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## Level 6

# Belgium to allow euthanasia for children

16th February, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

Lawmakers in Belgium have passed a bill that will allow euthanasia for terminally ill children. The bill was passed with 86 votes for the motion, 44 against, and 12 abstentions. It becomes the first nation to allow euthanasia for children. Belgium's controversial law applies only to terminally ill children who are in great pain. There are several conditions that must be met for any act of euthanasia to take place. The child must be in full possession of his/her mental skills and request the act themselves. It requires an adult's consent and the written approval of a medical team, who must submit a psychological report. In addition, there must be no treatment available that would alleviate the child's suffering and distress.

The law has created a storm of opposition worldwide. Opponents called it immoral and said children were not mature enough to make such a decision. One man present at the vote stood up and screamed "murderers" at the lawmakers. The Christian Science Monitor makes the case that: "In the 21st century, when parents the world over worry that children are growing up too quickly, Belgium is poised to hand kids one more responsibility." It adds that: "Allowing children, who aren't even old enough to drive or vote, to decide when it's time to die is one step too far." Last week, 160 Belgian paediatricians claimed the law was unnecessary because modern medicine could alleviate pain.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-26181615>  
<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2014/0213/Slippery-slope-Belgium-moves-to-extend-euthanasia-rights-to-children>  
[http://www.deredactie.be/cm/vrtnieuws.english/Politics/140213\\_Euthansie\\_vote](http://www.deredactie.be/cm/vrtnieuws.english/Politics/140213_Euthansie_vote)

# WARM-UPS

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

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*lawmakers / terminally ill / votes / controversial / mental skills / consent / distress / opposition / immoral / growing up / too quickly / responsibility / one step too far*

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

**3. OLD ENOUGH:** When are children old enough to do these things? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Age?	Why?
Vote		
Marry		
Smoke		
Get a job		
Have a credit card		
Have a mobile phone		

**4. IMMORAL:** Students A **strongly** believe euthanasia is immoral; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. RESPONSIBILITIES:** What are children's biggest responsibilities? Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- to pass exams
- to have fun
- to pass on their culture
- to look after old parents
- to protect the environment
- to get a good job
- to help people in need
- to follow rules

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

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

## 1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. The voting that passed the bill was very close.                         | T / F |
| b. Belgium is the first country to allow euthanasia for children.          | T / F |
| c. Children who wish to die need their parents' approval.                  | T / F |
| d. A child can be granted euthanasia even if there are drugs to help them. | T / F |
| e. A man accused lawmakers who passed the bill of being murderers.         | T / F |
| f. A newspaper said it was too much of a responsibility for a child.       | T / F |
| g. The newspaper said kids should be allowed to vote at a younger age.     | T / F |
| h. Many doctors said modern medicine made euthanasia unnecessary.          | T / F |

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. lawmakers      | a. ease              |
| 2. motion         | b. ask for           |
| 3. controversial  | c. argument          |
| 4. request        | d. proposal          |
| 5. alleviate      | e. adult             |
| 6. opposition     | f. children's doctor |
| 7. mature         | g. legislators       |
| 8. case           | h. give              |
| 9. hand           | i. objection         |
| 10. paediatrician | j. emotive           |

## 3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. 86 votes for the motion, 44 against, | a. enough                  |
| 2. several conditions that              | b. report                  |
| 3. be in full possession of             | c. too far                 |
| 4. submit a psychological               | d. must be met             |
| 5. alleviate the child's                | e. one more responsibility |
| 6. The law has created a storm          | f. his/her mental skills   |
| 7. children were not mature             | g. and 12 abstentions      |
| 8. children are growing up too          | h. of opposition           |
| 9. poised to hand kids                  | i. suffering and distress  |
| 10. one step                            | j. quickly                 |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

Lawmakers in Belgium have passed a bill that will allow euthanasia for terminally ill children. The bill was passed with 86 votes for the (1) \_\_\_\_\_, 44 against, and 12 (2) \_\_\_\_\_. It becomes the first nation to allow euthanasia for children. Belgium's controversial law (3) \_\_\_\_\_ only to terminally ill children who are in (4) \_\_\_\_\_ pain. There are several conditions that must be (5) \_\_\_\_\_ for any act of euthanasia to take place. The child must be in full possession of his/her (6) \_\_\_\_\_ skills and request the act themselves. It requires an adult's consent and the written approval of a medical team, who must (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a psychological report. In addition, there must be no treatment available that would (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the child's suffering and distress.

