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Teenage mothers risk premature babies

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/100710-pregnancy.html>

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

10th July, 2010

THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/100710-pregnancy.html>

A newly-released study suggests that teenage mothers are 'more likely to give birth prematurely'. The report from University College Cork, Ireland, says pregnant girls between the ages of 14 and 17 are at a much higher risk of giving birth to premature babies. They said this was particularly so if it was a second pregnancy. The researchers found that a quarter of all teenage mothers became pregnant again before they turned 20. Head researcher Ali Khashan looked at the pregnancies of over 56,000 women in the northwest of England over a three-year period. There were 3,636 women aged between 14 and 17 at the time of birth, and 7,506 between 18 and 19. They found teenage mothers were more likely to be underweight and come from a white ethnic background.

The researchers published their findings in the journal 'BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth'. They call for better sex education at school and the promotion and use of contraception after a teen has given birth for the first time. The researchers said the rates of teenage pregnancy were related to the mothers' social background. They discovered that around thirty per cent of the teenage mothers came from poorer areas. Mr Khashan also suggested the body of young teens may not be ready for childbirth: "It is possible that the increased risk of poor pregnancy outcome is related to biological immaturity," he said. He also noted teenage girls did not get proper medical advice after becoming pregnant and that health service workers generally focused on them less when they had a second child.

WARM-UPS

1. TEENAGE PREGNANCY: Walk around the class and talk to other students about teenage pregnancy. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

study / teenagers / pregnancy / giving birth / risk / researchers / underweight / ethnic / journal / sex education / contraception / poorer areas / biological / medical advice

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

3. PREGNANCY: What is best for expectant mothers? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

	What's best?
Food	
Education	
Medicine	
Exercise	
Work	
Advice	

4. TEENAGE MOTHERS: Students A **strongly** believe there will be fewer teenage mothers in the future; Students B **strongly** believe there will always be teenage mothers. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. BABIES: What are the best things about them? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- their laugh
- playing with them
- looking at them sleep
- feeding them
- holding them
- changing them
- watching them grow
- naming them

6. PREGNANT: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'pregnant'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/100710-pregnancy.html>

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

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. A report says teenagers are the riskiest mothers. | T / F |
| b. The report says girls in their early teens risk having premature babies. | T / F |
| c. Researchers looked at more than 56,000 teenage pregnancies. | T / F |
| d. The study found the problem was equally spread among all races. | T / F |
| e. The researchers believe there is a need for better sex education. | T / F |
| f. The report found a link between teenage pregnancy and social skills. | T / F |
| g. A researcher said young teenage bodies may risk premature births. | T / F |
| h. Teens get more help from health workers for their second pregnancy. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. likely | a. connected |
| 2. premature | b. timeframe |
| 3. turned | c. conclusions |
| 4. period | d. early |
| 5. ethnic | e. levels |
| 6. findings | f. probable |
| 7. rates | g. centred |
| 8. related | h. correct |
| 9. proper | i. became |
| 10. focused | j. racial |

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A newly- | a. they turned 20 |
| 2. more likely to give | b. focused on them less |
| 3. became pregnant again before | c. ethnic background |
| 4. more likely to | d. of contraception |
| 5. come from a white | e. from poorer areas |
| 6. They call for better sex | f. be underweight |
| 7. the promotion and use | g. released study |
| 8. the teenage mothers came | h. education at school |
| 9. teenage girls did not get proper | i. birth prematurely |
| 10. health service workers generally | j. medical advice |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/100710-pregnancy.html>

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

A newly-released study _____ that teenage mothers are 'more likely to give birth prematurely'. The report from University College Cork, Ireland, says pregnant girls between the ages of 14 and 17 are at a much higher _____ of giving birth to premature babies. They said this was _____ so if it was a second pregnancy. The researchers found that a _____ of all teenage mothers became pregnant again before they turned 20. Head researcher Ali Khashan _____ at the pregnancies of over 56,000 women in the northwest of England over a three-year _____. There were 3,636 women aged between 14 and 17 at the _____ of birth, and 7,506 between 18 and 19. They found teenage mothers were more likely to be underweight and come from a _____ ethnic background.

period
quarter
risk
suggests
white
time
particularly
looked

The researchers published their _____ in the journal 'BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth' . They call for better sex education at school and the _____ and use of contraception after a teen has given birth for the first time. The researchers said the _____ of teenage pregnancy were _____ to the mothers' social background. They discovered that around thirty per cent of the teenage mothers came from _____ areas. Mr Khashan also suggested the body of young teens may not be _____ for childbirth: "It is possible that the increased risk of poor pregnancy outcome is related to biological _____," he said. He also noted teenage girls did not get proper medical advice after becoming pregnant and that health service workers generally _____ on them less when they had a second child.

related
focused
findings
poorer
immaturity
promotion
poorer
rates

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/100710-pregnancy.html>

A newly-_____ teenage mothers are 'more likely to give birth prematurely'. The report from University College Cork, Ireland, says -_____ ages of 14 and 17 are at a much higher risk of giving birth to premature babies. They said -_____ it was a second pregnancy. The researchers found that -_____ mothers became pregnant again before they turned 20. Head researcher Ali Khashan -_____ of over 56,000 women in the northwest of England over a three-year period. There were 3,636 women aged between 14 and 17 at the time of birth, and 7,506 between 18 and 19. They found teenage mothers were more likely to be underweight and come from -_____.

