

www.Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

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

www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

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

www.freematerials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 6

Children in US safest for two decades

25th December, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141225-childhood.html>

Contents

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

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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1412/141225-childhood.html>

A report from Duke University in the USA says American children are safer today than at any time in the past 20 years. The study is based on the annual Child Well-Being Index, which has been compiled by Duke since 1975. It measures and tracks 28 aspects about the quality of life among children across America. Perhaps the most promising figure in the report is that child death rates have gone down by a third since 1975. In addition, suicide rates among teens have declined in the past 20 years. Fewer youngsters are victims of violent crimes today than 20 years ago and teen births are at their lowest level in decades. The report says US kids are also better educated than they were 20 years ago.

The report highlighted a few of the negatives of the past 20 years. In spite of fewer children dying and infant mortality rates decreasing, child health has deteriorated. A major contributory factor to this is the increasing levels of obesity because of poor diet, the abundance of fast food, and less exercise. The latter is due to teens spending much longer indoors using technology. The report suggests that technology may protect kids from physical dangers outdoors but can harm their health indoors. Child poverty still affects millions of children in the USA and has remained largely unchanged in the past 20 years. About 20 per cent of children lived below the poverty line in 2013, which is about the same as it was in 1995.

Sources: <http://www.news-medical.net/news/20141217/New-report-finds-that-American-children-are-generally-safer-better-educated.aspx>
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/ct-american-kids-safer-healthier-balancing-20141218-column.html>
<http://childandfamilypolicy.duke.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Child-Well-Being-Report.pdf>

WARM-UPS

1. SAFETY: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about safety. 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?

report / safer / annual / measures / quality of life / teens / youngsters / violent crimes / negatives / major / obesity / abundance / fast food / physical dangers / poverty line

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

3. CHILDHOOD: What are the good and bad things for children about the following? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good	Bad
Internet		
Fast food		
School		
Money		
Gaming		
Shopping malls		

4. BETTER TODAY: Students A **strongly** believe it's better being a child than it was 50 years ago; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. KIDS' STUFF: Rank these with your partner. Put the things kids love most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- mobile phone
- siblings
- ice cream
- their bed
- favourite teacher
- gaming
- shopping
- family holidays

6. CHILDREN: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "children". 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/1412/141225-childhood.html>

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

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. The report is from King University in the USA. | T / F |
| b. The Child Well-Being Index has been going for over 75 years. | T / F |
| c. The child death rate has halved since 1975. | T / F |
| d. The report says kids get a better education today than 20 years ago. | T / F |
| e. Children's health has got worse in the past two decades. | T / F |
| f. The report says obesity causes an abundance of fast food. | T / F |
| g. Child poverty still affects millions of kids in the USA. | T / F |
| h. The number of kids below the poverty line hasn't changed for 20 years. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. report | a. schooled |
| 2. annual | b. worsened |
| 3. compiled | c. encouraging |
| 4. promising | d. study |
| 5. educated | e. child |
| 6. infant | f. put together |
| 7. deteriorated | g. damage |
| 8. due to | h. stayed |
| 9. harm | i. yearly |
| 10. remained | j. because of |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. safer today than at | a. mortality |
| 2. based on the annual | b. any time in the past |
| 3. the quality | c. third since 1975 |
| 4. gone down by a | d. dangers |
| 5. better | e. Child Well-Being Index |
| 6. The report highlighted a few | f. millions of children |
| 7. infant | g. as it was in 1995 |
| 8. physical | h. educated |
| 9. Child poverty still affects | i. of life |
| 10. about the same | j. of the negatives |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1412/141225-childhood.html>

A report from Duke University in the USA says American children are safer today than at (1) _____ time in the past 20 years. The study is based on the annual Child Well-Being Index, which has been (2) _____ by Duke since 1975. It measures and tracks 28 (3) _____ about the quality of life among children across America. Perhaps the most promising (4) _____ in the report is that child death rates have gone down by a third since 1975. In addition, (5) _____ rates among teens have declined in the past 20 years. Fewer youngsters are victims of (6) _____ crimes today than 20 years ago and teen births are at their lowest (7) _____ in decades. The report says US kids are also better (8) _____ than they were 20 years ago.

