

# A BUN IN THE OVEN

Language Function: discussing issues, reading comprehension

Vocabulary/Topic: pregnancy; giving birth; men and women

TEACHER WORKSHEET

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE

## focus on talking

activity 1. In pairs, ask and answer the following questions.

- What are the pros and cons of **having a baby** when you are young (i.e. in your early twenties) and when you are older (late thirties, early forties)?
- Do you think people should wait until they are financially secure to have a baby?
- What do parents do to prepare for the birth of their child?
- Do you believe parenting should come naturally or do you feel all parents should participate in **parenting classes**? Why? What would you expect to learn during parenting classes?
- Why do some men feel they should be in the **delivery room**? Why do you think some women would not like their partners to be in the delivery room with them?
- What is the difference between a **natural birth** and a **caesarean section**? What are the advantages and disadvantages of either of the methods? Do you think people should have a caesarean section only in emergencies?
- What is **postnatal depression**? How does it manifest itself? How should a young mother deal with the condition?



## focus on reading: comprehension

activity 2. Read the text to find out whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE:

1. According to the author of the text, giving birth is less painful than it used to be.
2. Mr. Beatie used to be a woman.
3. Mr. Beatie has already given birth to triplets.



## The First Pregnant Man

Mr. Beatie, who is 34 now, was born female but had gender reassignment surgery and is now legally married to a woman. His choice to have a baby was an easy decision. His wife had a hysterectomy a few years ago so Thomas decided to carry the baby for her. He was able to get pregnant as he kept his female organs when he switched genders. This new revelation has not only come as a shock to the world but also to close friends and his wife's family who did not know Thomas was once a woman.

Mr. Beatie's first successful insemination ended in a life-threatening ectopic pregnancy with triplets. The second pregnancy resulted in a baby girl due to be born on July 3.

When asked how he felt about his new pregnancy, Mr. Beatie said "I will be my daughter's father and my wife will be her mother. We will be a family".

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**Attention ladies, giving birth is no longer a female prerogative. Women can no longer use the excruciating pain of childbirth as a weapon of point scoring against men in the power stakes, as now men can get pregnant too, on condition that they used to be women - just like Thomas Beatie from the United States, who has officially announced he is pregnant.**

## focus on talking

activity 3. Discuss these questions:

1. Do you think transgenders should be allowed to have babies? Why yes/not?
2. Do you think Mr. Beatie's pregnancy could have some far-reaching consequences for the future?

### a transgender

someone who identifies themselves with a gender other than their biological one

## focus on vocabulary: pregnancy & giving birth

activity 4. Match these words with their definitions.

|                  |                    |                    |                   |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>due date</b>  | <b>miscarriage</b> | <b>placenta</b>    | <b>foetus</b>     |
| <b>induction</b> | <b>stillbirth</b>  | <b>mood swings</b> | <b>ultrasound</b> |

1. an unborn baby in the womb  
.....
2. the birth of an infant that has died in the womb  
.....
3. abrupt and unexpected changes of mood, very often observed in pregnant women  
.....
4. a machine used for examining the fetus  
.....
5. the process of bringing on childbirth by artificial means, typically by the use of drugs  
.....
6. the date the baby is due to be born  
.....
7. giving birth to a baby before it is fully developed and able to survive  
.....
8. the material that comes out of a woman after a baby has been born, and which was necessary to feed and protect the baby  
.....



**A BABY SHOWER**  
a party given by the women friends of somebody who is pregnant, at which she is given presents for the baby

## focus on vocabulary: being pregnant

activity 5. There are a few ways of saying that a woman is pregnant. Look at the expressions below and answer the questions.



|                   |             |                        |
|-------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| carrying a child  | expectant   | expecting a baby       |
| in the family way | knocked up  | parturient             |
| preggers          | up the duff | with a bun in the oven |

1. Which three phrases are chiefly British slang expressions?
2. Which word is a technical term?
3. Which one is used most commonly, although not exclusively, to describe unplanned pregnancy?

activity 6. Find these words and expressions in the text on page 2.



1. a right of privilege belonging to a particular person or group  
.....
2. extremely strong pain  
.....
3. a medical operation in which parts of a person's body are changed so that they become like a person of the opposite sex  
.....
4. a medical operation to remove a woman's womb  
.....
5. the process of putting sperm into a woman in order to make her pregnant  
.....

6. the situation when a fertilised egg implants itself outside the womb  
.....

7. three children born at the same birth  
.....

## focus on vocabulary: pregnancy & giving birth

activity 6. What are the missing words? Fill in the blanks.



Jasmine c \_\_\_\_\_ in April and her baby was born In January. She waited until the second trimester to tell people, as by then there is less risk of a m \_\_\_\_\_ .

During the pregnancy she had terrible morning s \_\_\_\_\_ and she also had c \_\_\_\_\_ for cheese and pickles.

Jasmine and her husband prepared the house before she went into hospital. They decorated the nursery and bought some baby equipment, such as: a baby bath , a changing m \_\_ , on which they will change the baby's nappies, a carry cot so that they can carry the baby around, a c \_\_ for the baby to sleep in, a mobile to hang over the baby's cot and some teddy bears for her to play with. Friends have bought them some clothes already, so they are ready for their new baby.



Jasmine went into l \_\_\_\_\_ at midnight and the baby was born at 7 a.m. She didn't feel too much pain and didn't need an epidural. Instead she was on drip to make the c \_\_\_\_\_ come a little quicker. Her m \_\_\_\_\_ was with her during the birth, just to make sure everything went well.

Luckily, it was a normal delivery and she didn't need a Caesarean s \_\_\_\_\_. The doctor cut the c \_\_\_ and put the baby on her stomach. He said: "Congratulations! It's a healthy baby girl".

**activity 1. PAIRS or WHOLE GROUP**

**activity 2. INDIVIDUALLY or PAIRS**

1. FALSE
2. TRUE
3. FALSE

**activity 3. WHOLE GROUP**

**activity 4. INDIVIDUALLY**

1. foetus
2. stillbirth
3. mood swings
4. ultrasound
5. induction
6. due date
7. miscarriage
8. placenta

**activity 5. INDIVIDUALLY or PAIRS**

1. knocked up / preggers / up the duff
2. parturient
3. up the duff

**activity 6. INDIVIDUALLY**

1. prerogative
2. excruciating pain
3. gender reassignment surgery
4. hysterectomy
5. insemination
6. ectopic pregnancy
7. triplets

**activity 7. INDIVIDUALLY**

- conceived
- miscarriage
- sickness
- cravings
- mat
- cot
- labour
- contractions
- midwife
- section
- cord