*met*  
*submit*  
*abstentions*  
*great*  
*mental*  
*motion*  
*alleviate*  
*applies*

The law has created a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of opposition worldwide. Opponents called it immoral and said children were not (10) \_\_\_\_\_ enough to make such a decision. One man present at the vote stood up and (11) \_\_\_\_\_ "murderers" at the lawmakers. The Christian Science Monitor makes the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ that: "In the 21st century, when parents the world (13) \_\_\_\_\_ worry that children are growing up too quickly, Belgium is poised to (14) \_\_\_\_\_ kids one more responsibility." It adds that: "Allowing children, who aren't even old enough to drive or vote, to decide when it's time to die is one (15) \_\_\_\_\_ too far." Last week, 160 Belgian paediatricians claimed the law was unnecessary because modern medicine could alleviate (16) \_\_\_\_\_.

*over*  
*step*  
*case*  
*mature*  
*pain*  
*storm*  
*hand*  
*screamed*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

- 1) The bill was passed with 886 votes for the motion, 44 against, \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. and 12 absent shuns
  - b. and 12 abs tensions
  - c. and 12 abstentions
  - d. and 12 absentees
- 2) applies only to terminally ill children who are \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. in great pain
  - b. in greatly pain
  - c. in grate pain
  - d. in grates pain
- 3) The child must be in full possession of his/ \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. her mentally skills
  - b. her mental skills
  - c. her mentality skills
  - d. her mentalise skills
- 4) a medical team who must submit \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a psychology logical report
  - b. a psyche or logical report
  - c. a psychology call report
  - d. a psychological report
- 5) treatment available that would alleviate the child's \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. suffer in and distress
  - b. suffering and distress
  - c. suffering and distressed
  - d. suffer in and distressed
- 6) The law has created a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. storm of opposition
  - b. thorn of opposition
  - c. strum of opposition
  - d. stormy of opposition
- 7) Opponents called \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. it immortal
  - b. it in moral
  - c. it in morale
  - d. it immoral
- 8) parents the world \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. odor worry
  - b. under worry
  - c. over worry
  - d. ever worry
- 9) to decide when it's time to die is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. one step too fast
  - b. one step too far
  - c. one step too fair
  - d. one step truth are
- 10) Last week, 160 Belgian paediatricians claimed the law \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. was unnecessarily
  - b. was a necessary
  - c. was one necessary
  - d. was unnecessary

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

Lawmakers in Belgium have passed (1) \_\_\_\_\_ euthanasia for terminally ill children. The bill was passed with 86 votes for the motion, 44 against, (2) \_\_\_\_\_. It becomes the first nation to allow euthanasia for children. Belgium's (3) \_\_\_\_\_ applies only to terminally ill children who are in great pain. There are several conditions that must (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of euthanasia to take place. The child must be in full possession of his/her mental skills and request the act themselves. It requires (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and the written approval of a medical team, who must submit a psychological report. In addition, there must be no treatment available that (6) \_\_\_\_\_ child's suffering and distress.

The law has created (7) \_\_\_\_\_ worldwide. Opponents called it immoral and said children were not mature enough to make such a decision. One man present at the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ screamed "murderers" at the lawmakers. The Christian Science Monitor makes the case that: "In the 21st century, when parents (9) \_\_\_\_\_ that children are growing up too quickly, Belgium (10) \_\_\_\_\_ kids one more responsibility." It adds that: "Allowing children, who aren't even old enough to drive or vote, to decide when it's (11) \_\_\_\_\_ too far." Last week, 160 Belgian paediatricians claimed the law was unnecessary because (12) \_\_\_\_\_ alleviate pain.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

