

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 6 – 17th June, 2018

Japan lowers age of adulthood to 18

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	15
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	16
Vocabulary	4	Spelling	17
Before Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	18
Gap Fill	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	19
Match The Sentences And Listen	7	Circle The Correct Word	20
Listening Gap Fill	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	21
Comprehension Questions	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	22
Multiple Choice - Quiz	10	Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are	23
Role Play	11	Free Writing	24
After Reading / Listening	12	Academic Writing	25
Student Survey	13	Homework	26
Discussion (20 Questions)	14	Answers	27

Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

Google +



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

Japan's government has lowered the age at which people become adults. It is the first time since 1876 that this has happened. From the year 2022, teenagers will become adults at the age of 18, which is two years earlier than the age at which adulthood currently legally happens. However, even though the age has been lowered, there are still certain things that will not change. The legal age for drinking alcohol, smoking and gambling will remain fixed at 20. The new law will enable 18-year-olds to get married without parental consent, and allow them to apply for loans and credit cards. Transgender men and women aged 18 and over will be able to apply to courts to have their gender officially recognized.

The new law has been passed in an effort to bring about social and economic change in Japan. The government hopes to see an increase in the number of young people getting married and starting families. This will help to address the nation's dwindling birth rate and ageing population. Greater financial freedoms could be a boost to the economy and provide more tax revenue. This is vital for a government struggling to cope with increasing pension and healthcare payments. Many of Japan's young people were more concerned about how the law would affect the traditional Coming of Age Day. This is a national holiday held in January in which 20-year-olds dress up in traditional kimonos to celebrate adulthood.

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2018/06/14/asia/japan-age-adulthood-bill/index.html>
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/14/japan-lowers-age-adulthood-20-to-18>
<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/06/13/national/crime-legal/japan-enacts-law-lower-adulthood-age-18/>

WARM-UPS

1. ADULTHOOD: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about adulthood. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

Japan / age / adults / teenagers / drinking / gambling / smoking / married / loans / gender / social / economic change / birth rate / pension / pension / traditional / kimono

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

3. EIGHTEEN: Students A **strongly** believe eighteen is the proper age to be an adult; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. AGE: What are the good and bad things about these ages? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good Things	Bad Things
6 months		
3 years		
12 years		
18 years		
40 years		
100 years		

5. ADULTS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "adults". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. BEING AN ADULT: Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about being an adult at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Getting married
- Working
- Independence
- Having children
- Money
- No parental rules
- Driving a car
- Credit cards

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. currently | a. Putting money on the chance of something happening (like a horse or dog winning, card games, lottery tickets, etc.) so you win more money. |
| 2. gambling | b. Either of the two sexes - male or female. |
| 3. remain | c. A building or room where a judge, judges, or a magistrate listen to civil and criminal cases and pass judgments. |
| 4. enable | d. Give permission for something to happen. |
| 5. consent | e. Make possible. |
| 6. courts | f. At the present time. |
| 7. gender | g. Continue to exist, especially after other similar or related people or things have stopped existing. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 8. effort | h. Absolutely necessary or important; essential. |
| 9. address | i. A country's annual income from which it pays for public services. |
| 10. dwindling | j. Help or encourage something to increase or improve. |
| 11. boost | k. An attempt to try to do something. |
| 12. revenue | l. Deal effectively with something difficult. |
| 13. vital | m. Think about and begin to deal with an issue or problem. |
| 14. cope | n. Getting smaller in size, amount, strength, etc. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

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

- a. The last time Japan changed the age of adulthood was in 1876. **T / F**
- b. Eighteen-year-olds in Japan will be adults from the year 2020. **T / F**
- c. Japan's 18-year-old adults will be able to smoke and gamble. **T / F**
- d. Japan's 18-year-old adults will be able to take out loans. **T / F**
- e. Japan's government hopes more young people will get married. **T / F**
- f. The new adults should bring more tax revenue to Japan's government. **T / F**
- g. Japan is making fewer pension payments. **T / F**
- h. Young Japanese people want two Coming of Age ceremonies. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. lowered | a. worried |
| 2. happened | b. sex |
| 3. certain | c. attempt |
| 4. consent | d. deal with |
| 5. gender | e. occurred |
| 6. effort | f. particular |
| 7. address | g. commemorate |
| 8. dwindling | h. reduced |
| 9. concerned | i. decreasing |
| 10. celebrate | j. agreement |

