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Level 6 – 10th January, 2022

Choosing pets over children is 'selfish,' says Pope

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

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

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

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THE ARTICLE

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

The Pope has suggested that people who choose to have pets instead of children were acting selfishly. Pope Francis was addressing worshippers in Rome. He told his audience that substituting children for pets was a "denial of fatherhood and motherhood". He added: "Today, we see a form of selfishness. We see that some people do not want to have a child. Sometimes they have just one, and that's it, but they have dogs and cats that take the place of children." Pope Francis encouraged couples to adopt children. He said: "We must not be afraid to choose the path of adoption, to take the risk of welcoming children. Having a child is always a risk, but there is more risk in not having a child."

It is not the first time Pope Francis has spoken out on this topic. In 2014, he said choosing pets over children was detrimental to our future. He called it a "phenomenon of cultural degradation". He commented that the emotional relationship with pets was "easier" than the "complex" relationship with children. In continuing this theme, he called the downward trend in birth rates across many countries a "demographic winter". Not everyone agrees with the Pope's comments. The New York Post pointed out the contradiction of Francis taking his name from St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. It added: "Dogs make us more human. They make us better. Dogs, I think, 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>

WARM-UPS

1. PETS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about pets. 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?

The Pope / pets / children / worshippers / audience / motherhood / selfishness / risk / the first time / 2014 / our future / complex / birth rates / contradiction / name / dogs

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

3. DOGS: Students A **strongly** believe dogs are better pets than cats; Students B **strongly** believe cats are better. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. PARENTHOOD: What are the pros and cons of parenthood? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Pros	Cons
Family		
Memories		
Money		
Old age		
Love		
Holidays		

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

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

- A dog
- A cat
- A rabbit
- Goldfish
- A parrot
- A tarantula
- A hamster
- A lizard

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. suggested | a. Speaking to people in a formal situation. |
| 2. addressing | b. All of the people watching or listening at a public event such as a play, film, concert, or meeting. |
| 3. worshipper | c. Put forward an idea for people to think about. |
| 4. audience | d. Given support, confidence, or hope to someone. |
| 5. substituting | e. Replacing someone or something with another. |
| 6. encouraged | f. The act of raising another person's child and bringing it up as your own. |
| 7. adoption | g. A person who shows reverence and adoration for a deity or person. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8. detrimental | h. Higher in rank, status, or quality. |
| 9. phenomenon | i. Relating to the structure of populations. |
| 10. degradation | j. A combination of statements, ideas, or features which are opposed to one another. |
| 11. demographic | k. Tending to cause harm. |
| 12. contradiction | l. A fact or situation that is observed to exist or happen, especially one whose cause or explanation is in question. |
| 13. patron saint | m. The protecting or guiding saint of a person, thing or place. |
| 14. superior | n. The condition or process of degrading or being degraded. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

1. Pope Francis made his speech about parenthood on the Internet. **T / F**
2. Pope Francis called choosing pets over children a denial of parenthood. **T / F**
3. Pope Francis encouraged people to adopt children. **T / F**
4. Pope Francis said there is a risk in not having children. **T / F**
5. This is the first time Pope Francis has spoken about children and pets. **T / F**
6. There is a downward trend in birth rates in many countries. **T / F**
7. The Pope warned people of a "demographic summer". **T / F**
8. St. Francis was the patron saint of children. **T / F**

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. choose | a. occurrence |
| 2. instead of | b. type |
| 3. substituting | c. higher-ranking |
| 4. form | d. rather than |
| 5. path | e. tendency |
| 6. topic | f. route |
| 7. phenomenon | g. decide on |
| 8. trend | h. conflict |
| 9. contradiction | i. replacing |
| 10. superior | j. issue |

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

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. people who choose to have pets | a. to our future |
| 2. Pope Francis was addressing | b. instead of children |
| 3. we see a form | c. saint of animals |
| 4. We must not be afraid to choose the | d. of selfishness |
| 5. there is more risk in | e. the contradiction |
| 6. Pope Francis has spoken | f. worshippers in Rome |
| 7. detrimental | g. in birth rates |
| 8. the downward trend | h. not having a child |
| 9. pointed out | i. out |
| 10. the patron | j. path of adoption |

