

## 72-year-old woman gives birth

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A 72-year-old woman from Amritsar, India is celebrating the birth of her first child. Daljinder Kaur and her husband Mohinder Singh Gill, 79, posed

for photos for the Indian press last week, proudly holding their healthy baby boy Arman. The couple had been trying to have a baby for decades, without success. They had been under a lot of pressure during that time to start a family. While most people would have accepted their fate and resigned themselves to a life without children, Daljinder and Mohinder persisted in their dream for a child. Daljinder started attending the National Fertility and Test Tube Baby Centre for IVF treatment in 2013 and successfully became pregnant last year.

Specialists at the fertility clinic initially had reservations about offering Daljinder treatment because of her age. Dr Anurag Bishnoi told reporters: "I first tried to avoid the case because she was very weak, but then her medical reports were normal and she was fit to conceive." He added: "Our track record handling IVF in older women has been fairly good, but not everyone is fit to conceive. In her case, she looked visibly frail too, so I had to refer her to a cardiologist to get clearance for the procedure and for a battery of other tests." Meanwhile, Daljinder is over the moon about becoming a mother. She said: "I can live happily now. My life is complete." She is now the oldest woman ever to give birth.

Sources: *India Today* / *Medical Daily* / *Mirror.co.uk*

## Writing

Man and women in their seventies should never have children. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

celebrating / birth / first child / posed / photos / decades / pressure / family / fate / fertility / reservations / treatment / conceive / cardiologist / procedure / battery

## True / False

- A woman has had her thirtieth child, aged 72. T / F
- The woman had been trying to have a baby for five years. T / F
- The woman was under pressure from her family to start a family. T / F
- The woman became pregnant naturally, without doctors' help. T / F
- A clinic did not want to help her at first. T / F
- The woman's medical reports were not too good. T / F
- The woman was referred to a cardiologist for tests. T / F
- The woman said she is happy and that her life is complete. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. celebrating | a. able             |
| 2. press       | b. destiny          |
| 3. couple      | c. kept at it       |
| 4. fate        | d. news media       |
| 5. persisted   | e. at first         |
| 6. initially   | f. fulfilled        |
| 7. fit         | g. commemorating    |
| 8. conceive    | h. permission       |
| 9. clearance   | i. get pregnant     |
| 10. complete   | j. husband and wife |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- How old is too old to have a baby?
- What do you think of IVF?
- How different an upbringing will the baby have?
- How would women in their 70s having babies change the world in the future?
- Why do families pressure children to have a baby?
- Should childless couples accept they cannot have children?
- What advice do you have for Daljinder?

## Phrase Match

- |                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. celebrating the              | a. clinic                   |
| 2. posed                        | b. a lot of pressure        |
| 3. They had been under          | c. of other tests           |
| 4. resigned themselves to a     | d. pregnant                 |
| 5. successfully became          | e. birth of her first child |
| 6. Specialists at the fertility | f. a cardiologist           |
| 7. Our track                    | g. moon                     |
| 8. I had to refer her to        | h. for photos               |
| 9. a battery                    | i. record                   |
| 10. Daljinder is over the       | j. life without children    |

## Discussion – Student B

- Do fertility clinics add to overpopulation?
- Which is better – a baby boy or girl? Why?
- How much of a risk is it for a 72-year-old to have a baby?
- How much happiness do babies bring people?
- What's the oldest you would consider having a baby at?
- Is there a perfect age to have a baby?
- What problems might Daljinder have raising her baby?
- What questions would you like to ask Daljinder?

## Spelling

- bernctagie the birth of her first child
- dpoes for photos for the Indian press
- trying to have a baby for adeedsc
- under a lot of repusser
- iedsgenr themselves to a life without children
- eiresdpst in their dream for a child
- rietlylft clinic
- liilnatiy had reservations
- she was fit to oecnevic
- I had to refer her to a gitrioclosad
- get clearance for the urdeecorp
- a tetaryb of other tests

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – A new baby

You think a new baby is the best thing to celebrate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their events aren't worth celebrating as much. Also, tell the others which of these you would never celebrate (and why): passing your driving test, an A+ health check or the weekend arriving.

### Role B – Passing your driving test

You think passing your driving test is the best thing to celebrate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their events aren't worth celebrating as much. Also, tell the others which of these you would never celebrate (and why): a new baby, an A+ health check or the weekend arriving.

### Role C – An A+ health check

You think an A+ health check is the best thing to celebrate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their events aren't worth celebrating as much. Also, tell the others which of these you would never celebrate (and why): passing your driving test, a new baby or the weekend arriving.

### Role D – The weekend arriving

You think the weekend arriving is the best thing to celebrate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their events aren't worth celebrating as much. Also, tell the others which of these you would never celebrate (and why): passing your driving test, an A+ health check or a new baby.

## Speaking – Celebrate

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

- winning the lottery
- a new baby
- passing an interview
- a sports team winning
- an A+ health check
- passing a driving test
- another weekend
- becoming fluent in English

### Answers – True False

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