aspects
violent
any
figure
educated
compiled
level
suicide

The report highlighted a (9) _____ of the negatives of the past 20 years. In spite of fewer children dying and (10) _____ mortality rates decreasing, child health has deteriorated. A major contributory factor to this is the increasing levels of (11) _____ because of poor diet, the abundance of fast food, and less exercise. The (12) _____ is due to teens spending much longer indoors using technology. The report suggests that technology may (13) _____ kids from physical dangers outdoors but can harm their health indoors. Child poverty still (14) _____ millions of children in the USA and has remained largely (15) _____ in the past 20 years. About 20 per cent of children lived below the poverty (16) _____ in 2013, which is about the same as it was in 1995.

obesity
unchanged
few
line
protect
infant
affects
latter

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1412/141225-childhood.html>

- 1) children are safer today than at any time in the _____
 - a. passed 20 years
 - b. parsed 20 years
 - c. paste 20 years
 - d. past 20 years
- 2) It measures and tracks 28 aspects about the _____
 - a. quality for life
 - b. quality of life
 - c. quality the life
 - d. quality by life
- 3) child death rates have gone down by a _____
 - a. third since 1975
 - b. thirds since 1975
 - c. thirdly since 1975
 - d. third of since 1975
- 4) Fewer youngsters are victims of violent _____
 - a. crimes today
 - b. grime today
 - c. criminal today
 - d. criminals today
- 5) teen births are at their lowest level _____
 - a. in decadence
 - b. in decade
 - c. in decanters
 - d. in decades
- 6) The report highlighted a few _____
 - a. for the negatives
 - b. all the negatives
 - c. off the negatives
 - d. of the negatives
- 7) A major contributory factor to this is the increasing _____
 - a. levels of obese city
 - b. levels of obesity
 - c. levels of obese
 - d. levels of oh beast city
- 8) The report suggests that technology may protect kids _____
 - a. from physical dangers
 - b. from physical dangerous
 - c. from physically dangerous
 - d. from physically dangers
- 9) Child poverty still _____
 - a. affects millions
 - b. infects millions
 - c. afflicts millions
 - d. reflects millions
- 10) About 20 per cent of children lived below the poverty _____
 - a. curve in 2013
 - b. level in 2013
 - c. limit in 2013
 - d. line in 2013

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1412/141225-childhood.html>

A report from Duke University in the USA says American (1) _____ today than at any time in the past 20 years. The study (2) _____ annual Child Well-Being Index, which has been compiled by Duke since 1975. It measures and tracks 28 aspects about (3) _____ among children across America. Perhaps the most promising figure (4) _____ child death rates have gone down by a third since 1975. In addition, suicide rates among teens have declined in the past 20 years. Fewer youngsters (5) _____ crimes today than 20 years ago and teen births are at their lowest level in decades. The report says US kids (6) _____ educated than they were 20 years ago.

The report highlighted (7) _____ negatives of the past 20 years. In spite of fewer children dying and infant mortality rates decreasing, child health (8) _____. A major contributory factor to this is the increasing levels of obesity because of poor diet, the abundance of fast food, (9) _____. The latter is due to teens spending much longer indoors using technology. (10) _____ that technology may protect kids from physical dangers outdoors but can harm their health indoors. Child (11) _____ millions of children in the USA and has remained largely unchanged in the past 20 years. About 20 per cent of children lived below the poverty line in 2013, (12) _____ same as it was in 1995.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1412/141225-childhood.html>

1. Which university in the USA made the report on childhood?

2. When did the Child Well-Being Index first appear?

3. By how much have child death rates decreased since 1975?

4. What are fewer children the victim of these days?

5. What is at its lowest level in 20 years?

6. What has deteriorated in children in the past 20 years?

7. What major factor has led to a worsening of children's health?

8. Where do teens spend more of their time these days?

9. What affects millions of children in the USA?

10. What was the percentage of children below the poverty line in 2013?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1412/141225-childhood.html>

1. Which university in the USA made the report on childhood?
 - a) Duke
 - b) Earl
 - c) King
 - d) Lord
2. When did the Child Well-Being Index first appear?
 - a) 1955
 - b) 1965
 - c) 1975
 - d) 1985
3. By how much have child death rates decreased since 1975?
 - a) a half
 - b) a quarter
 - c) a fifth
 - d) a third
4. What are fewer children the victim of these days?
 - a) smoking
 - b) violent crime
 - c) fashion
 - d) bullies
5. What is at its lowest level in 20 years?
 - a) teen births
 - b) the oil price
 - c) student morale
 - d) education standards
6. What has deteriorated in children in the past 20 years?
 - a) ambition
 - b) manners
 - c) their teeth
 - d) kids' health
7. What major factor has led to a worsening of children's health?
 - a) school
 - b) alcohol
 - c) obesity
 - d) environment
8. Where do teens spend more of their time these days?
 - a) in bed
 - b) indoors
 - c) in the gym
 - d) shopping malls
9. What affects millions of children in the USA?
 - a) loneliness
 - b) short-sightedness
 - c) poverty
 - d) bad breath
10. What was the percentage of children below the poverty line in 2013?
 - a) 30
 - b) 20
 - c) 40
 - d) 5

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1412/141225-childhood.html>

Role A – Technology

You think technology is the best thing about being a kid today. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good for kids. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): travel, shopping or food.