1. How many lawmakers voted to pass the bill?

---

2. How many people abstained in the vote?

---

3. What must a child be in full possession of to request euthanasia?

---

4. Who has to provide their consent to a child's request for euthanasia?

---

5. What must there be a lack of before a euthanasia request is granted?

---

6. What did opponents of the law call it?

---

7. What did opponents say children lacked?

---

8. What did a man at the vote accuse the lawmakers of being?

---

9. What did a newspaper say parents are worried about?

---

10. What kind of doctors said the law was unnecessary?

---



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

1. How many lawmakers voted to pass the bill?
  - a) 132
  - b) all of them
  - c) 86
  - d) 44
2. How many people abstained in the vote?
  - a) 12
  - b) 0
  - c) 86
  - d) 44
3. What must a child be in full possession of to request euthanasia?
  - a) his/her mental skills
  - b) a Belgian passport
  - c) his/her medical card
  - d) his/her health record
4. Who has to provide their consent to a child's request for euthanasia?
  - a) a euthanasia group
  - b) an adult
  - c) Belgium's leader
  - d) the head of a hospital
5. What must there be a lack of before a euthanasia request is granted?
  - a) reasons
  - b) opponents
  - c) doctors
  - d) treatment to ease suffering
6. What did opponents of the law call it?
  - a) stormy
  - b) immoral
  - c) global
  - d) ground-breaking
7. What did opponents say children lacked?
  - a) maturity
  - b) time
  - c) opportunities
  - d) support
8. What did a man at the vote accuse the lawmakers of being?
  - a) incompetent
  - b) arrogant
  - c) murderers
  - d) Samaritans
9. What did a newspaper say parents are worried about?
  - a) lawmakers
  - b) doctors
  - c) a lack of medicine
  - d) kids growing up too quickly
10. What kind of doctors said the law was unnecessary?
  - a) paediatricians
  - b) gynaecologists
  - c) neurologists
  - d) cardiologists

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

## **Role A – Pass exams**

You think passing exams is a child's biggest responsibility. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which of these children are least responsible for (and why): having fun, looking after parents in their old age or protecting the environment.

## **Role B – Have fun**

You think having fun is a child's biggest responsibility. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which of these children are least responsible for (and why): passing exams, looking after parents in their old age or protecting the environment.

## **Role C – Look after parents in their old age**

You think looking after parents in their old age is a child's biggest responsibility. Tell the others 3 reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which of these children are least responsible for (and why): having fun, passing exams or protecting the environment.

## **Role D – Protect the environment**

You think protecting the environment is a child's biggest responsibility. Tell the others 3 reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which of these children are least responsible for (and why): having fun, looking after parents in their old age or passing exams.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

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

<b>controversial</b>	<b>law</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>• 12</li><li>• great</li><li>• several</li><li>• full</li><li>• submit</li><li>• available</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• storm</li><li>• enough</li><li>• stood</li><li>• 21</li><li>• drive</li><li>• modern</li></ul>
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# EUTHANASIA SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

Write five GOOD questions about euthanasia 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.

# EUTHANASIA DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'euthanasia'?
- c) What do you think of Belgium's new law?
- d) Do you think more countries will follow suit?
- e) What do you understand by the terms 'mercy killing' and 'assisted suicide'?
- f) Are the conditions strict enough?
- g) Do people have the right to choose when to die?
- h) What are the arguments for and against euthanasia?
- i) Is euthanasia a compassionate way for the dying to die?
- j) Could euthanasia ever be allowed in your country?

*Belgium to allow euthanasia for children – 16th February, 2014*  
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# EUTHANASIA DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Is euthanasia immoral?
- c) Why do lawmakers think children can be mature enough to decide to die?
- d) Is it too much responsibility for a child to choose euthanasia?
- e) Does a family member or a doctor have the right to turn off a life support machine?
- f) What does your religion say about euthanasia?
- g) The Ancient Greek meaning for euthanasia is 'good death'. What do you think of this meaning?
- h) Is there a difference between euthanasia and murder?
- i) Is it crazy that a child not old enough to drive can choose to end his/her life?
- j) What questions would you like to ask one of the Belgian lawmakers?

# 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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

Lawmakers in Belgium have passed a bill that will allow euthanasia for terminally ill children. The bill was passed with 86 votes for the (1) \_\_\_\_\_, 44 against, and 12 (2) \_\_\_\_\_. It becomes the first nation to allow euthanasia for children. Belgium's controversial law applies only to terminally ill children who are in (3) \_\_\_\_\_ pain. There are several conditions that must be (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for any act of euthanasia to take place. The child must be in full possession of his/her mental skills and request the act themselves. It requires an adult's (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and the written approval of a medical team, who must submit a psychological report. In addition, there must be no treatment available that would alleviate the child's (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and distress.

