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**Level 6** – 10th May, 2021

## Woman gives birth to nine children

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

We all know what twins and triplets are. Most of us are familiar with the terms quadruplets and quintuplets. But what is the word to describe nine babies being born at the same time? The answer is... nonuplets. A 25-year-old Malian woman, Halima Cisse, has given birth to nine healthy babies. This is a new record. The previous record was by a woman in the US who delivered eight babies (octuplets) at a single birth. People in Mali were avidly following the progress of Ms Cisse's pregnancy and she was inundated with well wishes. Malians were not the only ones who were pleasantly surprised when doctors announced the nonuplets. Ms Cisse was told she was only carrying seven babies (septuplets) after having scans.

Ms Cisse's husband told the BBC that she is in good health and that the babies (five boys and four girls) were doing well. Fanta Siby, Mali's health minister, congratulated the couple on the "happy outcome". He also praised medical teams in Morocco, which is where Ms Cisse gave birth. He also thanked Mali's president for the "political leadership and generosity" which "expedited" support for Halima. The outcome is wonderful news as it was a little touch-and-go in the early stages of the pregnancy. Gynecologists in Mali were concerned about Ms Cisse's welfare and the chances of her babies' survival. They sought the help of the hospital in Morocco where they believed she would receive better pre- and postnatal care.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-56994408>  
<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2021/05/341463/malian-woman-gives-birth-to-nine-children-in-moroccan-hospital/>  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/05/05/africa/mali-nine-babies-intl-scli/index.html>

# WARM-UPS

**1. NONUPLETS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about nonuplets. 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?

twins / triplets / babies / Mali / record / birth / pregnancy / surprised / doctors / husband / health minister / congratulations/ Morocco / wonderful news / postnatal

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

**3. ONLY CHILD:** Students A **strongly** believe being an only child is best; Students B **strongly** believe having siblings is best. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. RAISING CHILDREN:** What are the joys and challenges of raising children? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Joys	Challenges
School		
Food		
Hobbies		
Reading		
Behaviour		
Trips		

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

**6. BABIES:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about babies at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Their smile
- Their smell
- Their clothes
- Photos
- Hugs
- Their sleep
- Their laugh
- Their first tooth

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. triplets    | a. Having a good knowledge of.   |
| 2. familiar    | b. Existing or occurring before in time or order.                      |
| 3. quadruplets | c. Three children or animals born at the same birth.                   |
| 4. previous    | d. With great interest or enthusiasm.                                  |
| 5. delivered   | e. Gave birth to.  |
| 6. avidly      | f. Flood someone with things, things to do or people to be dealt with. |
| 7. inundated   | g. Four children or animals born at the same birth.                    |

## Paragraph 2

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 8. outcome        | h. Of, relating to, characteristic of, or denoting the period after childbirth.        |
| 9. praised        | i. Made an action or process happen sooner or be accomplished more quickly.            |
| 10. generosity    | j. (of an outcome, especially one that is desired) possible but very uncertain; risky. |
| 11. expedited     | k. The way a thing turns out; a consequence.   |
| 12. touch-and-go  | l. Expressed warm approval or admiration of.   |
| 13. gynecologists | m. Doctors who specialise in births and women's reproductive systems.                  |
| 14. postnatal     | n. The quality of being kind and giving.   |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

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

- a. The article says we all know what the word "triplets" means. **T / F**
- b. The word to describe nine babies born at a single birth is "octuplets". **T / F**
- c. The previous record was eight babies by a Mexican woman. **T / F**
- d. The woman who broke the record thought she was having seven babies. **T / F**
- e. The woman gave birth to five girls and four boys. **T / F**
- f. Mali's president helped the woman who broke the record. **T / F**
- g. Gynecologists had no concerns about the woman's welfare. **T / F**
- h. Doctors thought the woman would get better care in Morocco. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <b>term</b>          | a. gave birth to    |
| 2. <b>previous</b>      | b. result           |
| 3. <b>delivered</b>     | c. declared         |
| 4. <b>avidly</b>        | d. looked for       |
| 5. <b>announced</b>     | e. earlier          |
| 6. <b>congratulated</b> | f. kindness         |
| 7. <b>generosity</b>    | g. risky            |
| 8. <b>outcome</b>       | h. word             |
| 9. <b>touch-and-go</b>  | i. applauded        |
| 10. <b>sought</b>       | j. enthusiastically |

