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**Level 3 – 12th June 2025**

## U.N. issues report on global birth rate crisis

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.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 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

The United Nations has said the world is experiencing a birth rate crisis. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has released a report called "State of World Population 2025". It highlights how fewer and fewer children are being born all over the world. At the same time, people are living longer. Falling birth rates and increased longevity are creating many problems. Smaller numbers of workers are having to pay the pensions of older people who have retired. Dr Natalia Kanem, executive director of UNFPA, said: "Many countries are [struggling] with ageing and shrinking populations, labour shortages, and rising healthcare and pension costs. These are real concerns."

The United Nations surveyed over 14,000 people in 14 countries on five continents to make its report. One of the key findings was of the global fertility crisis. The UN said the high cost of parenthood is the biggest reason for women not having children. Many couples want children, but they cannot afford them. Nearly 20 per cent of adults believe they will not be able to have the number of children they want. There were other reasons for falling birth rates. These include low salaries, expensive housing, and worries about the future of our world. The UN said one solution to the crisis is to create "family-friendly policies, such as affordable childcare and paid leave for all carers".

Sources: <https://news.sky.com/story/global-birth-rates-crisis-people-do-still-want-to-have-children-but-many-cant-heres-why-13381290>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/jun/10/un-population-fund-unfpa-report-reasons-falling-global-fertility>  
<https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/swp25-highlights-%5Beng%5D-v250530-web.pdf>

# WARM-UPS

**1. BABIES:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about babies. 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?

United Nations / birth rate / crisis / report / population / children / pension / concerns  
continents / fertility / parenthood / couples / salaries / housing / the future / carers

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

**3. THREE BABIES:** Students A **strongly** believe all couples should have three or more babies; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. UNITED NATIONS:** What do you know about these United Nations agencies? What would you like to know? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	What I Want To Know
UNESCO		
WHO		
WFP		
FAO		
UNICEF		
IAEA		

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

**6. CHILDREN:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Money
- No sleep
- Work-life balance
- Worries about their future
- Non-stop responsibility
- Safety
- Childcare
- Bad behaviour

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 1. birth rate | a. Gave or showed something to the public.                       |
| 2. crisis     | b. How many babies are born in a place each year.                |
| 3. released   | c. Living for a long time.                                       |
| 4. longevity  | d. Money people get when they stop working because they are old. |
| 5. pension    | e. A big and serious problem.                                    |
| 6. struggling | f. Becoming smaller and smaller.                                 |
| 7. shrinking  | g. Having a hard time doing something.                           |

## Paragraph 2

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 8. surveyed  | h. The seven big areas of land - Africa, Europe, South America, North America, Asia, Australia, and Antarctica. |
| 9. continent | i. Have enough money to buy or do something.  |
| 10. key      | j. Asked people questions to learn what they think.   |
| 11. couple   | k. Very (most) important.   |
| 12. afford   | l. The answer to a problem.   |
| 13. solution | m. Two people in a relationship (like a husband and wife).  |
| 14. policy   | n. A plan or rule made by a group or government for people to follow.   |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

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

1. The WHO said there will be a crisis because fewer babies are being born. **T / F**
2. Fewer babies are being born and people are living longer. **T / F**
3. There are fewer workers to pay for the pensions of retired people. **T / F**
4. Many countries are having problems finding workers. **T / F**
5. The U.N. questioned people in 140 countries about having children. **T / F**
6. A key finding of the report was a global virility crisis. **T / F**
7. One in five adults worry they can't have the number of kids they want. **T / F**
8. The U.N. said there should be more paid leave only for mothers. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <b>crisis</b>    | a. questioned      |
| 2. <b>released</b>  | b. getting smaller |
| 3. <b>longevity</b> | c. pay for         |
| 4. <b>shrinking</b> | d. issued          |
| 5. <b>concerns</b>  | e. strategies      |
| 6. <b>surveyed</b>  | f. answer          |
| 7. <b>afford</b>    | g. disaster        |
| 8. <b>reasons</b>   | h. worries         |
| 9. <b>solution</b>  | i. causes          |
| 10. <b>policies</b> | j. long life       |