The law has created a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of opposition worldwide. Opponents called it immoral and said children were not mature enough to make (8) \_\_\_\_\_ a decision. One man present at the vote stood up and screamed "murderers" at the lawmakers. The Christian Science Monitor makes the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ that: "In the 21st century, when parents the world (10) \_\_\_\_\_ worry that children are growing up too quickly, Belgium is poised to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ kids one more responsibility." It adds that: "Allowing children, who aren't even old enough to drive or vote, to decide when it's time to die is one (12) \_\_\_\_\_ too far." Last week, 160 Belgian paediatricians claimed the law was unnecessary because modern medicine could alleviate pain.

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

- |     |                 |                 |                 |                   |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1.  | (a) motion      | (b) potion      | (c) lotion      | (d) devotion      |
| 2.  | (a) abstains    | (b) abstinences | (c) abstentions | (d) abstracts     |
| 3.  | (a) wild        | (b) dull        | (c) great       | (d) uncomfortable |
| 4.  | (a) encountered | (b) written     | (c) talked      | (d) met           |
| 5.  | (a) consent     | (b) consensus   | (c) consensual  | (d) conscience    |
| 6.  | (a) sufferance  | (b) suffering   | (c) suffers     | (d) suffered      |
| 7.  | (a) typhoon     | (b) tempest     | (c) whirlwind   | (d) storm         |
| 8.  | (a) great       | (b) such        | (c) huge        | (d) so            |
| 9.  | (a) box         | (b) container   | (c) case        | (d) file          |
| 10. | (a) via         | (b) over        | (c) on          | (d) under         |
| 11. | (a) foot        | (b) shoulder    | (c) back        | (d) hand          |
| 12. | (a) rung        | (b) step        | (c) stair       | (d) ladder        |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. euthanasia for nrtmyaleli ill children
2. 44 against, and 12 tssenatnboi
3. Belgium's ecrriovatlosn law
4. in full nosesispos of his/her mental skills
5. submit a plgyicalocsoh report
6. the child's fngfuresi and distress

## Paragraph 2

7. created a storm of osoitonipp
8. Opponents called it ramimol
9. not tuamre enough to make such a decision
10. screamed "rermersud" at the lawmakers
11. Belgium is poesdi to hand kids one more
12. modern medicine could laevatlei pain



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

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

- ( ) paediatricians claimed the law was unnecessary because modern medicine could alleviate pain.
- ( ) met for any act of euthanasia to take place. The child must be in full possession of his/her mental skills and request the act
- ( ) ill children. The bill was passed with 86 votes for the motion, 44 against, and 12
- ( ) at the lawmakers. The Christian Science Monitor makes the case that: "In the 21st century, when parents
- ( ) The law has created a storm of opposition worldwide. Opponents called it immoral and said children were not mature
- ( ) abstentions. It becomes the first nation to allow euthanasia for children. Belgium's controversial law
- ( **1** ) Lawmakers in Belgium have passed a bill that will allow euthanasia for terminally
- ( ) hand kids one more responsibility." It adds that: "Allowing children, who aren't even old enough to drive or
- ( ) vote, to decide when it's time to die is one step too far." Last week, 160 Belgian
- ( ) the world over worry that children are growing up too quickly, Belgium is poised to
- ( ) report. In addition, there must be no treatment available that would alleviate the child's suffering and distress.
- ( ) themselves. It requires an adult's consent and the written approval of a medical team, who must submit a psychological
- ( ) applies only to terminally ill children who are in great pain. There are several conditions that must be
- ( ) enough to make such a decision. One man present at the vote stood up and screamed "murderers"

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

1. for terminally ill children A bill that will allow euthanasia.

---

2. allow The euthanasia first for nation children to.

---

3. are be several met conditions that There must.

---

4. and approval requires consent written It adult's the an.

---

5. the child's That suffering would and alleviate distress.

---

6. opposition The created of has storm worldwide law a.

---

7. such a decision Children were not mature enough to make.

---

8. children quickly are growing Worry up that too.

---

9. kids hand to Poised responsibility more one.