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

- |                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Most of us are familiar            | a. of Ms Cisse's pregnancy |
| 2. avidly following the progress      | b. help of the hospital    |
| 3. she was inundated with well        | c. (septuplets)            |
| 4. pleasantly                         | d. news                    |
| 5. she was only carrying seven babies | e. postnatal care          |
| 6. congratulated the couple on the    | f. with the terms          |
| 7. The outcome is wonderful           | g. happy outcome           |
| 8. it was a little touch-and-go       | h. wishes                  |
| 9. They sought the                    | i. surprised               |
| 10. receive better pre- and           | j. in the early stages     |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

We all know what twins and (1) \_\_\_\_\_ are. Most of us are familiar with the terms quadruplets and quintuplets. But what is the word to (2) \_\_\_\_\_ nine babies being born at the same time? The answer is... nonuplets. A 25-year-old Malian woman, Halima Cisse, has given (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to nine healthy babies. This is a new record. The previous record was by a woman in the US who (4) \_\_\_\_\_ eight babies (octuplets) at a single birth. People in Mali were avidly following the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of Ms Cisse's pregnancy and she was (6) \_\_\_\_\_ with well wishes. Malians were not the only ones who were (7) \_\_\_\_\_ surprised when doctors announced the nonuplets. Ms Cisse was told she was only carrying seven babies (septuplets) after having (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

*delivered*  
*triplets*  
*pleasantly*  
*birth*  
*inundated*  
*scans*  
*describe*  
*progress*

Ms Cisse's husband told the BBC that she is in good (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and that the babies (five boys and four girls) were doing well. Fanta Siby, Mali's health minister, congratulated the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ on the "happy outcome". He also (11) \_\_\_\_\_ medical teams in Morocco, which is where Ms Cisse gave birth. He also thanked Mali's president for the "(12) \_\_\_\_\_ leadership and generosity" which "expedited" support for Halima. The (13) \_\_\_\_\_ is wonderful news as it was a little touch-and-go in the early (14) \_\_\_\_\_ of the pregnancy. Gynecologists in Mali were concerned about Ms Cisse's welfare and the chances of her babies' (15) \_\_\_\_\_. They sought the help of the hospital in Morocco where they believed she would receive better pre- and (16) \_\_\_\_\_ care.

*postnatal*  
*couple*  
*outcome*  
*survival*  
*praised*  
*health*  
*stages*  
*political*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

- 1) Most of us are familiar with the terms \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. droplets and quintuplets
  - b. quadruplets and droplets
  - c. quadruplets and quintuplets
  - d. quid droplets and quintuplets
- 2) A 25-year-old Malian woman, Halima Cisse, has given birth to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. nine healthy bambinos
  - b. nine healthy babies
  - c. nine healthy babbies
  - d. nine healthy babes
- 3) The previous record was by a woman in the US who delivered \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. eight babies (septuplets)
  - b. eight babies (octuplets)
  - c. eight babies (nonuplets)
  - d. eight babies (sextuplets)
- 4) avidly following the progress of Ms Cisse's pregnancy and she was \_\_\_\_\_ wishes
  - a. in undulated with well
  - b. in non dated with well
  - c. inner dated with well
  - d. inundated with well
- 5) Ms Cisse was told she was only carrying \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. seven babies (septuplets)
  - b. seven babies (octuplets)
  - c. seven babies (sextuplets)
  - d. seven babies (nonuplets)
- 6) Ms Cisse's husband told the BBC that she is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. in goodly health
  - b. in good health
  - c. in goodness health
  - d. in goods health
- 7) Mali's health minister, congratulated the couple on \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the "happy outcome"
  - b. the "happy income"
  - c. the "happy coming"
  - d. the "happy succumb"
- 8) thanked Mali's president for the political \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. leaders ship and generous
  - b. leaders hip and general city
  - c. lead a ship agenda city
  - d. leadership and generosity
- 9) The outcome is wonderful news as it was a little \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. feel-and-go
  - b. go-and-touch
  - c. touch-and-go
  - d. go-and-birth
- 10) the hospital in Morocco where they believed she would receive better pre- \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. end postnatal care
  - b. and pose natal care
  - c. and postnatal care
  - d. end post natural care