Role B – Travel

You think travel is the best thing about being a kid today. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good for kids. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): technology, shopping or food.

Role C – Shopping

You think shopping is the best thing about being a kid today. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good for kids. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): travel, technology or food.

Role D – Food

You think food is the best thing about being a kid today. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good for kids. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): travel, shopping or technology.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1412/141225-childhood.html>

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

child	hood
--------------	-------------

- 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">• based• tracks• figure• addition• crimes• educated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• spite• major• fast• protect• affects• 2013
--	---

CHILDHOOD SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1412/141225-childhood.html>

Write five GOOD questions about childhood 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.

CHILDHOOD DISCUSSION

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

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'childhood'?
- 3) How was your childhood?
- 4) How are things different for kids nowadays?
- 5) Do you think kids are safer today than they were 20 years ago?
- 6) How have things improved for kids in your country?
- 7) What's the best thing about childhood?
- 8) How is education today different from 20 years ago?
- 9) What would you like to have changed about your childhood?
- 10) Is today's world good for children?

Children in US safest for two decades – 25th December, 2014
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com

CHILDHOOD DISCUSSION

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

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) How can the world help children in need?
- 13) What's the most important thing you learnt as a child?
- 14) What will childhood be like in 50 years from now?
- 15) How can we get kids to exercise more?
- 16) How have things got worse for kids in your country?
- 17) What's the worst thing about childhood?
- 18) How harmful is it for kids to stay indoors?
- 19) Why are children in the USA still living below the poverty line?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

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

Copyright © www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com 2014

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/1412/141225-childhood.html>

A report from Duke University in the USA says American children are safer today than at (1) _____ time in the past 20 years. The study is based (2) _____ the annual Child Well-Being Index, which has been compiled (3) _____ Duke since 1975. It measures and tracks 28 aspects about the quality of life among children across America. Perhaps the most (4) _____ figure in the report is that child death rates have gone down by a third since 1975. In addition, suicide rates among teens have declined in the past 20 years. (5) _____ youngsters are victims of violent crimes today than 20 years ago and teen births are at their lowest level (6) _____ decades. The report says US kids are also better educated than they were 20 years ago.

The report highlighted a few of the (7) _____ of the past 20 years. In spite of fewer children dying and infant mortality rates decreasing, child health has deteriorated. A major (8) _____ factor to this is the increasing levels of obesity because of poor diet, the abundance of fast food, and less exercise. The latter is (9) _____ to teens spending much longer indoors using technology. The report suggests that technology may protect kids from physical dangers (10) _____ but can harm their health indoors. Child poverty still affects millions of children in the USA and has remained (11) _____ unchanged in the past 20 years. About 20 per cent of children lived below the poverty (12) _____ in 2013, which is about the same as it was in 1995.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) the | (b) any | (c) all | (d) some |
| 2. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) to | (d) of |
| 3. | (a) of | (b) to | (c) on | (d) by |
| 4. | (a) promissory | (b) promising | (c) promises | (d) premises |
| 5. | (a) Less | (b) Fewer | (c) Smaller | (d) Much |
| 6. | (a) at | (b) to | (c) in | (d) of |
| 7. | (a) negates | (b) negatively | (c) negatives | (d) negotiations |
| 8. | (a) contributed | (b) contributes | (c) contributory | (d) contribution |
| 9. | (a) of | (b) because | (c) for | (d) due |
| 10. | (a) outdoors | (b) doors | (c) door | (d) back doors |
| 11. | (a) largely | (b) largest | (c) largesse | (d) large |
| 12. | (a) curve | (b) mark | (c) line | (d) limit |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1412/141225-childhood.html>

Paragraph 1

1. the anluna Child Well-Being Index
2. the iluytaq of life
3. the most promising rgifue
4. ucsdiie rates among teens
5. victims of vtoneli crimes
6. better daedutce

Paragraph 2

7. a few of the vesitgena
8. infant rotiylamt
9. increasing levels of sbteyio
10. less eriesecx
11. protect kids from ycsiplah dangers
12. below the erovtpy line