---

10. pain alleviate could medicine modern because Unnecessary.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

Lawmakers in Belgium have passed a bill that will allow euthanasia for *terminally / terminal* ill children. The bill was passed with 86 votes for the motion, 44 against, and 12 *absentees / abstentions*. It becomes the first nation to allow euthanasia for children. Belgium's *controversy / controversial* law applies only to terminally ill children who are in great *pain / painful*. There are several *conditionals / conditions* that must be met for any act of euthanasia to take *places / place*. The child must be in full possession of his/her *mental / mentally* skills and request the act themselves. It requires an adult's *consent / consensus* and the written approval of a medical team, who must *commit / submit* a psychological report. In addition, there must be no treatment available that would alleviate the child's *suffer / suffering* and distress.

The law has created a *storm / tempest* of opposition worldwide. Opponents called it *immoral / immortal* and said children were not *nature / mature* enough to make *such / much* a decision. One man present at the vote stood up and *screaming / screamed* "murderers" at the lawmakers. The Christian Science Monitor makes the *base / case* that: "In the 21st century, when parents the world *over / under* worry that children are growing up too quickly, Belgium is *poised / poisoned* to hand kids one more responsibility." It adds that: "Allowing children, who aren't even old enough to drive or vote, to decide when it's time to die is one *step / stair* too far." Last week, 160 Belgian paediatricians claimed the law was unnecessary because modern medicine could *alleviation / alleviate* pain.

**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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

L\_wm\_k\_rs \_n B\_lg\_\_m h\_v\_ p\_ss\_d \_ b\_ll th\_t w\_ll  
\_ll\_w \_\_th\_n\_s\_\_ f\_r t\_rm\_n\_lly \_ll ch\_ldr\_n. Th\_b\_ll  
w\_s p\_ss\_d w\_th 86 v\_t\_s f\_r th\_m\_t\_\_n, 44 \_g\_\_nst,  
\_nd 12 \_bst\_nt\_\_ns. \_t b\_c\_m\_s th\_f\_rst n\_t\_\_n t\_  
\_ll\_w \_\_th\_n\_s\_\_ f\_r ch\_ldr\_n. B\_lg\_\_m's  
c\_ntr\_v\_rs\_\_l l\_w \_ppl\_\_s \_nly t\_ t\_rm\_n\_lly \_ll  
ch\_ldr\_n wh\_\_r\_\_n gr\_\_t p\_\_n. Th\_r\_\_r\_s\_v\_r\_l  
c\_nd\_t\_\_ns th\_t m\_st b\_\_m\_t f\_r \_ny \_ct \_f  
\_\_th\_n\_s\_\_ t\_t\_k\_pl\_c\_. Th\_ch\_ld m\_st b\_\_n f\_ll  
p\_ss\_ss\_\_n \_f h\_s/h\_r m\_nt\_l sk\_lls \_nd r\_q\_\_st th\_  
\_ct th\_ms\_lv\_s. \_t r\_q\_\_r\_s \_n \_d It's c\_ns\_nt \_nd th\_  
wr\_tt\_n \_ppr\_v\_l \_f \_m\_d\_c\_l\_t\_\_m, wh\_m\_st s\_bm\_t  
\_psych\_l\_g\_c\_l\_r\_p\_rt. \_n \_dd\_t\_\_n, th\_r\_m\_st b\_n\_  
tr\_\_tm\_nt \_v\_\_l\_bl th\_t w\_\_ld \_ll\_v\_\_t th\_ch\_ld's  
s\_ff\_r\_ng \_nd d\_str\_ss.