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

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. It is the first time since 1876 that | a. in traditional kimonos |
| 2. the age at which adulthood currently | b. recognized |
| 3. The legal age | c. payments |
| 4. get married without parental | d. to cope |
| 5. have their gender officially | e. for drinking alcohol |
| 6. help to address the nation's | f. legally happens |
| 7. a boost | g. dwindling birth rate |
| 8. vital for a government struggling | h. consent |
| 9. pension and healthcare | i. to the economy |
| 10. dress up | j. this has happened |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

Japan's government has (1) _____ the age at which people become adults. It is the first time since 1876 that this has happened. From the year 2022, (2) _____ will become adults at the age of 18, which is two years earlier than the age at which adulthood currently (3) _____ happens. However, even though the age has been lowered, there are still (4) _____ things that will not change. The legal age for drinking alcohol, smoking and gambling will remain (5) _____ at 20. The new law will enable 18-year-olds to get married without (6) _____ consent, and allow them to apply for (7) _____ and credit cards. Transgender men and women aged 18 and over will be able to apply to (8) _____ to have their gender officially recognized.

parental
teenagers
courts
legally
fixed
loans
lowered
certain

The new law has been passed in an (9) _____ to bring about social and economic change in Japan. The government hopes to see an increase in the (10) _____ of young people getting married and starting families. This will help to (11) _____ the nation's dwindling birth rate and ageing population. Greater financial freedoms could be a (12) _____ to the economy and provide more tax revenue. This is vital for a government struggling to (13) _____ with increasing pension and healthcare payments. Many of Japan's young people were more (14) _____ about how the law would affect the traditional Coming of Age Day. This is a national holiday (15) _____ in January in which 20-year-olds (16) _____ up in traditional kimonos to celebrate adulthood.

boost
number
held
cope
dress
effort
address
concerned

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

- 1) It is the first time since 1876 that this _____
 - a. has happen
 - b. has happens
 - c. has happening
 - d. has happened
- 2) even though the age has been lowered, there are still _____ will not
 - a. certainly things that
 - b. curtain things that
 - c. certain things that
 - d. cert tin things that
- 3) The legal age for drinking alcohol, smoking and gambling will _____ 20
 - a. remain fixed that
 - b. remain fixed what
 - c. remain fixed tat
 - d. remain fixed at
- 4) The new law will enable 18-year-olds to get married without _____
 - a. parental consent
 - b. parental content
 - c. parental cons sent
 - d. parental contents
- 5) women aged 18 and over will be able to apply to courts to have their _____ recognized
 - a. gander officially
 - b. agenda officially
 - c. gender officially
 - d. agendas officially
- 6) The new law has been passed in an effort to bring about social and _____
 - a. economic change
 - b. economically change
 - c. economics change
 - d. economical change
- 7) This will help to address the nation's _____ rate
 - a. dwindle in birth
 - b. dwindled in birth
 - c. dwindling birth
 - d. dwindle din birth
- 8) financial freedoms could be a boost to the economy and provide more _____
 - a. taxed revenue
 - b. taxi revenue
 - c. tax revenue
 - d. taxes revenue
- 9) more concerned about how the law would affect the traditional Coming _____
 - a. of Aged Day
 - b. of Aging Day
 - c. of Ages Day
 - d. of Age Day
- 10) in which 20-year-olds dress up in traditional kimonos to _____
 - a. celebratory adulthood
 - b. celebrate adulthood
 - c. celebrates adulthood
 - d. celebrated adulthood

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

Japan's government (1) _____ age at which people become adults. It is the first time since 1876 that this has happened. From the year 2022, teenagers will become (2) _____ age of 18, which is two years earlier than the age at which adulthood currently legally happens. However, even though the age has been lowered, there (3) _____ things that will not change. The legal age for drinking alcohol, smoking and gambling will (4) _____ 20. The new law will enable 18-year-olds to get married without parental consent, and allow them (5) _____ loans and credit cards. Transgender men and women aged 18 and over will be (6) _____ to courts to have their gender officially recognized.