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

We all know what (1) \_\_\_\_\_ are. Most of us are familiar with the terms quadruplets and quintuplets. But what is the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ nine babies being born at the same time? The answer is... nonuplets. A 25-year-old Malian woman, Halima Cisse, has given birth to nine healthy babies. This is a new record. The (3) \_\_\_\_\_ by a woman in the US who delivered eight babies (octuplets) at a single birth. People in Mali were avidly following the progress of Ms Cisse's pregnancy and she (4) \_\_\_\_\_ well wishes. Malians were not the only ones who (5) \_\_\_\_\_ when doctors announced the nonuplets. Ms Cisse was told she was only carrying seven babies (septuplets) (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Ms Cisse's husband told the BBC that she is in good health and that the babies (five boys and four girls) (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Fanta Siby, Mali's health minister, congratulated the couple on (8) \_\_\_\_\_. He also praised medical teams in Morocco, which is where Ms Cisse gave birth. He also thanked Mali's president for the "political (9) \_\_\_\_\_" which "expedited" support for Halima. The outcome is wonderful news as it was a little touch-and-go in (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of the pregnancy. Gynecologists in Mali were concerned about Ms Cisse's welfare and (11) \_\_\_\_\_ her babies' survival. They sought the help of the hospital in Morocco where they believed she would receive better pre- (12) \_\_\_\_\_.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

1. What term do most of us know besides twins, triplets and quintuplets?
2. What is the word to describe nine babies being born at the same time?
3. What is the nationality of the previous record holder?
4. What were people in Mali avidly following?
5. How many babies did doctors initially tell the woman she was having?
6. How many boys and how many girls did the woman give birth to?
7. Who is Fanta Siby?
8. Who was thanked for his leadership and generosity?
9. What did doctors say about the pregnancy in its early stages?
10. What did gynecologists say would be better in Morocco?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

- 1) What term do most of us know besides twins, triplets and quintuplets?
  - a) septuplets
  - b) quadruplets
  - c) octuplets
  - d) nonuplets
- 2) What is the word to describe nine babies being born at the same time?
  - a) sextuplets
  - b) octuplets
  - c) septuplets
  - d) nonuplets
- 3) What is the nationality of the previous record holder?
  - a) American
  - b) Mexican
  - c) Chinese
  - d) Indian
- 4) What were people in Mali avidly following?
  - a) the woman's health
  - b) the sex of the babies
  - c) the pregnancy
  - d) the birth
- 5) How many babies did doctors initially tell the woman she was having?
  - a) six
  - b) seven
  - c) eight
  - d) ten
- 6) How many boys and how many girls did the woman give birth to?
  - a) five boys and four girls
  - b) six boys and three girls
  - c) two girls and seven boys
  - d) nine girls
- 7) Who is Fanta Siby?
  - a) the woman's husband
  - b) a gynecologist
  - c) Mali's health minister
  - d) a health expert
- 8) Who was thanked for his leadership and generosity?
  - a) Mali's president
  - b) the woman's husband
  - c) the woman's son
  - d) the boss of a baby food company
- 9) What did doctors say about the pregnancy in its early stages?
  - a) it was touch-and-go
  - b) it was unbelievable
  - c) everything was OK
  - d) it was difficult to see the number of babies
- 10) What did gynecologists say would be better in Morocco?
  - a) the weather
  - b) the food
  - c) surgical equipment
  - d) pre- and postnatal care

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

## **Role A – Their Smile**

You think their smile is the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): photos, hugs or playing.