GAP FILL

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

The Pope has suggested that people who (1) _____ to have pets instead of children were (2) _____ selfishly. Pope Francis was addressing worshippers in Rome. He told his audience that substituting children for pets was a "(3) _____ of fatherhood and motherhood". He added: "Today, we see a (4) _____ of selfishness. We see that some people do not want to have a child. Sometimes they have (5) _____ one, and that's it, but they have dogs and cats that take the (6) _____ of children." Pope Francis encouraged couples to adopt children. He said: "We must not be afraid to choose the path of (7) _____, to take the risk of welcoming children. Having a child is always a risk, but there is (8) _____ risk in not having a child."

just
denial
more
choose
adoption
acting
place
form

It is not the first time Pope Francis has spoken out on this (9) _____. In 2014, he said choosing pets over children was (10) _____ to our future. He called it a "phenomenon of cultural degradation". He commented that the (11) _____ relationship with pets was "easier" than the "(12) _____" relationship with children. In continuing this theme, he called the downward (13) _____ in birth rates across many countries a "demographic winter". Not everyone agrees with the Pope's (14) _____. The New York Post pointed out the contradiction of Francis taking his name from St. Francis of Assisi, the patron (15) _____ of animals. It added: "Dogs make us more human. They make us better. Dogs, I think, are (16) _____ to most people."

emotional
trend
saint
detrimental
superior
complex
topic
comments

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) The Pope has suggested that people who choose to have pets _____
 - a. instead off children
 - b. instead of children
 - c. instead oft children
 - d. instead doff children
- 2) He told his audience that substituting children for pets was a _____
 - a. denial of further hood
 - b. denial of far the hood
 - c. denial of fatherly hood
 - d. denial of fatherhood
- 3) some people do not want to have a child. Sometimes they have just one, _____
 - a. and that's it
 - b. and that's sit
 - c. and that sit
 - d. and that sits
- 4) that take the place of children. Pope Francis encouraged couples _____
 - a. to adapt children
 - b. to adopt children
 - c. to adept children
 - d. to ad apt children
- 5) Having a child is always a risk, but there is more risk in not _____
 - a. have in a child
 - b. have inner child
 - c. having child
 - d. having a child
- 6) It is not the first time Pope Francis has spoken out _____
 - a. on this topic
 - b. on the stop pic
 - c. on this tropic
 - d. on this tope pick
- 7) In 2014, he said choosing pets over _____
 - a. children was experimental
 - b. children was detrimentally
 - c. children was detrimental
 - d. children was detriment all
- 8) to our future. He called it a phenomenon _____
 - a. of cultural dig rid ration
 - b. of cultural degrade a nation
 - c. of cultural dredge radiation
 - d. of cultural degradation
- 9) the downward trend in birth rates across many countries _____
 - a. a demographic winter
 - b. a demographic winner
 - c. a demographic whiner
 - d. a demographic wander
- 10) Dogs make us more human. They make us better. Dogs, I _____
 - a. think, as superior
 - b. think, a superior
 - c. think, ass superior
 - d. think, are superior

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

The Pope has suggested that people (1) _____ have pets instead of children were acting selfishly. Pope Francis was addressing worshippers in Rome. He told (2) _____ substituting children for pets was a "denial of fatherhood and motherhood". He added: "Today, we see (3) _____ selfishness. We see that some people do not want to have a child. Sometimes they have just one, and that's it, but they have dogs and cats that take (4) _____ children." Pope Francis encouraged couples to adopt children. He said: "We must not be afraid to (5) _____ of adoption, to take the risk of welcoming children. Having a child is always a risk, but there is more (6) _____ having a child."

It is not the first time Pope Francis has (7) _____ this topic. In 2014, he said choosing pets over children was detrimental to our future. He called it a "phenomenon (8) _____". He commented that the emotional relationship with pets was "easier" than the "complex" relationship with children. In (9) _____, he called the downward trend in birth rates across many countries a "demographic winter". Not (10) _____ the Pope's comments. The New York Post pointed out (11) _____ Francis taking his name from St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. It added: "Dogs make us more human. They make us better. Dogs, I think, are (12) _____ people."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. Where did the Pope address worshippers?
2. What did the Pope say was not having children a denial of?
3. What did the Pope say we see today?
4. What path did the Pope encourage couples to follow?
5. What did the Pope say was riskier than having children?
6. When was the last time Pope Francis spoke about pets and children?
7. What did Pope Francis call the downward trend in birth rates?
8. Who was the patron saint of animals?
9. What did a journalist say dogs make us?
10. What did a journalist say dogs were superior to?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) Where did the Pope address worshippers?
 - a) New York
 - b) Rome
 - c) at the WHO
 - d) in a church in Belize
- 2) What did the Pope say not having children was a denial of?
 - a) grandchildren
 - b) life
 - c) the future
 - d) parenthood
- 3) What did the Pope say we see today?
 - a) more dogs
 - b) fewer children
 - c) a form of selfishness
 - d) more cats
- 4) What path did the Pope encourage couples to follow?
 - a) adoption
 - b) his YouTube channel
 - c) their hearts
 - d) their dreams
- 5) What did the Pope say was riskier than having children?
 - a) having many children
 - b) not having children
 - c) having dogs
 - d) having cats
- 6) When was the last time Pope Francis spoke about pets and children?
 - a) 2014
 - b) 2015
 - c) 2016
 - d) 2017
- 7) What did Pope Francis call the downward trend in birth rates?
 - a) a barren spring
 - b) a dodgy summer
 - c) a demographic winter
 - d) a bountiful autumn
- 8) Who was the patron saint of animals?
 - a) St. Francis
 - b) St. Paul
 - c) St. Agnes
 - d) St. Theresa
- 9) What did a journalist say dogs make us?
 - a) itchy
 - b) happy
 - c) poorer
 - d) better
- 10) What did a journalist say dogs were superior to?
 - a) children
 - b) cats
 - c) most people
 - d) red pandas and antelope