The new law has been passed (7) _____ to bring about social and economic change in Japan. The government hopes to see an increase in (8) _____ young people getting married and starting families. This will help to address the nation's dwindling birth rate and ageing population. Greater financial freedoms could (9) _____ to the economy and provide more tax revenue. This is vital for a government struggling (10) _____ increasing pension and healthcare payments. Many of Japan's young people were more concerned about how (11) _____ affect the traditional Coming of Age Day. This is a national holiday held in January in which 20-year-olds (12) _____ traditional kimonos to celebrate adulthood.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

1. When was the last time Japan lowered the age of adulthood?
2. When will the new law take effect?
3. What three things will 18-year-old adults still not be able to do?
4. What will the younger adults be able to do without asking their parents?
5. Who will be able to apply to courts for gender recognition?
6. What does Japan's government hope younger people will start?
7. What did the article say was dwindling in Japan?
8. What payments is Japan struggling to make?
9. What are many Japanese young people more worried about?
10. Why do Japanese people wear kimonos when they are 20?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

1) When was the last time Japan lowered the age of adulthood?

- a) 1768
- b) 1786
- c) 1867
- d) 1876

2) When will the new law take effect?

- a) 2021
- b) 2022
- c) 2020
- d) 2025

3) What three things will 18-year-old adults still not be able to do?

- a) gamble, smoke and get a loan
- b) drink, get a loan and gamble
- c) smoke, drink and gamble
- d) get a loan, smoke and drink

4) What will the younger adults be able to do without asking their parents?

- a) get married
- b) join the army
- c) buy a house
- d) start a company

5) Where will people be able to apply to for gender recognition?

- a) the census bureau
- b) city halls
- c) courts
- d) police stations

6) What does Japan's government hope younger people will start?

- a) leaving school earlier
- b) families
- c) businesses
- d) websites

7) What did the article say was dwindling in Japan?

- a) divorces
- b) marriages
- c) forests
- d) birth rate

8) What payments is Japan struggling to make?

- a) pensions
- b) benefits
- c) debt interest
- d) online payments

9) What are many Japanese young people more worried about?

- a) smartphones
- b) North Korea
- c) Coming of Age Day
- d) graduating

10) Why do Japanese people wear kimonos when they are 20?

- a) to practice for weddings
- b) to celebrate adulthood
- c) for a festival
- d) for family photos

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

Role A – Getting Married

You think getting married is the best thing about being an adult. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): independence, money or working.

Role B – Independence

You think independence is the best thing about being an adult. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): getting married, money or working.

Role C – Money

You think money is the best thing about being an adult. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): independence, getting married or working.

Role D – Working

You think working is the best thing about being an adult. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): independence, money or getting married.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

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

age	adult

- 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">• first• earlier• even• drinking• enable• able	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• effort• hopes• population• vital• young• dress
---	---

ADULTHOOD SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

Write five GOOD questions about adulthood 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.

ADULTHOOD DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'adult'?
3. When does adulthood start?
4. How did you feel when you became an adult?
5. Is it best to be an adult or a child?
6. How much of an adult is an 18-year-old?
7. When did you feel like an adult?
8. When is the earliest someone should be allowed to marry?
9. When is the earliest someone should be allowed to get a loan?
10. Are you an adult if you cannot smoke or gamble?