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

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. the world is experiencing            | a. and shrinking populations |
| 2. At the same time, people are         | b. on five continents        |
| 3. pay the pensions of older people     | c. costs                     |
| 4. countries are struggling with ageing | d. over 14,000 people        |
| 5. rising healthcare and pension        | e. affordable childcare      |
| 6. The United Nations surveyed          | f. who have retired          |
| 7. 14 countries                         | g. future of our world       |
| 8. the biggest reason for women         | h. a birth rate crisis       |
| 9. worries about the                    | i. not having children       |
| 10. family-friendly policies, such as   | j. living longer             |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

The United Nations has said the world is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a birth rate crisis. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a report called "State of World Population 2025". It highlights how fewer and fewer children are being (3) \_\_\_\_\_ all over the world. At the same time, people are living longer. Falling birth rates and increased (4) \_\_\_\_\_ are creating many problems. Smaller numbers of workers are having to pay the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of older people who have (6) \_\_\_\_\_. Dr Natalia Kanem, executive director of UNFPA, said: "Many countries are [struggling] with ageing and shrinking populations, labour (7) \_\_\_\_\_, and rising healthcare and pension costs. These are real (8) \_\_\_\_\_."

The United Nations (9) \_\_\_\_\_ over 14,000 people in 14 countries on five continents to make its report. One of the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ findings was of the global fertility crisis. The UN said the high (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of parenthood is the biggest reason for women not having children. Many couples want children, but they cannot (12) \_\_\_\_\_ them. Nearly 20 per cent of adults believe they will not be able to have the (13) \_\_\_\_\_ of children they want. There were other reasons for (14) \_\_\_\_\_ birth rates. These include low salaries, expensive housing, and worries about the future of our world. The UN said one (15) \_\_\_\_\_ to the crisis is to create "family-friendly policies, such as affordable childcare and (16) \_\_\_\_\_ leave for all carers".

*longevity*  
*retired*  
*released*  
*concerns*  
*pensions*  
*experiencing*  
*shortages*  
*born*

*key*  
*number*  
*solution*  
*surveyed*  
*paid*  
*afford*  
*falling*  
*cost*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

- 1) The United Nations has said the world is experiencing a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. birth late crisis
  - b. bath rate crisis
  - c. birth rate crisis
  - d. birth rate crises
- 2) The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. released the report
  - b. released a reports
  - c. release a report
  - d. released a report
- 3) It highlights how fewer and fewer children are being born all \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. over a world
  - b. over the worlds
  - c. cover the world
  - d. over the world
- 4) workers are having to pay the pensions of older people \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. who has retired
  - b. who have retired
  - c. whom have retired
  - d. who have retire
- 5) shrinking populations, labour shortages, and rising healthcare \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. and person costs
  - b. and pension costs
  - c. end pension costs
  - d. and pension accosts
- 6) The United Nations surveyed over 14,000 people in 14 countries \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. on five continents
  - b. on five incontinence
  - c. on five contents
  - d. on five containments
- 7) One of the key findings was of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. global philately crisis
  - b. global fertility crisis
  - c. global formality crisis
  - d. global fragility crisis
- 8) Many couples want children, but they \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. cannot afford them
  - b. cannot afford there
  - c. cannot afford then
  - d. cannot afford thumb
- 9) These include low salaries, expensive housing, and worries \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. about a future
  - b. about that future
  - c. about the future
  - d. about this future
- 10) the crisis is to create family-friendly policies, such as affordable childcare \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. end paid leave
  - b. and plaid leave
  - c. and paid leave
  - d. and paid leaf

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

The United Nations has said the world (1) \_\_\_\_\_ birth rate crisis. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has released a report called "State of World Population 2025". It (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and fewer children are being born all over the world. At (3) \_\_\_\_\_, people are living longer. Falling birth rates and increased (4) \_\_\_\_\_ many problems. Smaller numbers of workers are having to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of older people who have retired. Dr Natalia Kanem, executive director of UNFPA, said: "Many countries are [struggling] with ageing and shrinking populations, labour shortages, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and pension costs. These are real concerns."

