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Level 2

Kenya to let men have many wives

24th March, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140324-polygamy-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140324-polygamy-2.html>

Kenya's government has agreed on a new marriage law. Many female politicians are very angry. The Marriage Bill lets men have as many wives as they want. Men can soon marry other women without telling their wife. There was a big argument between male and female politicians. Many female lawmakers walked out of the debate. The law was going to make it illegal to have more than one wife, but lawmakers changed their mind. One male politician said the law was fair to women because divorced women now get 30 per cent of the family house and other things belonging to the couple.

One politician said the law keeps alive Kenya's traditions. He said: "When you marry an African woman, she must know the second one is on the way, and a third wife. This is Africa." A newspaper said this showed Kenya wasn't a modern country. It wrote: "This is a [backwards] move that is simply taking us back into the Dark Ages, at a time when we should be strengthening family values." A female politician said the law was unfair because the second wife would take all the money. She said: "We know that men are afraid of women's tongues more than anything else."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-26681580>
<http://www.nation.co.ke/oped/Editorial/Reject-law-that-will--discriminate-against-women-/-/440804/2253228/-/11p2k62z/-/index.html>
<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2014/03/uproar-as-mps-pass-bill-promoting-polygamy/>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140324-polygamy-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. as many wives | a. than one wife |
| 2. There was a big | b. of the family house |
| 3. female lawmakers walked | c. as they want |
| 4. make it illegal to have more | d. to the couple |
| 5. lawmakers changed | e. out of the debate |
| 6. One male politician said the law was | f. argument |
| 7. divorced women now get 30 per cent | g. fair to women |
| 8. things belonging | h. their mind |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. she must know the second | a. the Dark Ages |
| 2. A newspaper said this showed Kenya | b. move |
| 3. This is a backwards | c. the money |
| 4. taking us back into | d. one is on the way |
| 5. strengthening family | e. unfair |
| 6. the law was | f. wasn't a modern country |
| 7. take all | g. of women's tongues |
| 8. men are afraid | h. values |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140324-polygamy-2.html>

Kenya's government (1) _____ new marriage law. Many female politicians are very angry. The Marriage Bill lets men have (2) _____ they want. Men can soon marry other women without telling their wife. There (3) _____ between male and female politicians. Many female lawmakers walked out of the debate. The law was going to (4) _____ more than one wife, but lawmakers changed their mind. One male politician (5) _____ to women because divorced women now get 30 per cent of the family house and other things (6) _____.

One politician said (7) _____ Kenya's traditions. He said: "When you marry an African woman, she must know the second one (8) _____, and a third wife. This is Africa." A newspaper said this showed Kenya wasn't a modern country. It wrote: "This is (9) _____ that is simply taking us back into the Dark Ages, at a time when we should be strengthening (10) _____." A female politician said the (11) _____ because the second wife would take all the money. She said: "We know that men are afraid of women's tongues more (12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140324-polygamy-2.html>

Kenya's government has agreed on a new marriage law. Many female politicians are very angry. The Marriage Bill lets men have as many wives as they want. Men can soon marry other women without telling their wife. There was a big argument between male and female politicians. Many female lawmakers walked out of the debate. The law was going to make it illegal to have more than one wife, but lawmakers changed their mind. One male politician said the law was fair to women because divorced women now get 30 percent of the family house and other things belonging to the couple. One politician said the law keeps alive Kenya's traditions. He said: "When you marry an African woman, she must know the second one is on the way, and a third wife. This is Africa." A newspaper said this showed Kenya wasn't a modern country. It wrote: "This is a [backwards] move that is simply taking us back into the Dark Ages, at a time when we should be strengthening family values." A female politician said the law was unfair because the second wife would take all the money. She said: "We know that men are afraid of women's tongues more than anything else."

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140324-polygamy-2.html>

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