

73-year-old woman gives birth to twins

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Is there an age at which it is too old to have a baby? A 73-year-old woman in India has given birth to twins. The woman said that becoming a mother for the first time was "the happiest time" of her life. The mother needed a caesarean

section operation to deliver the twins. The mother and her two twin girls are all in good health and the mother is recovering well after the surgery. The woman thought she would never be able to have children. She and her husband first tried to have a child fifty years ago. All their attempts were unsuccessful. The woman thought she would be childless forever after her menopause started 25 years ago. She said not having children caused her pain as people called her "the childless lady".

The woman was able to give birth because of the method of IVF. A healthy egg was taken from a younger woman and was fertilized with her husband's sperm. The woman then carried the fertilized egg and she became pregnant. She said that when she found out she was having twins, she could not describe her happiness. She said: "This is the happiest time of my life." The new mother's doctors are also happy with their patient. One doctor said: "During the IVF treatment, we had three groups of doctors. One took care of her general health, one took care of her nutritional status and one took care of her pregnancy." The doctor said she was always in very good hands.

Sources:

theguardian.com / timesofindia.com / timesofoman.com

Writing

There should be an age limit for people to have children. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

age / giving birth / baby / twins / operation / husband / unsuccessful / forever / pain / method / IVF / pregnant / egg / happiness / treatment / doctor / health / in good hands

True / False

- It is the third time the woman has had children. T / F
- The woman gave birth without needing surgery. T / F
- The woman always knew she would have a child one day. T / F
- The woman was hurt by being called a childless lady. T / F
- The woman had a treatment called IVF. T / F
- The woman's doctors are happy with her. T / F
- The woman had three different groups of doctors. T / F
- A doctor said the woman was in very good hands. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. operation | a. condition |
| 2. recovering | b. for all time |
| 3. attempts | c. procedure |
| 4. forever | d. looked after |
| 5. pain | e. getting better |
| 6. method | f. throughout |
| 7. describe | g. suffering |
| 8. during | h. tell of |
| 9. took care of | i. tries |
| 10. status | j. surgery |

Discussion – Student A

- Is 73 too old to have a baby?
- What do you know about caesarean section operations?
- How dangerous is childbirth?
- How many children would you like?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of giving birth at 73?
- How important is it to have children?
- Should people have fewer children to help the planet?
- What advice do you have for the mother?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. The mother needed a caesarean section | a. unsuccessful |
| 2. the mother is recovering | b. childless forever |
| 3. All their attempts were | c. care of her pregnancy |
| 4. The woman thought she would be | d. of the method of IVF |
| 5. She said not having children | e. her happiness |
| 6. The woman was able to give birth because | f. well |
| 7. the fertilized | g. in very good hands |
| 8. she could not describe | h. operation |
| 9. one took | i. caused her pain |
| 10. The doctor said she was always | j. egg |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Should there be an age limit for people becoming parents?
- What is the best age to have a baby?
- Would you like to have twins?
- Which is better - having twins or triplets?
- What do you know about IVF?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of having twins?
- What questions would you like to ask the mother?

Spelling

- a caesarean section opirntoea
- dlveeri the twins
- recovering well after the uegsrry
- She and her auhbdns
- All their maetppts were unsuccessful
- the cihsedsll lady
- the oehdtm of IVF
- carried the eiritfldze egg
- she became nnaegprt
- she could not dbceiers her happiness
- During the IVF nmeertatt
- took care of her nutritional utasst

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Birth of a Child

You think the birth of a child is the happiest time. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their times. Also, tell the others which is the least happy of these (and why): your wedding day, your graduation day or your 100th birthday.

Role B – Wedding Day

You think your wedding day is the happiest time. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their times. Also, tell the others which is the least happy of these (and why): the birth of a child, your graduation day or your 100th birthday.

Role C – Graduation Day

You think your graduation day is the happiest time. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their times. Also, tell the others which is the least happy of these (and why): your wedding day, the birth of a child or your 100th birthday.

Role D – 100th Birthday

You think your 100th birthday is the happiest time. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their times. Also, tell the others which is the least happy of these (and why): your wedding day, your graduation day or the birth of a child.

Speaking – Happy Times

Rank these with your partner. Put the happiest times of your life at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| • 100th birthday | • Birth of a child |
| • Buying a house | • Wedding day |
| • Retirement day | • Graduation day |
| • Family reunion | • Passing driving license |

Answers – True False

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