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Level 5

Japanese government to play matchmaker

17th March, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1503/150317-matchmaking-5.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Survey	5
Discussion	6
Writing	7

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

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1503/150317-matchmaking-5.html>

Japan's government is playing Cupid to try and encourage more couples to have babies. Japan has one of the lowest birth rates in the world and politicians are trying novel methods to get people to have children. One of these methods is matchmaking efforts by local authorities. Japan's government will support local government projects for speed dating, matchmaking and other ways to coax couples to get together. The recommendations call for intensive efforts over the next five years. Japan faces a "critical situation" in which an ageing society could cause serious social problems.

One reason for Japan's falling birth rate is the high cost of raising children. The government hopes a variety of measures will help this. These include plans for free nursery care, help with fertility treatment, and an increase in the number of fathers taking paternity leave to 80% by the year 2020. There are also plans to give more support to families with three or more children. By 2060, nearly 40% of Japan's population will be aged over 65. They already make up 25% of the population. The birth rate has fallen from 4.54 children per mother in 1947 to just 1.42 in 2014.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-news-from-elsewhere-31869981>
<http://time.com/3744317/japan-birth-rate-matchmaking-paternity-leave/>
<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/03/13/national/social-issues/government-to-support-matchmaking-mens-child-rearing-to-raise-birth-rate/#.VQRJo2ZX-0f>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1503/150317-matchmaking-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Japan's government is playing | a. novel methods |
| 2. encourage more couples | b. situation |
| 3. Japan has one of the lowest birth | c. efforts |
| 4. politicians are trying | d. social problems |
| 5. matchmaking | e. couples to get together |
| 6. ways to coax | f. Cupid |
| 7. Japan faces a critical | g. to have babies |
| 8. an ageing society could cause serious | h. rates in the world |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. the high cost of | a. care |
| 2. a variety | b. leave |
| 3. free nursery | c. raising children |
| 4. fertility | d. has fallen |
| 5. fathers taking paternity | e. to families |
| 6. give more support | f. of measures |
| 7. They already make up | g. treatment |
| 8. The birth rate | h. 25% of the population |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1503/150317-matchmaking-5.html>

Japan's government is playing Cupid (1) _____ more couples to have babies. Japan has (2) _____ birth rates in the world and politicians are trying novel (3) _____ people to have children. One (4) _____ is matchmaking efforts by local authorities. Japan's government will support local government projects for speed dating, matchmaking and (5) _____ couples to get together. The recommendations call for intensive (6) _____ five years. Japan faces a "critical situation" in which an ageing society could cause serious social problems.

One reason for Japan's falling birth rate (7) _____ raising children. The government hopes (8) _____ measures will help this. These include (9) _____ nursery care, help with fertility treatment, and (10) _____ the number of fathers taking paternity leave to 80% by the year 2020. There are also plans to give more support to families with three or more children. By 2060, nearly 40% of Japan's population will (11) _____. They already make up 25% of the population. The birth rate (12) _____ 4.54 children per mother in 1947 to just 1.42 in 2014.

MATCHMAKING SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1503/150317-matchmaking-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about matchmaking 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)

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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)