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1412/141225-childhood.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

()	life among children across America. Perhaps the most promising figure in the report is that child death
()	rates have gone down by a third since 1975. In addition, suicide rates among teens have declined in the past 20 years. Fewer
()	by Duke since 1975. It measures and tracks 28 aspects about the quality of
()	kids from physical dangers outdoors but can harm their health indoors. Child poverty still affects
()	rates decreasing, child health has deteriorated. A major contributory factor to this is the increasing
(1)	A report from Duke University in the USA says American children are safer today than at
()	of children lived below the poverty line in 2013, which is about the same as it was in 1995.
()	millions of children in the USA and has remained largely unchanged in the past 20 years. About 20 per cent
()	to teens spending much longer indoors using technology. The report suggests that technology may protect
()	youngsters are victims of violent crimes today than 20 years ago and teen births are at their lowest level in
()	decades. The report says US kids are also better educated than they were 20 years ago.
()	any time in the past 20 years. The study is based on the annual Child Well-Being Index, which has been compiled
()	levels of obesity because of poor diet, the abundance of fast food, and less exercise. The latter is due
()	The report highlighted a few of the negatives of the past 20 years. In spite of fewer children dying and infant mortality

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1412/141225-childhood.html>

1. at than today Safer years 20 past the in time any .

2. across among About America of the children life quality .

3. by since rates down third Death gone a 1975 have .

4. of victims today are crimes youngsters violent Fewer .

5. were 20 years ago Kids are better educated than they .

6. a negatives highlighted the report of The few .

7. diet increasing obesity poor The of of levels because .

8. latter to much The due spending indoors is teens longer .

9. dangers physical from kids protect may Technology .

10. poverty the below lived children of cent per 20 About line .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1412/141225-childhood.html>

A report from Duke University in the USA says American children are safer today than at *some / any* time in the past 20 years. The study is based *in / on* the annual Child Well-Being Index, which has been *complied / compiled* by Duke since 1975. It *measurements / measures* and tracks 28 aspects about the quality of life *among / between* children across America. Perhaps the most *promising / promised* figure in the report is that child death rates have gone down by *a / the* third since 1975. In addition, suicide rates among teens have *declined / declines* in the past 20 years. Fewer youngsters are victims of violent crimes today than 20 years ago and teen *births / birthdays* are at their lowest level in decades. The report says US kids are also *better / well* educated than they were 20 years ago.

The report *highlighted / lowlighted* a few of the *negatives / negativity* of the past 20 years. In *spate / spite* of fewer children dying and infant mortality rates decreasing, child health has *deteriorated / deteriorating*. A major contributory factor to this is the increasing levels of *obese / obesity* because of poor diet, the abundance of fast food, and less exercise. The *latter / letter* is due to teens spending much longer indoors using technology. The report suggests that technology may *prevent / protect* kids from physical dangers outdoors but can *harm / harmful* their health indoors. Child poverty still affects millions of children in the USA and has remained *largely / large* unchanged in the past 20 years. About 20 per cent of children lived below the poverty *curve / line* in 2013, which is about the same as it was in 1995.

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/1412/141225-childhood.html>

_ r_p_rt fr_m D_k_ _n_v_rs_ty _n th_ _S_ s_ys
_m_r_c_n ch_ldr_n _r_s_fr_t_d_y th_n _t_ny_t_m_
n th p_st 20 y__rs. Th_ st_dy _s_b_s_d _n th_ _nn_ l
Ch_ld W_ll-B__ng _nd_x, wh_ch h_s b__n c_mpl_d by
D_k_ s_nc_ 1975. _t_m__s_r_s _nd tr_cks 28 _sp_cts
_b__t th_ q__l_ty _f_l_f_ _m_ng ch_ldr_n _cr_ss
_m_r_c_. P_rh_ps th_ m_st pr_m_s_ng f_g_r_ _n th_
r_p_rt _s th_t ch_ld d__th_r_t_s h_v_ g_n_ d_wn by _
th_rd s_nc_ 1975. _n _dd_t_n, s__c_d_r_t_s _m_ng
t__ns h_v_ d_cl_n_d _n th_ p_st 20 y__rs. F_w_r
y__ngst_rs _r_v_ct_ms _f_v__l_nt cr_m_s t_d_y th_n
20 y__rs _g__nd t__n b_rths _r__t th__r l_w_st l_v_l
_n d_c_d_s. Th_ r_p_rt s_ys _S_k_ds _r__ls_b_tt_r
_d_c_t_d th_n th_y w_r_ 20 y__rs _g_.