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Dogs

You think dogs are the best pets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rabbits, fish or tarantulas.

Role B – Rabbits

You think rabbits are the best pets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): dogs, fish or tarantulas.

Role C – Fish

You think fish are the best pets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rabbits, dogs or tarantulas.

Role D – Tarantulas

You think tarantulas are the best pets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rabbits, fish or dogs.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

pet	child

- 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">• acting• audience• form• place• path• always	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• topic• cultural• easier• agrees• saint• superior
--	---

PETS SURVEY

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

PETS 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 'pet'?
3. What do you think of pets?
4. What's the best pet to have?
5. What do you know about Pope Francis?
6. What do you think of what Pope Francis said?
7. Is not having children selfish?
8. What are the pros and cons of having children?
9. What do you think of adoption?
10. What advice do you have for couples who do not want children?

Choosing pets over children is 'selfish,' says Pope – 10th January, 2022
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PETS 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 'child'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Is not having children 'detrimental to our future'?
15. What do you think 'cultural degradation' is?
16. What are the pros and cons of having pets?
17. How worrying is overpopulation?
18. Do dogs 'make us better'?
19. Would you rather have children or pets?
20. What questions would you like to ask Pope Francis?

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/2201/220110-pets-and-children.html>

The Pope has suggested that people who (1) _____ to have pets instead of children were acting selfishly. Pope Francis was (2) _____ worshippers in Rome. He told his audience that substituting children for pets was a "(3) _____ of fatherhood and motherhood". He added: "Today, we see a form of selfishness. We see that some people do not want to have a child. Sometimes they have just (4) _____, and that's it, but they have dogs and cats that take the (5) _____ of children." Pope Francis encouraged couples to adopt children. He said: "We must not be afraid to choose the path of adoption, to take the risk of welcoming children. Having a child is always a risk, but there is more risk in not (6) _____ a child."

It is not the first time Pope Francis has spoken (7) _____ on this topic. In 2014, he said choosing pets over children was detrimental (8) _____ our future. He called it a "phenomenon of cultural degradation". He commented that the emotional relationship with pets was "easier" than the "(9) _____" relationship with children. In continuing this theme, he called the downward trend in birth rates across many countries a "demographic (10) _____". Not everyone agrees with the Pope's comments. The New York Post pointed out the contradiction (11) _____ Francis taking his name from St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. It added: "Dogs make us more human. They make us better. Dogs, I think, are superior (12) _____ most people."

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) choosy | (b) chosen | (c) choice | (d) choose |
| 2. | (a) addresses | (b) address | (c) addressed | (d) addressing |
| 3. | (a) denies | (b) denial | (c) denied | (d) deny |
| 4. | (a) once | (b) only | (c) one | (d) ones |
| 5. | (a) place | (b) piece | (c) peace | (d) pace |
| 6. | (a) having | (b) have | (c) has | (d) had |
| 7. | (a) over | (b) down | (c) in | (d) out |
| 8. | (a) to | (b) of | (c) at | (d) on |
| 9. | (a) reflex | (b) complex | (c) apex | (d) triplex |
| 10. | (a) winner | (b) whiner | (c) winter | (d) win |
| 11. | (a) at | (b) on | (c) of | (d) as |
| 12. | (a) on | (b) to | (c) at | (d) as |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. The Pope has sedggsute that
2. He told his naceeuid that
3. Francis was addressing persirphows in Rome
4. a deilan of fatherhood
5. Francis aonerudceg couples to
6. choose the path of aoinntod