## **Role B – Photos**

You think photos are the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): their smile, hugs or playing.

## **Role C – Hugs**

You think hugs are the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): photos, their smile or playing.

## **Role D – Playing**

You think playing is the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): photos, hugs or their smile.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

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

<b>birth</b>	<b>children</b>
--------------	-----------------

- 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"><li>• familiar</li><li>• describe</li><li>• new</li><li>• previous</li><li>• inundated</li><li>• scans</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• five</li><li>• happy</li><li>• thanked</li><li>• early</li><li>• chances</li><li>• receive</li></ul>
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# NONUPLETS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

Write five GOOD questions about nonuplets 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.

# NONUPLETS 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 'birth'?
3. How important are siblings?
4. What would having eight same-age siblings be like?
5. What would the fun things be about nonuplets?
6. Would you rather be an only child or a nonuplet?
7. What help will the parents of the nonuplets need?
8. How many children is it best to have?
9. How difficult is parenting?
10. What advice do you have for the mother?

*Woman gives birth to nine children – 10th May, 2021*  
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# NONUPLETS 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 'children'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What might the difficulties be of having nonuplets?
15. What message would you like to send the mother?
16. What gift would you buy the parents?
17. Would it be difficult to name nine babies?
18. How will the siblings get along with each other?
19. What three adjectives best describe this story?
20. What questions would you like to ask the mother?

# 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/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

We all know what twins and triplets (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Most of us are familiar with the terms quadruplets and quintuplets. But what is the word to describe nine babies being born at the same time? The answer is... (2) \_\_\_\_\_. A 25-year-old Malian woman, Halima Cisse, has given birth to nine healthy babies. This is a new record. The (3) \_\_\_\_\_ record was by a woman in the US who delivered eight babies (octuplets) at a single birth. People in Mali were (4) \_\_\_\_\_ following the progress of Ms Cisse's pregnancy and she was inundated (5) \_\_\_\_\_ well wishes. Malians were not the only ones who were pleasantly surprised when doctors announced the nonuplets. Ms Cisse was told she was only carrying seven babies (septuplets) after (6) \_\_\_\_\_ scans.

Ms Cisse's husband told the BBC that she is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ good health and that the babies (five boys and four girls) were doing well. Fanta Siby, Mali's health minister, congratulated the couple on the "happy (8) \_\_\_\_\_". He also praised medical teams in Morocco, which is where Ms Cisse gave birth. He also thanked Mali's president for the "political leadership and generosity" which "(9) \_\_\_\_\_" support for Halima. The outcome is wonderful news as it was a little touch-and-go in the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ stages of the pregnancy. Gynecologists in Mali were concerned about Ms Cisse's welfare and the chances of her babies' survival. They (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the help of the hospital in Morocco where they believed she would receive better pre- and (12) \_\_\_\_\_ care.

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

- |     |                 |               |                |               |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) being       | (b) been      | (c) be         | (d) are       |
| 2.  | (a) quintuplets | (b) octuplets | (c) sextuplets | (d) nonuplets |
| 3.  | (a) impervious  | (b) previous  | (c) porous     | (d) precious  |
| 4.  | (a) vividly     | (b) avoiding  | (c) avidly     | (d) vaguely   |
| 5.  | (a) at          | (b) by        | (c) with       | (d) as        |
| 6.  | (a) having      | (b) have      | (c) has        | (d) had       |
| 7.  | (a) on          | (b) in        | (c) as         | (d) at        |
| 8.  | (a) outcome     | (b) income    | (c) comb       | (d) come      |
| 9.  | (a) speed       | (b) expedited | (c) haste      | (d) fast      |
| 10. | (a) fast        | (b) young     | (c) early      | (d) birth     |
| 11. | (a) thought     | (b) ought     | (c) sought     | (d) bought    |
| 12. | (a) postal      | (b) posting   | (c) posted     | (d) postnatal |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. Most of us are aifilmar with the terms
2. uarqlpuedts and quintuplets
3. eight babies (cuolptets) at a single birth
4. avidly following the rogperss
5. she was tunndaeid with well wishes
6. she was only carrying seven babies - tsepetspul

