

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 4 – 15th May 2023

Pope says Italians should have babies, not pets

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2305/230515-children-and-pets-4.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

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

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2305/230515-children-and-pets-4.html>

Birth rates are falling to worrying levels. Japan and South Korea are worried about their future. A conference in Italy has addressed Italy's population crisis. Italy has one of the world's lowest birth rates. Pension and welfare systems may not cope. Pope Francis has warned that having children is unaffordable for many couples. He said starting a family is a "titanic effort" that only rich people can afford.

The Pope encouraged Italians to have more children and not make "selfish, egotistical" choices. He said fewer children is threatening Italy's economic future. He said Italy faces a "demographic winter". Italy saw a record low number of births last year and a higher number of deaths. The Pope urged couples to have babies instead of pets. Italy is often called "the country of empty cribs". Elon Musk said: "Italy is disappearing."

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-65572153>
<https://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/pope-joins-meloni-urging-italians-kids-pets-99277457>
<https://www.foxnews.com/world/pope-joins-conservative-pm-calling-italians-more-babies-less-pets>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2305/230515-children-and-pets-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Birth rates are falling | a. for many couples |
| 2. worried about their | b. population crisis |
| 3. A conference | c. effort |
| 4. addressed Italy's | d. in Italy |
| 5. one of the world's lowest | e. to worrying levels |
| 6. welfare systems may | f. future |
| 7. having children is unaffordable | g. not cope |
| 8. starting a family is a titanic | h. birth rates |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. make selfish, | a. of births |
| 2. threatening Italy's economic | b. instead of pets |
| 3. He said Italy faces a | c. egotistical choices |
| 4. a record low number | d. disappearing |
| 5. The Pope urged | e. future |
| 6. have babies | f. "demographic winter" |
| 7. the country of empty | g. couples to |
| 8. Italy is | h. cribs |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2305/230515-children-and-pets-4.html>

Birth rates are (1) _____ levels. Japan and South Korea are worried about their future. (2) _____ Italy has addressed Italy's population crisis. Italy has one of the world's lowest birth rates. Pension and welfare systems (3) _____. Pope Francis has warned that having children (4) _____ many couples. He said starting a family is (5) _____ that only rich (6) _____.

The Pope encouraged Italians to have more children and not make (7) _____. He said fewer children is threatening Italy's economic future. He (8) _____ a "demographic winter".

Italy saw (9) _____ number of births last year and (10) _____ of deaths. The Pope urged couples to have babies (11) _____. Italy is often called "the country of empty cribs". Elon Musk said: "(12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2305/230515-children-and-pets-4.html>

Birth rates are falling to worrying levels. Japan and South Korea are worried about their future. A conference in Italy has addressed Italy's population crisis. Italy has one of the world's lowest birth rates. Pension and welfare systems may not cope. Pope Francis has warned that having children is unaffordable for many couples. He said starting a family is "a titanic effort" that only rich people can afford. The Pope encouraged Italians to have more children and not make "selfish, egotistical" choices. He said fewer children is threatening Italy's economic future. He said Italy faces a "demographic winter". Italy saw a record low number of births last year and a high number of deaths. The Pope urged couples to have babies instead of pets. Italy is often called "the country of empty cribs". Elon Musk said: "Italy is disappearing."

CHILDREN SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2305/230515-children-and-pets-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about children 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) _____

Pope says Italians should have babies, not pets – 15th May 2023
More free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