Japan lowers age of adulthood to 18 – 17th June, 2018
Thousands more free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

ADULTHOOD DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'age'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What are the good and bad things about being an adult?
15. What social change will the new law bring?
16. What are the dangers of an ageing population?
17. Are we sad at no longer being a child or happy at becoming an adult?
18. Should people be allowed to choose not to become an adult?
19. How do people celebrate adulthood in your country?
20. What questions would you like to ask a 20-year-old?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

Copyright © breakingnewsenglish.com 2018

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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

Japan's government has (1) _____ the age at which people become adults. It is the first time since 1876 that this has happened. From the year 2022, teenagers will become adults at the age of 18, which is two years earlier than the age at which adulthood (2) _____ legally happens. However, even though the age has been lowered, there are still certain things that will not change. The (3) _____ age for drinking alcohol, smoking and gambling will remain fixed at 20. The new law will (4) _____ 18-year-olds to get married without parental consent, and allow them to apply (5) _____ loans and credit cards. Transgender men and women aged 18 and over will be able to apply to (6) _____ to have their gender officially recognized.

The new law has been passed (7) _____ an effort to bring about social and economic change in Japan. The government hopes to see an (8) _____ in the number of young people getting married and starting families. This will help to address the nation's dwindling birth rate and ageing population. Greater financial freedoms could be a (9) _____ to the economy and provide more tax revenue. This is vital for a government struggling to (10) _____ with increasing pension and healthcare payments. Many of Japan's young people were more (11) _____ about how the law would affect the traditional Coming of Age Day. This is a national holiday held in January in which 20-year-olds dress (12) _____ in traditional kimonos to celebrate adulthood.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) lowers | (b) lowering | (c) lowered | (d) lowed |
| 2. | (a) currently | (b) current | (c) currents | (d) currant |
| 3. | (a) legally | (b) legal | (c) legalize | (d) legality |
| 4. | (a) ability | (b) able | (c) capable | (d) enable |
| 5. | (a) on | (b) on | (c) for | (d) with |
| 6. | (a) counts | (b) courts | (c) coots | (d) coasts |
| 7. | (a) in | (b) up | (c) on | (d) at |
| 8. | (a) arise | (b) upping | (c) up | (d) increase |
| 9. | (a) beast | (b) boast | (c) boost | (d) baste |
| 10. | (a) coup | (b) coop | (c) cop | (d) cope |
| 11. | (a) cornered | (b) concerned | (c) coined | (d) careered |
| 12. | (a) up | (b) on | (c) down | (d) by |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

Paragraph 1

1. Japan's vgotenremn
2. there are still rictane things
3. drinking llcoaho
4. aebeln 18-year-olds
5. get married without taprnael consent
6. have their gender lficyfiao recognized

Paragraph 2

7. social and ocoimcen change
8. the nation's ndiwdglin birth rate
9. tax vnereue
10. This is ltvai
11. pnnsieo and healthcare payments
12. ceetblare adulthood

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () of 18, which is two years earlier than the age at which adulthood currently legally happens. However, even
- () since 1876 that this has happened. From the year 2022, teenagers will become adults at the age
- (**1**) Japan's government has lowered the age at which people become adults. It is the first time
- () consent, and allow them to apply for loans and credit cards. Transgender men and women
- () concerned about how the law would affect the traditional Coming of Age Day. This is a national holiday held
- () families. This will help to address the nation's dwindling birth rate and ageing population. Greater financial freedoms could be a
- () smoking and gambling will remain fixed at 20. The new law will enable 18-year-olds to get married without parental
- () cope with increasing pension and healthcare payments. Many of Japan's young people were more
- () in January in which 20-year-olds dress up in traditional kimonos to celebrate adulthood.
- () hopes to see an increase in the number of young people getting married and starting
- () boost to the economy and provide more tax revenue. This is vital for a government struggling to
- () aged 18 and over will be able to apply to courts to have their gender officially recognized.
- () though the age has been lowered, there are still certain things that will not change. The legal age for drinking alcohol,
- () The new law has been passed in an effort to bring about social and economic change in Japan. The government

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

1. become the 2022, will teenagers adults . year From
2. at which The happens . adulthood currently legally age
3. certain There that still things are not . will
4. married to without parental 18-year-olds get consent . Enable
5. recognized . to courts to Apply have their gender
6. The of getting people married . number young
7. address birth nation's Help the rate . to dwindling
8. struggling a government Vital for cope . to
9. of Japan's young were more concerned . people Many
10. up Dress in celebrate traditional to kimonos adulthood .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

Japan's government has lowered the *old / age* at which people become adults. It is the first time since 1876 that this has happened. From the year 2022, *teenagers / teenaged* will become adults at the age of 18, which is two years earlier than the age at which adulthood currently *legal / legally* happens. However, even though the age has been *lowed / lowered*, there are still certain things that will not *charge / change*. The legal age for drinking alcohol, smoking and gambling will remain *fixing / fixed* at 20. The new law will *enable / capable* 18-year-olds to get married without parental consent, and allow them to *applicable / apply* for loans and credit cards. Transgender men and women *aged / ageing* 18 and over will be able to apply to courts to have their gender officially *recognition / recognized*.