Paragraph 2

7. drleaniettm to our future
8. a phenomenon of cultural gatidrdeano
9. a ighropadmec winter
10. pointed out the noriatnoccdti
11. the pnrtao saint of animals
12. Dogs, I think, are seuopri to most people

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () pets over children was detrimental to our future. He called it a "phenomenon of cultural degradation". He commented
- () agrees with the Pope's comments. The New York Post pointed out the contradiction
- () selfishly. Pope Francis was addressing worshippers in Rome. He told his audience that substituting
- () us more human. They make us better. Dogs, I think, are superior to most people."
- () children for pets was a "denial of fatherhood and motherhood". He added: "Today, we see a form
- () It is not the first time Pope Francis has spoken out on this topic. In 2014, he said choosing
- () one, and that's it, but they have dogs and cats that take the place of children." Pope Francis encouraged
- () of selfishness. We see that some people do not want to have a child. Sometimes they have just
- (**1**) The Pope has suggested that people who choose to have pets instead of children were acting
- () couples to adopt children. He said: "We must not be afraid to choose the path of adoption, to take the
- () called the downward trend in birth rates across many countries a "demographic winter". Not everyone
- () of Francis taking his name from St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. It added: "Dogs make
- () risk of welcoming children. Having a child is always a risk, but there is more risk in not having a child."
- () that the emotional relationship with pets was "easier" than the "complex" relationship with children. In continuing this theme, he

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. children . of instead People to have choosing pets
2. for children was a denial . pets Substituting
3. place of that Cats take children . the
4. the path We must choose adoption . of
5. is in more having not There children . risk
6. he's the out . first spoken isn't It time
7. with was The easier . pets emotional relationship
8. cultural of degradation . it called phenomenon a He
9. everyone Not Pope's the with comments . agrees
10. people . think dogs are to I most superior

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

The Pope has *suggested* / *suggestion* that people who choose to have pets instead of children were acting *selfish* / *selfishly*. Pope Francis was addressing worshippers *on* / *in* Rome. He told his audience that substituting children for pets was a "*denial* / *deny* of fatherhood and motherhood". He added: "Today, we see a form of *selfishly* / *selfishness*. We see that some people do not want to have a child. Sometimes they have *justly* / *just* one, and that's it, but they have dogs and cats that *take* / *give* the place of children." Pope Francis encouraged couples to *redact* / *adopt* children. He said: "We must not be *afraid* / *scary* to choose the path of adoption, to take the risk of welcoming children. Having a child is always a risk, but there is *more* / *many* risk in not having a child."

It is not the first time Pope Francis has *speaking* / *spoken* out on this topic. In 2014, he said choosing pets over children was detrimental *at* / *to* our future. He called it a "phenomenon of cultural *degradation* / *gradation*". He commented that the *emotional* / *financial* relationship with pets was "easier" than the "complex" relationship with children. *On* / *In* continuing this theme, he called the downward *trend* / *trendy* in birth rates across many countries a "demographic winter". Not everyone *concur* / *agrees* with the Pope's comments. The New York Post pointed out the *contradiction* / *contraction* of Francis taking his name from St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint *of* / *at* animals. It added: "Dogs make us more human. They make us better. Dogs, I think, *be* / *are* superior to most people."

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

Th_ P_p_ h_s s_gg_st_d th_t p__pl_ wh_ ch__s_ t_ h_v_ p_ts _nst__d _f ch_ldr_n w_r_ _ct_ng s_lf_shly. P_p_ Fr_nc_s w_s _ddr_ss_ng w_rsh_pp_rs _n R_m_. H_t_ld h_s __d__nc_ th_t s_bst_t_t_ng ch_ldr_n f_r p_ts w_s _ "d_n__l _f f_th_rh__d _nd m_th_rh__d". H__dd_d: "T_d_y, w_ s__ _ f_rm _f s_lf_shn_ss. W_ s__ th_t s_m_ p__pl_ d_ n_t w_nt t_ h_v_ _ ch_ld. S_m_t_m_s th_y h_v_ j_st _n_, _nd th_t's _t, b_t th_y h_v_ d_gs _nd c_ts th_t t_k_ th_ pl_c_ _f ch_ldr_n." P_p_ Fr_nc_s _nc__r_g_d c__pl_s t_ _d_pt ch_ldr_n. H_ s__d: "W_ m_st n_t b_ _fr__d t_ ch__s_ th_ p_th _f _d_pt__n, t_ t_k_ th_ r_sk _f w_lc_m_ng ch_ldr_n. H_v_ng _ ch_ld _s _lw_ys _ r_sk, b_t th_r_ _s m_r_ r_sk _n n_t h_v_ng _ ch_ld."

