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Level 2

Britain says yes to 3-parent babies

6th February, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1502/150206-3-parent-babies-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1502/150206-3-parent-babies-2.html>

The U.K. will soon allow doctors to create babies from the DNA of three different people. It will be the first country to do this. British lawmakers voted 382-128 for the idea. Doctors say three-person babies will stop diseases passing from a mother to her newborn baby. As many as 150 babies a year could be born using the new technique. The first baby to be born using the DNA from three people could be born next year. The technique will help prevent an incurable disease that affects about one in 6,500 children worldwide.

The technique is simple. It combines the parents' DNA with the DNA of a female donor who does not have the disease. Doctors replace the unhealthy DNA in the mother's egg with healthy DNA from the donor. The baby receives about 0.1 per cent of its DNA from the donor. Lawmakers said this was "light at the end of a dark tunnel" for many families. Britain's Prime Minister said: "We're not playing God here. We're just making sure that two parents who want a healthy baby can have one." Critics say the technique could lead to the genetic modification of children and "designer babies".

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/health-31069173>
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/health/three-parent-babies-could-be-born-next-year-1-3678635>
<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/britain-votes-to-allow-world-s-first-3-parent-ivf-babies/>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1502/150206-3-parent-babies-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. create babies | a. an incurable disease |
| 2. It will be the first | b. for the idea |
| 3. lawmakers voted 382-128 | c. three people |
| 4. As many as 150 | d. worldwide |
| 5. DNA from | e. from the DNA |
| 6. The technique will help prevent | f. babies a year |
| 7. about one | g. country to do this |
| 8. children | h. in 6,500 |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. The technique is | a. in the mother's egg |
| 2. It combines the parents' DNA with the | b. and "designer babies" |
| 3. replace the unhealthy DNA | c. of its DNA from the donor. |
| 4. healthy DNA | d. of a dark tunnel |
| 5. The baby receives about 0.1 per cent | e. simple |
| 6. light at the end | f. God here |
| 7. We're not playing | g. DNA of a female donor |
| 8. the genetic modification of children | h. from the donor |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1502/150206-3-parent-babies-2.html>

The U.K. (1) _____ doctors to create babies from the DNA of three different people. It (2) _____ country to do this. British lawmakers (3) _____ for the idea. Doctors say three-person babies will stop diseases passing from a mother to (4) _____. As many as 150 babies a year could be born using the new technique. The first baby (5) _____ the DNA from three people could be born next year. The technique will help prevent an incurable disease that affects about (6) _____ children worldwide.

The (7) _____. It combines the parents' DNA with the DNA (8) _____ who does not have the disease. Doctors replace the unhealthy DNA in the mother's egg with healthy DNA from the donor. The baby (9) _____ per cent of its DNA from the donor. Lawmakers said this was "light at the end (10) _____" for many families. Britain's Prime Minister said: "We're not playing God here. We're just making sure that two parents (11) _____ baby can have one." Critics say the technique could lead to the genetic modification of children (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)