Th\_l\_w h\_s cr\_\_t\_d \_st\_rm \_f \_pp\_s\_t\_\_n w\_rldw\_d\_.  
\_pp\_n\_nts c\_ll\_d \_t \_mm\_r\_l \_nd s\_\_d ch\_ldr\_n w\_r\_  
n\_t m\_t\_r\_\_n\_\_gh t\_m\_k\_s ch\_\_d\_c\_s\_\_n. \_n\_m\_n  
pr\_s\_nt \_t th\_v\_t\_st\_\_d \_p\_\_nd scr\_\_m\_d "m\_rdr\_rs"  
\_t th\_l\_wm\_k\_rs. Th\_Chr\_st\_\_n Sc\_\_nc\_M\_n\_t\_r  
m\_k\_s th\_c\_s\_\_th\_t: " \_n th\_ 21st c\_nt\_ry, wh\_n  
p\_r\_nts th\_w\_rld \_v\_r w\_rry th\_t ch\_ldr\_n \_r\_  
gr\_w\_ng \_p t\_\_q\_\_ckly, B\_lg\_\_m \_s p\_\_s\_d t\_h\_nd  
k\_ds \_n\_m\_r\_r\_sp\_ns\_b\_l\_ty." \_t \_dds th\_t:  
"\_ll\_w\_ng ch\_ldr\_n, wh\_\_r\_n't \_v\_n \_ld \_n\_\_gh t\_  
dr\_v\_\_r\_v\_t\_, t\_d\_c\_d wh\_n\_t's t\_m\_t\_d\_\_s\_n\_  
st\_p\_t\_\_f\_r." L\_st w\_\_k, 160 B\_lg\_\_n p\_\_d\_\_tr\_c\_\_ns  
cl\_\_m\_d th\_l\_w w\_s \_nn\_c\_ss\_ry b\_c\_\_s\_m\_d\_rn  
m\_d\_c\_n\_c\_\_ld \_ll\_v\_\_t\_p\_\_n.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

lawmakers in belgium have passed a bill that will allow euthanasia for terminally ill children the bill was passed with 86 votes for the motion 44 against and 12 abstentions it becomes the first nation to allow euthanasia for children belgium's controversial law applies only to terminally ill children who are in great pain there are several conditions that must be met for any act of euthanasia to take place the child must be in full possession of his/her mental skills and request the act themselves it requires an adult's consent and the written approval of a medical team who must submit a psychological report in addition there must be no treatment available that would alleviate the child's suffering and distress

the law has created a storm of opposition worldwide opponents called it immoral and said children were not mature enough to make such a decision one man present at the vote stood up and screamed "murderers" at the lawmakers the christian science monitor makes the case that "in the 21st century when parents the world over worry that children are growing up too quickly belgium is poised to hand kids one more responsibility" it adds that "allowing children who aren't even old enough to drive or vote to decide when it's time to die is one step too far" last week 160 belgian paediatricians claimed the law was unnecessary because modern medicine could alleviate pain

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia.html>

Lawmakers in Belgium have passed a bill that will allow euthanasia for terminally ill children. The bill was passed with 86 votes for the motion, 44 against, and 12 abstentions. It becomes the first nation to allow euthanasia for children. Belgium's controversial law applies only to terminally ill children who are in great pain. There are several conditions that must be met for any act of euthanasia to take place. The child must be in full possession of his/her mental skills and request the act themselves. It requires an adult's consent and the written approval of a medical team, whom must submit a psychological report. In addition, there must be no treatment available that would alleviate the child's suffering and distress. The law has created a storm of opposition worldwide. Opponents called it immoral and said children were not mature enough to make such a decision. One man present at the vote stood up and screamed "murderers" at the lawmakers. The Christian Science Monitor makes the case that: "In the 21st century, when parents the world over worry that children are growing up too quickly, Belgium is poised to hand kids no more responsibility." It adds that: "Allowing children, who aren't even old enough to drive or vote, to decide when it's time to die is one step too far." Last week, 160 Belgian paediatricians claimed the law was unnecessary because modern medicine could alleviate pain.







# 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 euthanasia. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

**4. CHILDREN:** Write a magazine article about Belgium's new euthanasia law. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

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 a children's doctor. Ask him/her three questions about euthanasia. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. lawmakers      | a. legislators       |
| 2. motion         | b. proposal          |
| 3. controversial  | c. emotive           |
| 4. request        | d. ask for           |
| 5. alleviate      | e. ease              |
| 6. opposition     | f. objection         |
| 7. mature         | g. adult             |
| 8. case           | h. argument          |
| 9. hand           | i. give              |
| 10. paediatrician | j. children's doctor |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Terminally ill
2. 12
3. His/Her mental skills
4. An adult
5. Treatment to alleviate suffering and distress
6. Immoral
7. Maturity
8. Murderers
9. Kids growing up too quickly
10. Paediatricians

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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