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Level 4 – 10th January, 2022

Choosing pets over children is 'selfish,' says Pope

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2201/220110-pets-and-children-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2201/220110-pets-and-children-4.html>

Pope Francis suggested that people who choose pets over children were selfish. He said substituting children for pets was a "denial" of parenthood. He added: "Today, we see a form of selfishness. We see that some people do not want to have a child....They have dogs and cats that take the place of children." He encouraged couples to adopt children. He said: "Having a child is always a risk, but there is more risk in not having a child."

Pope Francis also spoke on this topic in 2014. He said choosing pets over children could harm our future. He said the emotional relationship with pets was "easier" than the "complex" relationship with children. Francis called the decline in birth rates a "demographic winter". Not everyone agreed with the Pope. The New York Post said Francis' name is from St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. It added: "Dogs are superior to most people."

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-59884801>
<https://nypost.com/2022/01/07/pope-francis-slam-of-pet-parents-prove-hes-never-owned-a-pup/>
<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/pope.francis.laments.couples.who.choose.pets.over.having.children/138009.htm>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2201/220110-pets-and-children-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. people who choose pets | a. of children |
| 2. substituting children | b. of parenthood |
| 3. a denial | c. to have a child |
| 4. we see a form | d. a risk |
| 5. some people do not want | e. for pets |
| 6. take the place | f. adopt |
| 7. He encouraged couples to | g. of selfishness |
| 8. Having a child is always | h. over children |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Pope Francis also spoke on this | a. with pets |
| 2. choosing pets | b. rates |
| 3. harm our | c. over children |
| 4. the emotional relationship | d. to most people |
| 5. the decline in birth | e. with the Pope |
| 6. Not everyone agreed | f. animals |
| 7. the patron saint of | g. topic in 2014 |
| 8. Dogs are superior | h. future |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2201/220110-pets-and-children-4.html>

Pope Francis suggested that people (1) _____ over children were selfish. He said substituting children for pets (2) _____ of parenthood. He added: "Today, we see (3) _____ selfishness. We see that some people do not want to (4) _____....They have dogs and cats that take the place of children." He encouraged (5) _____ children. He said: "Having a child is always a risk, but there is (6) _____ not having a child."

Pope Francis also spoke (7) _____ in 2014. He said choosing pets over children could (8) _____. He said the emotional relationship with pets was "easier" than the "complex" relationship with children. Francis called the (9) _____ rates a "demographic winter". Not (10) _____ the Pope. The New York Post said Francis' (11) _____ St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. It added: "Dogs are (12) _____ people."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2201/220110-pets-and-children-4.html>

PopeFrancissuggestedthatpeoplewhochoosepetsoverchildrenwereselfish.Hesaidsubstitutingchildrenforpetswasa"denial"ofparenthood.Headded:"Today,weseeaformofselfishness.Weseethatsomepeople donotwanttohaveachild....Theyhavedogsandcatsthattaketheplaceofchildren."Heencouragedcouplestoadoptchildren.Hesaid:"Havingachildisalwaysarisk,butthereismoreriskinnothavingachild."PopeFrancissalsospokeonthistopicin2014.Hesaidchoosingpetsoverchildrencouldharmourfuture.Hesaidtheemotionalrelationshipwithpetswas"easier"thanthe"complex"relationshipwithchildren.Francisalledthedeclineinbirthratesa"demographicwinter".NoteveryoneagreedwiththePope.TheNewYorkPostsaidFrancis'nameisfromSt.FrancisofAssisi,thepatron saintofanimals.Itadded:"Dogsaresuperiortomostpeople."

PETS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2201/220110-pets-and-children-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about pets 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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2201/220110-pets-and-children-4.html>

Write about **pets** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.
