced. The new policy will affect around 100 million couples.

Sources: *Xinhuanet / ChinaDaily / Reuters / Wikipedia*

### Writing

The world is becoming dangerously overpopulated. What do you think? Write about the problems and suggest some possible solutions.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*couples / announcement / family planning / population / poverty / strictly / additional / boost / ageing society / labour force / predictions / consumption / 100 million*

### True / False

- China's one-child policy was over 100 years old. T / F
- All couples can now have two children. T / F
- Under the one-child policy, all couples were allowed only one child. T / F
- The new policy will reinforce China's low fertility rate. T / F
- The two-child policy will provide economic benefits to China. T / F
- The number of workers in China was at its greatest in 2012. T / F
- Peking University predicts 2.5 million extra babies a year in China. T / F
- The two-child policy will affect nearly a billion couples. T / F

### Synonym Match

- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. allow        | a. stop      |
| 2. announcement | b. observed  |
| 3. measure      | c. spending  |
| 4. adhered to   | d. statement |
| 5. additional   | e. forecasts |
| 6. boost        | f. permit    |
| 7. prevent      | g. stimulus  |
| 8. predictions  | h. action    |
| 9. consumption  | i. rose      |
| 10. jumped      | j. extra     |

### Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about China's one-child policy?
- How can we control overpopulation?
- What's the best number of children to have?
- Which are better, boys or girls?
- How balanced is the population in your country, regarding age?
- What is the problem of a low fertility rate?
- Does your country do anything to control its population?
- What problems are associated with overpopulation?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. China has ended its decades-          | a. poverty                |
| 2. officially called the family planning | b. annual consumption     |
| 3. control rates of                      | c. fertility rate         |
| 4. allowed to have a second child if the | d. boost for China        |
| 5. reverse China's very low              | e. 100 million couples    |
| 6. provide a huge economic               | f. long one-child policy  |
| 7. prevent it from developing into an    | g. baby good companies    |
| 8. an additional \$11.8 billion in       | h. first child was a girl |
| 9. Shares in many international          | i. ageing society         |
| 10. The new policy will affect around    | j. policy                 |

## Discussion – Student B

- How will the two-child policy affect China?
- What are the problems of an ageing society?
- What else can China do to boost its labour force?
- Should couples be allowed to have as many children as they want?
- What other kinds of companies will benefit from more babies?
- How many children would you like?
- Is it better for kids to have lots of brothers and sisters?
- What questions would you like to ask China's leaders?

## Spelling

- allow all ueospcj to have two children
- a population control rusmaee
- restrict the country's rggnusi population
- It wasn't raheedd to strictly
- a strict one-child intirecstor
- China's very low ietylftri rate
- an nggeia society
- etxdcpee to fall by another 29 million
- inprisedto from Peking University
- 2.5 million extra wonsnerb
- annual pcosmniuont
- after the news was cnennodua

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Clothes

You think clothes are the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): sleeping time, feeding time or play time.

### Role B – Sleeping time

You think sleeping time is the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): clothes, feeding time or play time.

### Role C – Feeding time

You think feeding time is the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): sleeping time, clothes or play time.

### Role D – Play time

You think play time is the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): sleeping time, feeding time or clothes.

## Speaking – Babies

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

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| • clothes  | • feeding time |
| • feet     | • burping time |
| • laughter | • bath time    |
| • sleep    | • play time    |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.