The United Nations surveyed over 14,000 people in 14 countries (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to make its report. One of the key findings was of the global fertility crisis. The UN said the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ parenthood is the biggest reason for women not having children. Many couples want children, but they (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Nearly 20 per cent of adults believe they will not be able to have the number of children they want. There were (10) \_\_\_\_\_ falling birth rates. These include low salaries, expensive housing, and worries about the future of our world. The UN said (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the crisis is to create "family-friendly policies, (12) \_\_\_\_\_ childcare and paid leave for all carers".



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

1. What U.N. agency is responsible for the report in the article?
2. What is the name of the report?
3. What is happening at the same time as falling birth rates?
4. What do young workers have to pay for?
5. What does the article say are shrinking?
6. How many people did the U.N. interview?
7. What was one of the key findings of the report?
8. How many adults worry about not having the number of kids they want?
9. What are young people worrying about the future of?
10. What kind of policies did the U.N. say needed to be introduced?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

- 1) What U.N. agency is responsible for the report in the article?
  - a) UNESCO
  - b) UNFPA
  - c) WHO
  - d) UNICEF
- 2) What is the name of the report?
  - a) World State of Population
  - b) Population State of World
  - c) State of World Population
  - d) State of Population World
- 3) What is happening at the same time as falling birth rates?
  - a) A.I. is taking over.
  - b) Immigration is increasing.
  - c) Climate change
  - d) People are living longer.
- 4) What do young workers have to pay for?
  - a) travel
  - b) pensions
  - c) insurance
  - d) healthcare
- 5) What does the article say are shrinking?
  - a) populations
  - b) waistlines
  - c) budgets
  - d) hopes
- 6) How many people did the U.N. interview?
  - a) more than 14,000 people
  - b) exactly 14,000
  - c) around 14,000
  - d) just fewer than 14,000
- 7) What was one of the key findings of the report?
  - a) domestic violence
  - b) global hunger
  - c) A.I. is a danger
  - d) the global fertility crisis
- 8) How many adults worry about not having the number of kids they want?
  - a) nearly 40%
  - b) nearly 30%
  - c) nearly 20%
  - d) nearly 10%
- 9) What are young people worrying about the future of?
  - a) investments
  - b) children
  - c) money
  - d) our world
- 10) What kind of policies did the U.N. say needed to be introduced?
  - a) new laws
  - b) family-friendly policies
  - c) payments to parents
  - d) more schools

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

## **Role A – Money**

You think money is the biggest worry about having children. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as worrying. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): no sleep, bad behaviour or worries about children's future.

## **Role B – No Sleep**

You think no sleep is the biggest worry about having children. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as worrying. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): money, bad behaviour or worries about children's future.

## **Role C – Bad Behaviour**

You think bad behaviour is the biggest worry about having children. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as worrying. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): no sleep, money or worries about children's future.

## **Role D – Worries About Their Future**

You think worries about children's future is the biggest worry about having children. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as worrying. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): no sleep, bad behaviour or money.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'birth' and 'crisis'.

<b>birth</b>	<b>crisis</b>

- 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"><li>• experiencing</li><li>• born</li><li>• workers</li><li>• smaller</li><li>• ageing</li><li>• real</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•14</li><li>•key</li><li>•high</li><li>•adults</li><li>•future</li><li>•such</li></ul>
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# BABIES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

Write five GOOD questions about babies 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.

# BABIES 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 'birth'?
3. What do you know about the United Nations?
4. What do you think of the state of the world population?
5. Why are fewer and fewer babies being born?
6. Why might it be good if the global population becomes smaller?
7. Is it a good or bad thing that people are living longer?
8. What are the problems of people living longer?
9. Do you worry about your old age?
10. What will the world be like in 50 years from now?

*U.N. issues report on global birth rate crisis – 12th June 2025*  
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# BABIES 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 'crisis'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How expensive is it to have children?
15. Should the government pay people to have children?
16. What are the problems of fewer babies being born?
17. What worries do you have about the future?
18. Do you worry about bringing babies into this world?
19. Is there a maximum number of people that can live on Earth?
20. What questions would you like to ask the United Nations?