The new law has been passed in an *effort / affront* to bring about social and economic change in Japan. The government hopes *for / to* see an increase in the number of *youngish / young* people getting married and starting *families / family*. This will help to address the nation's *dawdling / dwindling* birth rate and ageing population. Greater financial freedoms could be a *boost / boast* to the economy and provide more tax revenue. This is *ritual / vital* for a government struggling to *cope / coup* with increasing pension and healthcare payments. Many of Japan's young people were more *cornered / concerned* about how the law would affect the traditional Coming of Age Day. This is a national holiday held in January in which 20-year-olds dress up in traditional kimonos to *celebrate / celebratory* adulthood.

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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

J_p_n 's g_v_r n m_n t h_s l_w_r_d t h_ _g_ _t w
h_c h p__ p_l_ b_c_m_ _d_l_t_s . I t _s t h_ f_r_s t
t_m_ s_n c_ 1 8 7 6 t h_t t h_s h_s h_p p_n_d . F
r_m t h_ y__ r 2 0 2 2 , t__ n_g_r_s w_l_l b_c_m_
_d_l_t_s _t t h_ _g_ _f 1 8 , w h_c h _s t w_ y__ r_s
__ r_l__ r t h_n t h_ _g_ _t w h_c h _d_l_t h__ d c_r
r_n_t_l_y l_g_l_l_y h_p p_n_s . H_w_v_r , _v_n t h__ g
h t h_ _g_ h_s b__ n l_w_r_d , t h_r _r_ s_t_l_l c_r
t__ n t h_n_g_s t h_t w_l_l n_t c_h_n_g_ . T h_ l_g_l
g _f_r d_r_n_k_n_g _l_c_h_l , s_m_k_n_g _n_d g_m_b
l_n_g w_l_l r_m__ n f_x_d _t 2 0 . T h_ n_w l_w
w_l_l _n_b_l_ 1 8 - y__ r -l_d_s t_ g_t m_r_r__ d w_t
h__ t p_r_n_t_l c_n_s_n_t , _n_d _l_l_w t h_m t_ p_p
l_y _f_r l__ n_s _n_d c_r_d_t c_r_d_s . T_r_n_s_g_n_d_r
m_n _n_d w_m_n _g_d 1 8 _n_d _v_r w_l_l b__ b_l_
t_ p_p_l_y t_ c__ r_t_s t_ h_v_ t h__ r g_n_d_r _f
f_c__ l_l_y r_c_g_n_z_d .

T h_ n_w l_w h_s b__ n p_s_s_d _n _n _f_f_r_t t_
b_r_n_g _b__ t s_c__ l _n_d _c_n_m_c c_h_n_g_ _n
J_p_n . T h_ g_v_r n m_n t h_p_s t_ s__ _n _n_c_r__
s__ _n t h_ n_m_b_r _f y__ n_g p__ p_l_ g_t_t_n_g
m_r_r__ d _n_d s_t_r_t_n_g f_m_l__ s . T h_s w_l_l
h_l_p t_ _d_d_r_s_s t h_ n_t__ n 's d_w_n_d_l_n_g b_r_t
h_r_t _n_d _g__ n_g p_p_l_t__ n . G_r__ t_r f_n_n
c__ l f_r__ d_m_s c__ l_d b__ b__ s_t t_ t h_ _c_n_m
y _n_d p_r_v_d_m_r_t_x r_v_n__ . T h_s _s v_t_l
_f_r _g_v_r n m_n t s_t_r_g_g_l_n_g t_ c_p_ w_t h _n_c
r__ s_n_g p_n_s__ n _n_d h__ l_t h_c_r_ p_y_m_n_t_s .
M_n_y _f J_p_n 's y__ n_g p__ p_l_ w_r_ m_r_ c_n
c_r_n_d _b__ t h_w t h_ l_w w__ l_d _f_f_c_t t h_ t
r_d_t__ n_l C_m_n_g _f A_g_D_y . T h_s _s _n_t__
n_l h_l_d_y h_l_d _n J_n__ r_y _n w h_c h 2 0 - y__
r -l_d_s d_r_s_s _p _n t_r_d_t__ n_l k_m_n_s t_
c_l_b_r_t_ _d_l_t h__ d .

