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Level 5 – 10th January, 2022

Choosing pets over children is 'selfish,' says Pope

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2201/220110-pets-and-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/2201/220110-pets-and-children-5.html>

Pope Francis suggested that people who choose pets over children were acting selfishly. He was addressing an audience in Rome and told them that substituting children for pets was a "denial" of parenthood. He added: "Today, we see a form of selfishness. We see that some people do not want to have a child. Sometimes they have just one, and that's it, but they have dogs and cats that take the place of children." Francis encouraged couples to adopt children. He said: "Having a child is always a risk, but there is more risk in not having a child."

Pope Francis has spoken out on this topic before. In 2014, he said choosing pets over children could harm our future. He called it "cultural degradation". He said the emotional relationship with pets was "easier" than the "complex" relationship with children. He called the downward trend in birth rates in many countries a "demographic winter". Not everyone agrees with the Pope's comments. The New York Post said Francis took his name from St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. It added: "Dogs...make us better....They are superior to most people."

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-59884801>
<https://nypost.com/2022/01/07/pope-francis-slam-of-pet-parents-prove-hes-never-owned-a-pup/>
<https://www.christiantoday.com>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2201/220110-pets-and-children-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. people who choose | a. of children |
| 2. acting | b. of parenthood |
| 3. He was addressing an | c. having a child |
| 4. a "denial" | d. selfishly |
| 5. we see a form of | e. children |
| 6. take the place | f. audience in Rome |
| 7. Francis encouraged couples to adopt | g. selfishness |
| 8. more risk in not | h. pets over children |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Francis has spoken out on this | a. animals |
| 2. harm our | b. rates |
| 3. the "complex" relationship | c. to most people |
| 4. the downward | d. with children |
| 5. birth | e. trend |
| 6. Not everyone | f. topic before |
| 7. the patron saint of | g. agrees |
| 8. They are superior | h. future |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2201/220110-pets-and-children-5.html>

Pope Francis suggested that people who (1) _____ children were acting selfishly. He was (2) _____ in Rome and told them that substituting children for pets was a (3) _____. He added: "Today, we see a form of selfishness. We see that some people do not want to have a child. Sometimes they (4) _____, and that's it, but they have dogs and cats that take the place of children." Francis encouraged (5) _____ children. He said: "Having a child is always a risk, but there (6) _____ in not having a child."

Pope Francis has spoken out (7) _____ before. In 2014, he said choosing pets over children could (8) _____. He called it "cultural degradation". He said the emotional relationship with (9) _____ than the "complex" relationship with children. He called the downward trend in (10) _____ many countries a "demographic winter". Not everyone agrees with the Pope's comments. The New York Post said Francis (11) _____ from St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. It added: "Dogs...make us better....They (12) _____ most people."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2201/220110-pets-and-children-5.html>

PopeFrancissuggestedthatpeoplewhochoosepetsoverchildrenwereactingselfishly.HewasaddressinganaudienceinRomeandtoldthemthat substituting children for pets was a "denial" of parenthood. He added: "Today, we see a form of selfishness. We see that some people do not want to have a child. Sometimes they have just one, and that's it, but they have dogs and cats that take the place of children." Francis encouraged couples to adopt children. He said: "Having a child is always a risk, but there is more risk in not having a child." Pope Francis has spoken out on this topic before. In 2014, he said choosing pet over children could harm our future. He called it "cultural degradation". He said the emotional relationship with pets was "easier" than the "complex" relationship with children. He called the downward trend in birth rates in many countries a "demographic winter". Not everyone agrees with the Pope's comments. The New York Post said Francis took his name from St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. It added: "Dogs... make us better.... They are superior to most people."

PETS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2201/220110-pets-and-children-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about pets 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2201/220110-pets-and-children-5.html>

Write about **pets** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