## 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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

The United Nations has said the world is experiencing a birth rate crisis. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has (1) \_\_\_\_ a report called "State of World Population 2025". It highlights how fewer and fewer children are being (2) \_\_\_\_ all over the world. At the same time, people are living (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Falling birth rates and increased longevity are creating many problems. Smaller numbers of workers are having to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the pensions of older people who have (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Dr Natalia Kanem, executive director of UNFPA, said: "Many countries are [struggling] with ageing and shrinking populations, labour shortages, and rising healthcare and pension costs. These are real (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

The United Nations surveyed over 14,000 people (7) \_\_\_\_\_ 14 countries on five continents to make its report. One of the key findings was (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the global fertility crisis. The UN said the high cost of parenthood is the biggest reason (9) \_\_\_\_\_ women not having children. Many couples want children, but they cannot afford them. Nearly 20 per cent of adults (10) \_\_\_\_\_ they will not be able to have the number of children they want. There were other reasons for falling birth rates. These include low salaries, expensive (11) \_\_\_\_\_, and worries about the future of our world. The UN said one solution to the crisis is to create "family-friendly policies, such as affordable childcare and paid (12) \_\_\_\_\_ for all carers".

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

- |     |              |               |                 |               |
|-----|--------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) releases | (b) releasing | (c) release     | (d) released  |
| 2.  | (a) berthed  | (b) birthed   | (c) birth       | (d) born      |
| 3.  | (a) lengthen | (b) longer    | (c) longing     | (d) longs     |
| 4.  | (a) paying   | (b) paid      | (c) pay         | (d) payee     |
| 5.  | (a) retired  | (b) retried   | (c) fired       | (d) refired   |
| 6.  | (a) concerns | (b) corners   | (c) concertinas | (d) curtains  |
| 7.  | (a) by       | (b) as        | (c) at          | (d) in        |
| 8.  | (a) of       | (b) at        | (c) up          | (d) down      |
| 9.  | (a) from     | (b) for       | (c) of          | (d) free      |
| 10. | (a) belief   | (b) believer  | (c) believe     | (d) believes  |
| 11. | (a) house    | (b) housed    | (c) housing     | (d) household |
| 12. | (a) remain   | (b) leave     | (c) stay        | (d) depart    |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. reengnipxeci a birth rate crisis
2. eardsele a report
3. Falling birth rates and increased otliveyng
4. Many countries are igtuglgsrn
5. labour geshroast
6. These are real nconsecr

## Paragraph 2

7. The UN uesrvyed over 14,000 people
8. 14 countries on five esticontnn
9. the global rietflyti crisis
10. they cannot daorff them
11. low srlsaei
12. one otulnsoi to the crisis

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From [https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html](https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html)

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) (UNFPA) has released a report called "State of World Population 2025". It highlights how fewer and
- ( ) continents to make its report. One of the key findings was of the global fertility crisis. The UN said the high
- ( ) cost of parenthood is the biggest reason for women not having children. Many couples want children, but
- ( ) crisis is to create "family-friendly policies, such as affordable childcare and paid leave for all carers".
- ( ) fewer children are being born all over the world. At the same time, people are living longer. Falling birth rates and
- ( ) increased longevity are creating many problems. Smaller numbers of workers are having to pay the pensions
- ( ) of children they want. There were other reasons for falling birth rates. These include low
- ( ) of older people who have retired. Dr Natalia Kanem, executive director
- ( ) of UNFPA, said: "Many countries are [struggling] with ageing and shrinking populations, labour
- ( ) salaries, expensive housing, and worries about the future of our world. The UN said one solution to the
- ( ) shortages, and rising healthcare and pension costs. These are real concerns."
- ( **1** ) The United Nations has said the world is experiencing a birth rate crisis. The United Nations Population Fund
- ( ) The United Nations surveyed over 14,000 people in 14 countries on five
- ( ) they cannot afford them. Nearly 20 per cent of adults believe they will not be able to have the number

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

1. The crisis world a is birth rate experiencing .
2. Fewer children and being fewer are born .
3. Smaller having to are workers of numbers pay .
4. The retired people have who pensions of older .
5. Countries populations and with shrinking ageing struggling are .
6. People on countries five in 14 continents .
7. High reason is the of costs parenthood biggest .
8. Have want the they of children number .
9. There reasons rates were other birth falling for .
10. Childcare for paid leave carers and all .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

