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Level 5

Number of Japanese children at record low

8th May, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180508-japanese-children-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180508-japanese-children-5.html>

There are the fewest number of children in Japan since records began. There were 170,000 fewer children in the year ending March 2018 than in the previous year. Japan's government issued a report showing the falling numbers. According to the statistics, the number of children aged 14 or under dropped for the 37th consecutive year. There was also a record low of 12.3 per cent in the ratio of children to the overall population. This was the 44th year of decline in a row. This ratio is the lowest among countries with a population of 40 million or more.

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has tried to address the country's dwindling birth rate. He introduced measures to encourage lower-income families to have more children. However, these have had little success. This is coupled with the fact that fewer Japanese people are getting married. Demographers say this is a "ticking time-bomb". The number of annual births in 2016 fell below one million for the first time since records began in 1899. By 2050, Japan will have 23 per cent fewer citizens. This means an aging society and a greatly reduced workforce.

Sources: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Japan-s-plunging-population-adds-urgency-to-immigration-talk>
http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-05/04/c_137156459.htm
<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/2144754/number-japanese-children-declines-37th-year-row-now-record-low>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180508-japanese-children-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. since records | a. 12.3 per cent |
| 2. Japan's government issued | b. a row |
| 3. According to the | c. a report |
| 4. dropped for the 37th | d. of 40 million |
| 5. a record low of | e. began |
| 6. the ratio of children to the | f. consecutive year |
| 7. the 44th year of decline in | g. statistics |
| 8. countries with a population | h. overall population |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. the country's dwindling | a. aging society |
| 2. encourage lower- | b. are getting married |
| 3. fewer Japanese people | c. for the first time |
| 4. this is a ticking | d. workforce |
| 5. fell below one million | e. income families |
| 6. Japan will have 23 per cent | f. time-bomb |
| 7. This means an | g. fewer citizens |
| 8. a greatly reduced | h. birth rate |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180508-japanese-children-5.html>

There are (1) _____ children in Japan since records began. There were 170,000 fewer children in (2) _____ March 2018 than in the previous year. Japan's government issued a report showing the falling numbers. According (3) _____, the number of children aged 14 or under dropped for the (4) _____. There was also a record low of 12.3 per cent in (5) _____ children to the overall population. This was the 44th year of decline in a row. This ratio is the lowest among countries with (6) _____ 40 million or more.

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has (7) _____ the country's (8) _____. He introduced measures to encourage lower-income families to have more children. However, these have (9) _____. This is coupled with the fact that fewer Japanese people are getting married. Demographers say this is a "(10) _____. The number of annual births in 2016 fell below one million for (11) _____ since records began in 1899. By 2050, Japan will have 23 per cent fewer citizens. This means an aging society and (12) _____ workforce.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180508-japanese-children-5.html>

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CHILDREN SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180508-japanese-children-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) _____

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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) _____

