

# NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

## U.S. mothers older and better educated

**MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:**

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100506-mothers.html>

### IN THIS LESSON:

The Reading / Tapescript	2
Phrase Match	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Multiple Choice	5
Spelling	6
Put the Text Back Together	7
Scrambled Sentences	8
Discussion	9
Writing	10
Homework	11

**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**6th May, 2010**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100506-mothers.html>

A new survey has found American mothers are changing. They are older and better educated than they were 20 years ago. The Pew Research Center interviewed 1,000 mothers. It says more women are going to college and leaving it later to have children. The researchers also discovered that 41 per cent of births are outside of marriage. Other statistics show big changes in U.S. society. In 1990, one in 11 new mothers was over 35; today, that figure is one in seven. In 1990, 41 percent of mothers had a college education; today, it is 71 percent.

The world is changing quickly. People from 100 years ago would be shocked. The family is also becoming very different. Women in all rich countries are choosing to marry later. Many women do not want to get married at all. Today's women say they want to have fun before starting a family. Women who go to college often say their career is more important than having children. Is this a good or bad thing? Maybe it will reduce overpopulation in the world. No one really knows yet how this will change the world.

# PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100506-mothers.html>

## Match the following phrases from the article.

### Paragraph 1

- |                                        |                     |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. American mothers                    | a. 1,000 mothers    |
| 2. The Pew Research Center interviewed | b. of marriage      |
| 3. leaving it later                    | c. big changes      |
| 4. 41 per cent of births are outside   | d. in seven         |
| 5. Other statistics show               | e. are changing     |
| 6. today, that figure is one           | f. to have children |

### Paragraph 2

- |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The world is changing          | a. reduce overpopulation |
| 2. choosing                       | b. knows yet             |
| 3. Today's women say they want    | c. to marry later        |
| 4. their career is more important | d. quickly               |
| 5. Maybe it will                  | e. to have fun           |
| 6. No one really                  | f. than having children  |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100506-mothers.html>

A \_\_\_\_\_ American mothers are changing. They are older and better \_\_\_\_\_ were 20 years ago. The Pew Research Center interviewed 1,000 mothers. It says more women are going to college \_\_\_\_\_ to have children. The researchers also discovered that 41 per cent of births \_\_\_\_\_ marriage. Other statistics show big changes in U.S. society. In 1990, \_\_\_\_\_ mothers was over 35; \_\_\_\_\_ one in seven. In 1990, 41 percent of mothers had a college education; today, it is 71 percent.

The world \_\_\_\_\_. People from 100 years ago would be shocked. The family is also becoming very different. Women in all rich countries are \_\_\_\_\_ later. Many women do not want to \_\_\_\_\_. Today's women say they want to have fun before starting a family. Women \_\_\_\_\_ often say their career is more important than having children. Is this a good or bad thing? Maybe it will \_\_\_\_\_ in the world. No one really knows \_\_\_\_\_ change the world.

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100506-mothers.html>

A new survey (1) \_\_\_\_\_ found American mothers are changing. They are older and better educated than they were 20 years ago. The Pew Research Center interviewed 1,000 mothers. It (2) \_\_\_\_\_ more women are going to college and leaving it later to have children. The researchers also discovered that 41 per cent of births are (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of marriage. Other statistics show big changes in U.S. society. In 1990, one in 11 new mothers (4) \_\_\_\_\_ over 35; today, that figure is one in seven. In 1990, 41 percent of mothers had a college education; today, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ is 71 percent.

The world is changing quickly. People from 100 years ago (6) \_\_\_\_\_ be shocked. The family is also becoming very different. Women in all rich countries are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to marry later. Many women do not want to get married (8) \_\_\_\_\_ all. Today's women say they want to have fun before starting a family. Women who go to college (9) \_\_\_\_\_ say their career is more important than having children. Is this a good or bad thing? Maybe it will reduce overpopulation in the world. No one really knows (10) \_\_\_\_\_ how this will change the world.

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |             |              |             |
|-----|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1.  | (a) have    | (b) having   | (c) has     |
| 2.  | (a) saying  | (b) says     | (c) say     |
| 3.  | (a) outside | (b) outdoors | (c) outer   |
| 4.  | (a) were    | (b) be       | (c) was     |
| 5.  | (a) they    | (b) it       | (c) these   |
| 6.  | (a) would   | (b) will     | (c) were    |
| 7.  | (a) choice  | (b) choosing | (c) chose   |
| 8.  | (a) by      | (b) from     | (c) at      |
| 9.  | (a) over    | (b) off      | (c) often   |
| 10. | (a) yet     | (b) still    | (c) already |

# SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100506-mothers.html>

**Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.**

## Paragraph 1

1. A new seyrvu
2. eewitvdiren 1,000 mothers
3. vlنياeg it later
4. births are sioduet of marriage
5. big hsacgne in U.S. society
6. that regufi is one in seven

## Paragraph 2

7. changing lcikyqu
8. becoming very neiertfdf
9. rntsagit a family
10. their erarec is more important
11. rdueec overpopulation
12. No one alylre knows

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100506-mothers.html>

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) very different. Women in all rich countries are choosing to marry later. Many women do not want to get
- ( ) say their career is more important than having children. Is this a good or bad thing? Maybe it will
- ( **1** ) A new survey has found American mothers are changing. They are older and better educated than they were
- ( ) married at all. Today's women say they want to have fun before starting a family. Women who go to college often
- ( ) outside of marriage. Other statistics show big changes in U.S. society. In 1990, one in 11 new mothers was over
- ( ) reduce overpopulation in the world. No one really knows yet how this will change the world.
- ( ) 35; today, that figure is one in seven. In 1990, 41 percent of mothers had a college education; today, it is 71 percent.
- ( ) The world is changing quickly. People from 100 years ago would be shocked. The family is also becoming
- ( ) 20 years ago. The Pew Research Center interviewed 1,000 mothers. It says more women are going to
- ( ) college and leaving it later to have children. The researchers also discovered that 41 per cent of births are

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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**With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.**

1. ago they were Better 20 educated years than.

---

2. going says to more college women are It.

---

3. outside cent are marriage per births of 41 of.

---

4. in changes big show statistics Other society . U.S.

---

5. is Today one , in that seven figure.

---

6. be 100 shocked years ago People would from.

---

7. family The different very becoming also is.

---

8. married at all Many women do not want to get.

---

9. starting family Have before a fun.

---

10. really one No yet knows.

---



## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_



# 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. MOTHERHOOD:** Search the Internet and find more information about motherhood. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about motherhood. Include imaginary an interview with a very young mother and an older mother. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to the head researcher. Ask him/her three questions about the survey. Give him/her three of your opinions on motherhood. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.