## Paragraph 2

7. He also sidreap medical teams
8. the political leadership and gseoernyti
9. tpedexide support for Halima
10. in the early stages of the cganrenpy
11. concerned about Ms Cisse's ewrlfae
12. pre- and toaspanlt care

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) well. Fanta Siby, Mali's health minister, congratulated the couple on the "happy outcome". He also praised
- ( ) leadership and generosity" which "expedited" support for Halima. The outcome is wonderful
- ( **1** ) We all know what twins and triplets are. Most of us are familiar with the terms quadruplets and
- ( ) Ms Cisse's husband told the BBC that she is in good health and that the babies (five boys and four girls) were doing
- ( ) announced the nonuplets. Ms Cisse was told she was only carrying seven babies (septuplets) after having scans.
- ( ) is... nonuplets. A 25-year-old Malian woman, Halima Cisse, has given birth to nine healthy babies. This is a new
- ( ) concerned about Ms Cisse's welfare and the chances of her babies' survival. They sought
- ( ) news as it was a little touch-and-go in the early stages of the pregnancy. Gynecologists in Mali were
- ( ) birth. People in Mali were avidly following the progress of Ms Cisse's pregnancy and she was inundated
- ( ) record. The previous record was by a woman in the US who delivered eight babies (octuplets) at a single
- ( ) with well wishes. Malians were not the only ones who were pleasantly surprised when doctors
- ( ) quintuplets. But what is the word to describe nine babies being born at the same time? The answer
- ( ) medical teams in Morocco, which is where Ms Cisse gave birth. He also thanked Mali's president for the "political
- ( ) the help of the hospital in Morocco where they believed she would receive better pre- and postnatal care.

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

1. familiar with of Most the are us terms .
2. to word babies nine The born . being describe
3. progress . following Mali in avidly People her were
4. surprised Pleasantly announced doctors nonuplets . when the
5. carrying was Cisse told was seven babies . she
6. congratulated them minister the The on happy outcome .
7. Mali's for political the leadership . president thanked He
8. was It in the stages . early touch-and-go
9. Mali Gynecologists concerned in welfare . were her about
10. hospital . They Moroccan the of the sought help

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/url.html>

We all know what twins and triplets are. Most of us are *familial* / *familiar* with the terms quadruplets and quintuplets. But what is the word to *describe* / *ascribe* nine babies being born *to* / *at* the same time? The answer is... nonuplets. A 25-year-old Malian woman, Halima Cisse, has given *birthing* / *birth* to nine healthy babies. This is a new record. The *impervious* / *previous* record was by a woman in the US who delivered eight babies (octuplets) at a single birth. People in Mali were *avidly* / *vividly* following the progress of Ms Cisse's pregnancy and she was inundated *to* / *with* well wishes. Malians were not the only *one* / *ones* who were pleasantly surprised when doctors announced the nonuplets. Ms Cisse was *told* / *announced* she was only carrying seven babies (septuplets) *after* / *followed* having scans.

Ms Cisse's husband told the BBC that she is *in* / *on* good health and that the babies (five boys and four girls) were doing *well* / *good*. Fanta Siby, Mali's health minister, congratulated the couple *in* / *on* the "happy outcome". He also *praised* / *prised* medical teams in Morocco, which is where Ms Cisse gave birth. He also *thanked* / *pleased* Mali's president for the "political leadership and *generous* / *generosity*" which "expedited" support for Halima. The *outcome* / *income* is wonderful news as it was a little touch-and-go in the *fast* / *early* stages of the pregnancy. Gynecologists in Mali were concerned about Ms Cisse's welfare and the chances of her babies' survival. They *ought* / *sought* the help of the hospital in Morocco where they believed she would receive better *pro-* / *pre-* and postnatal care.