The researchers -_____ the journal 'BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth'. They call for better sex education at school and the promotion and use of contraception -_____ birth for the first time. The researchers said the rates of teenage pregnancy were related to the mothers' social background. -_____ thirty per cent of the teenage mothers came from poorer areas. Mr Khashan also -_____ young teens may not be ready for childbirth: "It is possible that the increased risk of poor pregnancy outcome -_____ immaturity," he said. He also noted teenage girls did not get proper medical advice after becoming pregnant and that health service workers generally -_____ when they had a second child.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/100710-pregnancy.html>

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

teenage	pregnancy
----------------	------------------

- 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">• newly• ages• second• 20• 56,000• white	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• better• rates• thirty• increased• proper• generally
---	--

STUDENT TEENAGE PREGNANCY SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/100710-pregnancy.html>

Write five GOOD questions about teenage pregnancy 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.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'pregnant'?
- c) What do you think of teenagers becoming mothers?
- d) Do you think this study will change opinions about pregnancy?
- e) Is there anything wrong with an 18-year-old woman becoming pregnant?
- f) What should governments do to help teenage mothers?
- g) What is the best age for a woman to have a baby?
- h) What problems are there if a teenager has a baby?
- i) What are the pros and cons of having a baby at the age of 40?

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TEENAGE PREGNANCY DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What sex education did you receive at school?
- c) What sex education do you think children should receive at school?
- d) Should society do more for mothers who come from poorer areas?
- e) What are the costs of raising children in your country?
- f) Do you think today's teenagers are ready to raise children?
- g) Why do health workers focus less on a woman's second pregnancy?
- h) What questions would you like to ask researcher Ali Khashan?
- i) What are the good things about having a baby at the age of eighteen?

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LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/100710-pregnancy.html>

A newly-released study (1) ____ that teenage mothers are 'more likely to give birth prematurely'. The report from University College Cork, Ireland, says pregnant girls between the ages of 14 and 17 are at a much (2) ____ risk of giving birth to premature babies. They said this was (3) ____ so if it was a second pregnancy. The researchers found that a quarter of all teenage mothers became pregnant again before they (4) ____ 20. Head researcher Ali Khashan looked at the pregnancies of over 56,000 women in the northwest of England over a three-year period. There were 3,636 women (5) ____ between 14 and 17 at the time of birth, and 7,506 between 18 and 19. They found teenage mothers were more likely to (6) ____ underweight and come from a white ethnic background.

The researchers published their findings in the journal 'BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth'. They (7) ____ for better sex education at school and the promotion and use of contraception after a teen has given birth (8) ____ the first time. The researchers said the rates of teenage pregnancy were related to the mothers' social background. They discovered that around thirty per cent of the teenage mothers came from poorer areas. Mr Khashan also suggested the body of young teens (9) ____ not be ready for childbirth: "It is possible that the (10) ____ risk of poor pregnancy outcome is related to biological immaturity," he said. He also noted teenage girls did not (11) ____ proper medical advice after becoming pregnant and that health service workers (12) ____ focused on them less when they had a second child.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) suggestive | (b) suggestion | (c) suggest | (d) suggests |
| 2. | (a) higher | (b) high | (c) highest | (d) highly |
| 3. | (a) particular | (b) particularly | (c) particulars | (d) particles |
| 4. | (a) turning | (b) turns | (c) turner | (d) turned |
| 5. | (a) ages | (b) ageless | (c) aged | (d) aging |
| 6. | (a) do | (b) be | (c) have | (d) take |
| 7. | (a) phone | (b) shout | (c) voice | (d) call |
| 8. | (a) for | (b) by | (c) from | (d) to |
| 9. | (a) will | (b) may | (c) should | (d) could |
| 10. | (a) above | (b) up | (c) heighten | (d) increased |
| 11. | (a) prosper | (b) properly | (c) proper | (d) prop |
| 12. | (a) generally | (b) general | (c) generals | (d) generalize |

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WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/100710-pregnancy.html>

Write about **teenage pregnancy** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

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 teenage pregnancy. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. PREGNANCY: Make a poster about pregnancy. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. PREGNANT: Write a magazine article about a teenager who has become pregnant. Include imaginary interviews with the young woman and a health worker.

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. LETTER: Write a letter to a pregnancy expert. Ask him/her three questions about teenage pregnancy. Give him/her three pieces of advice on what young women should do to look after themselves and their unborn child. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. likely | a. probable |
| 2. premature | b. early |
| 3. turned | c. became |
| 4. period | d. timeframe |
| 5. ethnic | e. racial |
| 6. findings | f. conclusions |
| 7. rates | g. levels |
| 8. related | h. connected |
| 9. proper | i. correct |
| 10. focused | j. centred |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A newly- | a. released study |
| 2. more likely to give | b. birth prematurely |
| 3. became pregnant again before | c. they turned 20 |
| 4. more likely to | d. be underweight |
| 5. come from a white | e. ethnic background |
| 6. They call for better sex | f. education at school |
| 7. the promotion and use | g. of contraception |
| 8. the teenage mothers came | h. from poorer areas |
| 9. teenage girls did not get proper | i. medical advice |
| 10. health service workers generally | j. focused on them less |

GAP FILL:

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The researchers published their **findings** in the journal 'BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth' . They call for better sex education at school and the **promotion** and use of contraception after a teen has given birth for the first time. The researchers said the **rates** of teenage pregnancy were **related** to the mothers' social background. They discovered that around thirty per cent of the teenage mothers came from **poorer** areas. Mr Khashan also suggested the body of young teens may not be **ready** for childbirth: "It is possible that the increased risk of poor pregnancy outcome is related to biological **immaturity**," he said. He also noted teenage girls did not get proper medical advice after becoming pregnant and that health service workers generally **focused** on them less when they had a second child.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - a 3 - b 4 - c 5 - c 6 - b 7 - d 8 - a 9 - b 10 - d 11 - c 12 - a

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