Th_ r_p_rt h_ghl_ght_d _f_w _f th_ n_g_t_v_s _f th_
p_st 20 y__rs. _n sp_t_ _f f_w_r ch_ldr_n dy_ng _nd
_nf_nt m_rt_l_ty r_t_s d_cr__s_ng, ch_ld h__lth h_s
d_t_r__r_t_d. _m_j_r c_ntr_b_t_ry f_ct_r_t th_s _s
th_ _ncr__s_ng l_v_ls _f _b_s_ty b_c__s_ _f p__r
d__t, th_ _b_nd_nc_ _f f_st f__d, _nd l_ss _x_rc_s_.
Th_ l_tt_r _s d__t_ t__ns sp_nd_ng m_ch l_ng_r
_nd__rs _s_ng t_chn_l_gy. Th_ r_p_rt s_gg_sts th_t
t_chn_l_gy m_y pr_t_ct k_ds fr_m phys_c_l_d_ng_rs
__td__rs b_t c_n h_rm th__r h__lth _nd__rs. Ch_ld
p_v_rty st_ll _ff_cts m_ll__ns _f ch_ldr_n _n th_ _S_
_nd h_s r_m__n_d l_rg_ly _nch_ng_d _n th_ p_st 20
y__rs. _b__t 20 p_r_c_nt _f ch_ldr_n l_v_d b_l_w th_
p_v_rty l_n_ _n 2013, wh_ch _s _b__t th_ s_m_ _s_t
w_s _n 1995.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1412/141225-childhood.html>

a report from duke university in the usa says american children are safer today than at any time in the past 20 years the study is based on the annual child well-being index which has been compiled by duke since 1975 it measures and tracks 28 aspects about the quality of life among children across america perhaps the most promising figure in the report is that child death rates have gone down by a third since 1975 in addition suicide rates among teens have declined in the past 20 years fewer youngsters are victims of violent crimes today than 20 years ago and teen births are at their lowest level in decades the report says us kids are also better educated than they were 20 years ago

the report highlighted a few of the negatives of the past 20 years in spite of fewer children dying and infant mortality rates decreasing child health has deteriorated a major contributory factor to this is the increasing levels of obesity because of poor diet the abundance of fast food and less exercise the latter is due to teens spending much longer indoors using technology the report suggests that technology may protect kids from physical dangers outdoors but can harm their health indoors child poverty still affects millions of children in the usa and has remained largely unchanged in the past 20 years about 20 per cent of children lived below the poverty line in 2013 which is about the same as it was in 1995

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1412/141225-childhood.html>

A report from Duke University in the USA says American children are safer today than at any time in the past 20 years. The study is based on the annual Child Well-Being Index, which has been compiled by Duke since 1975. It measures and tracks 28 aspects about the quality of life among children across America. Perhaps the most promising figure in the report is that child death rates have gone down by a third since 1975. In addition, suicide rates among teens have declined in the past 20 years. Fewer young teens are victims of violent crime today than 20 years ago and teen births are at their lowest level in decades. The report says US kids are also better educated than they were 20 years ago. The report highlighted a few of the negatives of the past 20 years. In spite of fewer children dying and infant mortality rates decreasing, child health has deteriorated. A major contributor to this is the increasing level of obesity because of poor diet, the abundance of fast food, and less exercise. The latter is due to teens spending much longer indoors using technology. The report suggests that technology may protect kids from physical dangers outdoors but can harm their health indoors. Child poverty still affects millions of children in the USA and has remained largely unchanged in the past 20 years. About 20 percent of children lived below the poverty line in 2013, which is about the same as it was in 1995.

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

3. CHILDHOOD: Make a poster about childhood and the problems children can face. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. BETTER: Write a magazine article about childhood being better today. Include imaginary interviews with people who agree and disagree with 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 a childhood expert. Ask him/her three questions about childhood. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to make childhood better. 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 F c F d T e T f F g T h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. report | a. study |
| 2. annual | b. yearly |
| 3. compiled | c. put together |
| 4. promising | d. encouraging |
| 5. educated | e. schooled |
| 6. infant | f. child |
| 7. deteriorated | g. worsened |
| 8. due to | h. because of |
| 9. harm | i. damage |
| 10. remained | j. stayed |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Duke University
2. 1975
3. A third
4. Violent crime
5. Teen births
6. Health
7. Obesity
8. Indoors
9. Poverty
10. 20%

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. a 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. d 7. c 8. b 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 ;-)