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## **Level 5**

# **Children in US safest for two decades**

**25th December, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141225-childhood-5.html>

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**Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26–page Level 6 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141225-childhood-5.html>

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

The report highlighted some negatives of the past 20 years. Child health has deteriorated. A major cause of this is the increasing levels of obesity because of poor diet, fast food, and less exercise. Teenagers are spending much longer indoors using technology. This may protect kids from physical dangers outdoors but can harm their health indoors. Child poverty still affects millions of children in the USA. This has not changed in the past 20 years. About 20 per cent of children lived below the poverty line in 2013. This 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>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141225-childhood-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                       |                           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. children are safer today than they | a. level in decades       |
| 2. The study is based on the annual   | b. a third since 1975     |
| 3. quality of                         | c. were 20 years ago      |
| 4. gone down by                       | d. educated               |
| 5. Suicide rates among                | e. life                   |
| 6. victims of violent                 | f. teens have declined    |
| 7. at their lowest                    | g. crimes                 |
| 8. better                             | h. Child Well-Being Index |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. The report highlighted some      | a. affects millions of children |
| 2. Child health has                 | b. dangers                      |
| 3. A major cause                    | c. it was in 1995               |
| 4. increasing levels                | d. line                         |
| 5. physical                         | e. negatives                    |
| 6. poverty still                    | f. of obesity                   |
| 7. children lived below the poverty | g. of this                      |
| 8. about the same as                | h. deteriorated                 |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141225-childhood-5.html>

A report from the USA says American (1) \_\_\_\_\_ today than they were 20 years ago. The study (2) \_\_\_\_\_ annual Child Well-Being Index, which has been compiled since 1975. It measures 28 (3) \_\_\_\_\_ quality of life among US children. Perhaps the most promising figure is that child death (4) \_\_\_\_\_ down by a third since 1975. Suicide rates among teens have declined and fewer youngsters (5) \_\_\_\_\_ crimes. Teen births are at their lowest level in decades. The report says US children are (6) \_\_\_\_\_ than they were 20 years ago.

The report highlighted (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the past 20 years. Child health has deteriorated. A (8) \_\_\_\_\_ this is the increasing levels of obesity because of poor diet, fast food, and less exercise. Teenagers (9) \_\_\_\_\_ longer indoors using technology. This may protect kids from physical dangers outdoors (10) \_\_\_\_\_ health indoors. Child poverty (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of children in the USA. This has not changed in the past 20 years. About 20 per cent of children lived below the poverty line in 2013. This (12) \_\_\_\_\_ as it was in 1995.

# CHILDHOOD SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141225-childhood-5.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.

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Children in US safest for two decades – 25th December, 2014*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