**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/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

W\_ \_ll kn\_w wh\_t tw\_ns \_nd tr\_pl\_ts \_r\_. M\_st \_f \_s  
\_r\_ f\_m\_l\_\_r w\_th th\_ t\_rms q\_\_dr\_pl\_ts \_nd  
q\_\_nt\_pl\_ts. B\_t wh\_t \_s th\_ w\_r\_d t\_ d\_scr\_b\_ n\_n\_  
b\_b\_\_s b\_\_ng b\_rn \_t th\_ s\_m\_ t\_m\_? Th\_ \_nsw\_r  
\_s... n\_n\_pl\_ts. \_ 25-y\_\_r-\_ld M\_l\_\_n w\_m\_n, H\_l\_m\_  
C\_ss\_, h\_s g\_v\_n b\_rth t\_ n\_n\_ h\_\_lthy b\_b\_\_s. Th\_s  
\_s \_ n\_w r\_c\_r\_d. Th\_ pr\_v\_\_s r\_c\_r\_d w\_s by \_  
w\_m\_n \_n th\_ \_S wh\_ d\_l\_v\_r\_d \_\_ght b\_b\_\_s  
(\_ct\_pl\_ts) \_t \_ s\_ngl\_ b\_rth. P\_\_pl\_ \_n M\_l\_ w\_r\_  
\_v\_dly f\_ll\_w\_ng th\_ pr\_gr\_ss \_f Ms C\_ss\_'s pr\_gn\_ncy  
\_nd sh\_ w\_s \_n\_nd\_t\_d w\_th w\_ll w\_sh\_s. M\_l\_\_ns  
w\_r\_ n\_t th\_ \_nly \_n\_s wh\_ w\_r\_ pl\_\_s\_ntly s\_rpr\_s\_d  
wh\_n d\_ct\_rs \_nn\_\_nc\_d th\_ n\_n\_pl\_ts. Ms C\_ss\_ w\_s  
t\_ld sh\_ w\_s \_nly c\_rry\_ng s\_v\_n b\_b\_\_s (s\_pt\_pl\_ts)  
\_ft\_r h\_v\_ng sc\_ns.

Ms C\_ss\_'s h\_sb\_nd t\_ld th\_ BBC th\_t sh\_ \_s \_n g\_\_d  
h\_\_lth \_nd th\_t th\_ b\_b\_\_s (f\_v\_ b\_ys \_nd f\_\_r g\_rls)  
w\_r\_ d\_\_ng w\_ll. F\_nt\_ S\_by, M\_l\_'s h\_\_lth m\_n\_st\_r,  
c\_ngr\_t\_l\_t\_d th\_ c\_\_pl\_ \_n th\_ "h\_ppy \_\_tc\_m\_". H\_  
\_ls\_ pr\_s\_d m\_d\_c\_l t\_\_ms \_n M\_r\_cc\_, wh\_ch \_s  
wh\_r\_ Ms C\_ss\_ g\_v\_ b\_rth. H\_ \_ls\_ th\_nk\_d M\_l\_'s  
pr\_s\_d\_nt f\_r th\_ "p\_l\_t\_c\_l l\_\_d\_rsh\_p \_nd g\_n\_r\_s\_ty"  
wh\_ch "\_xp\_d\_t\_d" s\_pp\_r\_t f\_r H\_l\_m\_. Th\_ \_\_tc\_m\_ \_s  
w\_nd\_rf\_l n\_ws \_s \_t w\_s \_ lttl\_ t\_\_ch\_\_nd-g\_ \_n th\_  
\_\_rly st\_g\_s \_f th\_ pr\_gn\_ncy. Gyn\_c\_l\_g\_sts \_n M\_l\_  
w\_r\_ c\_nc\_rn\_d \_b\_\_t Ms C\_ss\_'s w\_lf\_r\_ \_nd th\_  
ch\_nc\_s \_f h\_r b\_b\_\_s' s\_rv\_v\_l. Th\_y s\_\_ght th\_ h\_l\_p  
\_f th\_ h\_sp\_t\_l \_n M\_r\_cc\_ wh\_r\_ th\_y b\_l\_\_v\_d sh\_  
w\_\_ld r\_c\_\_v\_ b\_tt\_r pr\_- \_nd p\_stn\_t\_l c\_r\_.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

