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## Level 4

### Number of Japanese children at record low

8th May, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180508-japanese-children-4.html>

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

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180508-japanese-children-4.html>

Japan has its fewest number of children since records began. There were 170,000 fewer children in March 2018 than in March 2017. Japan's government issued a report showing the statistics. The number of children aged 14 or under dropped for the 37th year in a row. There was also a record low of 12.3 per cent in the ratio of children to the whole population. This ratio is the lowest among countries with a population of over 40 million.

Japan's prime minister has taken action to encourage lower-income families to have more children. However, these have not worked so well. Furthermore, fewer Japanese people are getting married. Statisticians 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 reducing 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.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-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. since records            | a. of 12.3 per cent     |
| 2. There were 170,000 fewer | b. the statistics       |
| 3. a report showing         | c. lowest               |
| 4. for the 37th year        | d. children             |
| 5. a record low             | e. over 40 million      |
| 6. the ratio of children to | f. in a row             |
| 7. This ratio is the        | g. began                |
| 8. a population of          | h. the whole population |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Japan's prime minister has taken | a. time-bomb          |
| 2. encourage lower-                 | b. so well            |
| 3. have more                        | c. for the first time |
| 4. these have not worked            | d. getting married    |
| 5. fewer Japanese people are        | e. income families    |
| 6. this is a ticking                | f. society            |
| 7. fell below one million           | g. action             |
| 8. an aging                         | h. children           |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180508-japanese-children-4.html>

Japan has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of children since records began. There were 170,000 (2) \_\_\_\_\_ March 2018 than in March 2017.

Japan's government (3) \_\_\_\_\_ showing the statistics. The number of children aged 14 or under dropped for the 37th year (4) \_\_\_\_\_ . There was also a record low of 12.3 per cent in the

(5) \_\_\_\_\_ to the whole population. This ratio is the lowest (6) \_\_\_\_\_ a population of over 40 million.

Japan's prime minister has taken (7) \_\_\_\_\_ lower-income families to have more children. However, these (8) \_\_\_\_\_ so well. Furthermore, fewer Japanese (9) \_\_\_\_\_ married.

Statisticians say this is a "ticking time-bomb". The (10) \_\_\_\_\_ births in 2016 fell below one million for the first

time since records began in (11) \_\_\_\_\_ , Japan will have 23 per cent fewer citizens. This means (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and a reducing workforce.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180508-japanese-children-4.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) \_\_\_\_\_