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

japans government has lowered the age at which people become adults it is the first time since 1876 that this has happened from the year 2022 teenagers will become adults at the age of 18 which is two years earlier than the age at which adulthood currently legally happens however even though the age has been lowered there are still certain things that will not change the legal age for drinking alcohol smoking and gambling will remain fixed at 20 the new law will enable 18yearolds to get married without parental consent and allow them to apply for loans and credit cards transgender men and women aged 18 and over will be able to apply to courts to have their gender officially recognized

the new law has been passed in an effort to bring about social and economic change in japan the government hopes to see an increase in the number of young people getting married and starting families this will help to address the nations dwindling birth rate and ageing population greater financial freedoms could be a boost to the economy and provide more tax revenue this is vital for a government struggling to cope with increasing pension and healthcare payments many of japans young people were more concerned about how the law would affect the traditional coming of age day this is a national holiday held in january in which 20yearolds dress up in traditional kimonos to celebrate adulthood

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1806/180617-adulthood.html>

Japan's government has lowered the age at which people become adults. It is the first time since 1876 that this has happened. From the year 2022, teenagers will become adults at the age of 18, which is two years earlier than the age at which adulthood currently legally happens. However, even though the age has been lowered, there are still certain things that will not change. The legal age for drinking alcohol, smoking and gambling will remain fixed at 20. The new law will enable 18-year-olds to get married without parental consent, and allow them to apply for loans and credit cards. Transgender men and women aged 18 and over will be able to apply to court to have their gender officially recognized. The new law has been passed in an effort to bring about social and economic change in Japan. The government hopes to see an increase in the number of young people getting married and starting families. This will help to address the nation's declining birth rate and ageing population. Greater financial freedoms could be a boost to the economy and provide more tax revenue. This is vital for a government struggling to cope with increasing pension and healthcare payments. Many of Japan's young people were more concerned about how the law would affect the traditional Coming of Age Day. This is a national holiday held in January in which 20-year-olds dress up in traditional kimono to celebrate adulthood.

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 this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. ADULTHOOD: Make a poster about adulthood. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SIXTEEN: Write a magazine article about the age of 16 being adulthood. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 adulthood. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on the best age for adulthood. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. f 2. a 3. g 4. e 5. d 6. c 7. b
8. k 9. m 10. n 11. j 12. i 13. h 14. l

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. lowered | a. reduced |
| 2. happened | b. occurred |
| 3. certain | c. particular |
| 4. consent | d. agreement |
| 5. gender | e. sex |
| 6. effort | f. attempt |
| 7. address | g. deal with |
| 8. dwindling | h. decreasing |
| 9. concerned | i. worried |
| 10. celebrate | j. commemorate |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- 1876
- 2022
- Drink, smoke and gamble
- Get married
- Transgender people
- Having families
- The birth rate
- Pension and healthcare payments
- How the Coming of Age day might change
- To celebrate adulthood

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

- From the year 2022, teenagers will become adults.
- The age at which adulthood currently legally happens.
- There are still certain things that will not.
- Enable 18-year-olds to get married without parental consent.
- Apply to courts to have their gender recognized.
- The number of young people getting married.
- Help to address the nation's dwindling birth rate.
- Vital for a government struggling to cope.
- Many of Japan's young people were more concerned.
- Dress up in traditional kimonos to celebrate adulthood.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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