The United Nations has said the world is experiencing *the / a* birth rate crisis. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has released *a / the* report called "State of World Population 2025". It highlights how *few / fewer* and fewer children are being born all *over / under* the world. At the same time, people are living *long / longer*. Falling birth rates and increased longevity are creating many problems. Smaller numbers of *works / workers* are having to *pay / paid* the pensions of older people who have *retiring / retired*. Dr Natalia Kanem, executive director of UNFPA, said: "Many countries are [struggling] with *agent / ageing* and shrinking populations, labour shortages, and rising healthcare and pension costs. These are real *concern / concerns*."

The United Nations surveyed over 14,000 people in 14 countries on five continents *for / to* make its report. One of the *key / keyed* findings was of the global *virility / fertility* crisis. The UN said the *high / height* cost of parenthood is the biggest *reason / reasons* for women not having children. Many couples want children, but they cannot afford them. Nearly 20 per cent of adults believe they will not be *ability / able* to have the number of children they want. There were other reasons for *filling / falling* birth rates. These include *slow / low* salaries, expensive housing, and worries about the future of our world. The UN said *once / one* solution to the crisis is to create "family-friendly policies, such as affordable childcare and paid *leave / leaf* for all carers".

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

Th\_ \_n\_t\_d N\_t\_\_ns h\_s s\_\_d th\_ w\_rld \_s  
\_xp\_r\_\_nc\_ng \_ b\_rth r\_t\_ cr\_s\_s. Th\_ \_n\_t\_d N\_t\_\_ns  
P\_p\_l\_t\_\_n F\_nd (\_NFP\_) h\_s r\_l\_\_s\_d \_ r\_p\_r\_t c\_ll\_d  
"St\_t\_ \_f W\_rld P\_p\_l\_t\_\_n 2025". \_t h\_ghl\_ghts h\_w  
f\_w\_r \_nd f\_w\_r ch\_ldr\_n \_r\_ b\_\_ng b\_rn \_ll \_v\_r th\_  
w\_rld. \_t th\_ s\_m\_ t\_m\_, p\_\_pl\_ \_r\_ l\_v\_ng l\_ng\_r.  
F\_ll\_ng b\_rth r\_t\_s \_nd \_ncr\_\_s\_d l\_ng\_v\_ty \_r\_  
cr\_\_t\_ng m\_ny pr\_bl\_ms. Sm\_ll\_r n\_mb\_rs \_f w\_rk\_rs  
\_r\_ h\_v\_ng t\_ p\_y th\_ p\_ns\_\_ns \_f \_ld\_r p\_\_pl\_ wh\_  
h\_v\_ r\_t\_r\_d. Dr N\_t\_l\_\_ K\_n\_m, \_x\_c\_t\_v\_ d\_r\_ct\_r \_f  
\_NFP\_, s\_\_d: "M\_ny c\_\_ntr\_\_s \_r\_ [str\_ggl\_ng] w\_th  
\_g\_\_ng \_nd shr\_nk\_ng p\_p\_l\_t\_\_ns, l\_b\_\_r sh\_rt\_g\_s,  
\_nd r\_s\_ng h\_\_lthc\_r\_ \_nd p\_ns\_\_n c\_sts. Th\_s\_ \_r\_  
r\_\_l c\_nc\_rns."