_t _s n_t th_ f_rst t_m_ P_p_ Fr_nc_s h_s sp_k_n __t _n th_s t_p_c. _n 2014, h_ s__d ch__s_ng p_ts _v_r ch_ldr_n w_s d_tr_m_nt_l t_ __r f_t_r_. H_ c_ll_d _t _ "ph_n_m_n_n _f c_lt_r_l d_gr_d_t__n". H_ c_mm_nt_d th_t th_ _m_t__n_l r_l_t__nsh_p w_th p_ts w_s "__s__r" th_n th_ "c_mpl_x" r_l_t__nsh_p w_th ch_ldr_n. _n c_nt_n__ng th_s th_m_, h_ c_ll_d th_ d_wnw_rd tr_nd _n b_rth r_t_s _cr_ss m_ny c__ntr__s _ "d_m_gr_ph_c w_nt_r". N_t _v_ry_n_ _gr__s w_th th_ P_p_'s c_mm_nts. Th_ N_w Y_rk P_st p__nt_d __t th_ c_ntr_d_ct__n _f Fr_nc_s t_k_ng h_s n_m_ fr_m St. Fr_nc_s _f _ss_s_, th_ p_tr_n s__nt _f _n_m_ls. _t _dd_d: "D_gs m_k_ _s m_r_ h_m_n. Th_y m_k_ _s b_tt_r. D_gs, _ th_nk, _r_ s_p_r__r t_ m_st p__pl_."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

the pope has suggested that people who choose to have pets instead of children were acting selfishly pope francis was addressing worshippers in rome he told his audience that substituting children for pets was a denial of fatherhood and motherhood he added today we see a form of selfishness we see that some people do not want to have a child sometimes they have just one and thats it but they have dogs and cats that take the place of children pope francis encouraged couples to adopt children he said we must not be afraid to choose the path of adoption to take the risk of welcoming children having a child is always a risk but there is more risk in not having a child

it is not the first time pope francis has spoken out on this topic in 2014 he said choosing pets over children was detrimental to our future he called it a phenomenon of cultural degradation he commented that the emotional relationship with pets was easier than the complex relationship with children in continuing this theme he called the downward trend in birth rates across many countries a demographic winter not everyone agrees with the popes comments the new york post pointed out the contradiction of francis taking his name from st francis of assisi the patron saint of animals it added dogs make us more human they make us better dogs i think are superior to most people

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

The Pope has suggested that people who choose to have pets instead of children were acting selfishly. Pope Francis was addressing worshippers in Rome. He told his audience that substituting children for pets was a "denial of fatherhood and motherhood". He added: "Today, we see a form of selfishness. We see that some people do not want to have a child. Sometimes they have just one, and that's it, but they have dogs and cats that take the place of children." Pope Francis encouraged couples to adopt children. He said: "We must not be afraid to choose the path of adoption, to take the risk of welcoming children. Having a child is always a risk, but there is more risk in not having a child." It is not the first time Pope Francis has spoken out on this topic. In 2014, he said choosing pets over children was detrimental to our future. He called it a "phenomenon of cultural degradation". He commented that the emotional relationship with pets was "easier" than the "complex" relationship with children. In continuing this theme, he called the downward trend in birth rates across many countries a "demographic winter". Not everyone agrees with the Pope's comments. The New York Post pointed out the contradiction of Francis taking his name from St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. It added: "Dogs make us more human. They make us better. Dogs, I think, are superior to most people."

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. PETS: Make a poster about pets. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CHILDREN: Write a magazine article about requesting all couples to adopt or have more children. 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 pets. Ask him/her three questions about pets. Give him/her three of your ideas. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. The Vatican, Rome
2. Motherhood and fatherhood
3. A form of selfishness
4. Adoption
5. Not having children
6. 2014
7. A demographic winter
8. St. Francis
9. Better
10. Most people

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. People choosing to have pets instead of children.
2. Substituting children for pets was a denial.
3. Cats that take the place of children.
4. We must choose the path of adoption.
5. There is more risk in not having children.
6. It isn't the first time he's spoken out.
7. The emotional relationship with pets was easier.
8. He called it a phenomenon of cultural degradation.
9. Not everyone agrees with the Pope's comments.
10. I think dogs are superior to most people.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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