we all know what twins and triplets are most of us are familiar with the terms quadruplets and quintuplets but what is the word to describe nine babies being born at the same time the answer is nonuplets a 25yearold malian woman halima cisse has given birth to nine healthy babies this is a new record the previous record was by a woman in the us who delivered eight babies octuplets at a single birth people in mali were avidly following the progress of ms cisses pregnancy and she was inundated with well wishes malians were not the only ones who were pleasantly surprised when doctors announced the nonuplets ms cisse was told she was only carrying seven babies septuplets after having scans

ms cisses husband told the bbc that she is in good health and that the babies five boys and four girls were doing well fanta siby malis health minister congratulated the couple on the happy outcome he also praised medical teams in morocco which is where ms cisse gave birth he also thanked malis president for the political leadership and generosity which expedited support for halima the outcome is wonderful news as it was a little touchandgo in the early stages of the pregnancy gynecologists in mali were concerned about ms cisses welfare and the chances of her babies survival they sought the help of the hospital in morocco where they believed she would receive better pre and postnatal care

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210510-nonuplets.html>

We all know what twins and triplets are. Most of us are familiar with the terms quadruplets and quintuplets. But what is the word to describe nine babies being born at the same time? The answer is... nonuplets. A 25-year-old Malian woman, Halima Cisse, has given birth to nine healthy babies. This is a new record. The previous record was by a woman in the US who delivered eight babies (octuplets) at a single birth. People in Mali were avidly following the progress of Ms Cisse's pregnancy and she was inundated with wellwishes. Malians were not the only ones who were pleasantly surprised when doctors announced the nonuplets. Ms Cisse was told she was only carrying seven babies (septuplets) after having scans. Ms Cisse's husband told the BBC that she is in good health and that the babies (five boys and four girls) were doing well. Fanta Siby, Mali's health minister, congratulated the couple on the "happy outcome". He also praised medical teams in Morocco, which is where Ms Cisse gave birth. He also thanked Mali's president for the "political leadership and generosity" which "expedited" support for Halima. The outcome is wonderful news as it was a little touch-and-go in the early stages of the pregnancy. Gynecologists in Mali were concerned about Ms Cisse's welfare and the chances of her babies' survival. They sought the help of the hospital in Morocco where they believed she would receive better pre- and postnatal care.







# 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. NONUPLETS:** Make a poster about nonuplets. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar thing-s?

**4. SIBLINGS:** Write a magazine article about nonuplets. 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 nonuplets. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to raise nine children at the same time. 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)

- a T    b F    c F    d T    e F    f T    g F    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Quadruplets
2. Nonuplets
3. American
4. The pregnancy
5. Seven
6. Five boys and four girls
7. Mali's health minister
8. Mali's president
9. It was touch-and-go
10. Pre- and postnatal care

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Most of us are familiar with the terms.
2. The word to describe nine babies being born.
3. People in Mali were avidly following her progress.
4. Pleasantly surprised when doctors announced the nonuplets.
5. Cisse was told she was carrying seven babies.
6. The minister congratulated them on the happy outcome.
7. He thanked Mali's president for the political leadership.
8. It was touch-and-go in the early stages.
9. Gynecologists in Mali were concerned about her welfare.
10. They sought the help of the Moroccan hospital.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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