Th\_ \_n\_t\_d N\_t\_\_ns s\_rv\_y\_d \_v\_r 14,000 p\_\_pl\_ \_n  
14 c\_\_ntr\_\_s \_n f\_v\_ c\_nt\_nnts t\_ m\_k\_ \_ts r\_p\_r\_t.  
\_n\_ \_f th\_ k\_y f\_nd\_ngs w\_s \_f th\_ gl\_b\_l f\_rtl\_ty  
cr\_s\_s. Th\_ \_N s\_\_d th\_ h\_gh c\_st \_f p\_rnth\_\_d \_s  
th\_ b\_ggst r\_\_s\_n f\_r w\_m\_n n\_t h\_v\_ng ch\_ldr\_n.  
M\_ny c\_\_pl\_s w\_nt ch\_ldr\_n, b\_t th\_y c\_nnt \_ff\_rd  
th\_m. N\_\_rly 20 p\_r c\_nt \_f \_d\_lts b\_l\_\_v\_ th\_y w\_ll  
n\_t b\_ \_bl\_ t\_ h\_v\_ th\_ n\_mb\_r \_f ch\_ldr\_n th\_y  
w\_nt. Th\_r\_ w\_r\_ \_th\_r r\_s\_ns f\_r f\_ll\_ng b\_rth  
r\_t\_s. Th\_s\_ \_ncl\_d\_ l\_w s\_l\_r\_\_s, \_xp\_ns\_v\_ h\_\_s\_ng,  
\_nd w\_rr\_\_s \_b\_\_t th\_ f\_t\_r\_ \_f \_\_r w\_rld. Th\_ \_N  
s\_\_d \_n\_ s\_l\_t\_\_n t\_ th\_ cr\_s\_s \_s t\_ cr\_\_t\_ "f\_m\_ly-  
fr\_\_ndly p\_l\_c\_\_s, s\_ch \_s \_ff\_rd\_bl\_ ch\_ldc\_r\_ \_nd  
p\_\_d l\_\_v\_ f\_r \_ll c\_r\_rs".

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/06/global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

the united nations has said the world is experiencing a birth rate crisis the united nations population fund unfpa has released a report called state of world population 2025 it highlights how fewer and fewer children are being born all over the world at the same time people are living longer falling birth rates and increased longevity are creating many problems smaller numbers of workers are having to pay the pensions of older people who have retired dr natalia kanem executive director of unfpa said many countries are struggling with ageing and shrinking populations labour shortages and rising healthcare and pension costs these are real concerns

the united nations surveyed over 14000 people in 14 countries on five continents to make its report one of the key findings was of the global fertility crisis the un said the high cost of parenthood is the biggest reason for women not having children many couples want children but they cannot afford them nearly 20 per cent of adults believe they will not be able to have the number of children they want there were other reasons for falling birth rates these include low salaries expensive housing and worries about the future of our world the un said one solution to the crisis is to create familyfriendly policies such as affordable childcare and paid leave for all carers

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/06/12-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

The United Nations has said the world is experiencing a birth rate crisis. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has released a report called "State of World Population 2025". It highlights how fewer and fewer children are being born all over the world. At the same time, people are living longer. Falling birth rates and increased longevity are creating many problems. Smaller numbers of workers are having to pay the pensions of older people who have retired. Dr Natalia Kanem, executive director of UNFPA, said: "Many countries are [struggling] with ageing and shrinking populations, labour shortages, and rising healthcare and pension costs. These are real concerns." The United Nations surveyed over 14,000 people in 14 countries on five continents to make its report. One of the key findings was of the global fertility crisis. The UN said the high cost of parenthood is the biggest reason for women not having children. Many couples want children, but they cannot afford them. Nearly 20 percent of adults believe they will not be able to have the number of children they want. There were other reasons for falling birth rates. These include low salaries, expensive housing, and worries about the future of our world. The UN said one solution to the crisis is to create "family-friendly policies, such as affordable childcare and paid leave for all carers".

## FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

Write about **babies** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

[illegible]



# ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250612-global-birth-rates-crisis.html>

Governments should pay couples to have three or more babies. Discuss.

[illegible]

# 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. BABIES:** Make a poster about babies. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. MORE BABIES:** Write a magazine article about governments paying people to have more babies. 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 babies. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to increase birth rates. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 T    3 T    4 T    5 F    6 F    7 T    8 F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- State of World Population 2025
- People are living longer.
- The pensions of older people
- Populations
- More than 14,000 people
- The global fertility crisis
- Nearly 20 per cent
- Our world
- Family-friendly policies

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- The world is experiencing a birth rate crisis.
- Fewer and fewer children are being born.
- Smaller numbers of workers are having to pay.
- The pensions of older people who have retired.
- Countries are struggling with ageing and shrinking populations.
- People in 14 countries on five continents.
- High costs of parenthood is the biggest reason.
- Have the number of children they want.
- There were other reasons for falling birth rates.
- Childcare and paid leave for all carers.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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