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Level 5

Belgium to allow euthanasia for children

16th February, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia-5.html>

Contents

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| The Reading | 2 |
| Matching | 3 |
| Listening Gap Fill | 4 |
| Survey | 5 |
| Discussion | 6 |
| Writing | 7 |

Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26–page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia-5.html>

Belgian lawmakers have passed a bill to allow euthanasia for terminally ill children. There were 86 votes for the bill, 44 against, and 12 abstentions. It is the first nation to pass such a law. The controversial law is only for children in great pain. There are several conditions to meet before an act of euthanasia can take place. The child must be in full possession of their mental skills, and request the act. An adult must consent, and a medical team must submit a psychological report. There must also be no treatment available that would lessen the child's suffering and distress.

The law has created many opponents. They call it immoral and say children are not mature enough to make such decisions. A man at the vote screamed "murderers" at the lawmakers. The Christian Science Monitor argues that: "In the 21st century, when parents...worry that children are growing up too quickly, Belgium [will] hand kids one more responsibility." It added: "Allowing children, who aren't even old enough to drive or vote, to decide when it's time to die is one step too far." Last week, 160 doctors said the law wasn't needed as modern medicine could reduce pain.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-26181615>
<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2014/0213/Slippery-slope-Belgium-moves-to-extend-euthanasia-rights-to-children>
http://www.deredactie.be/cm/vrtnieuws.english/Politics/140213_Euthansie_vote

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. euthanasia for terminally | a. mental skills |
| 2. 86 votes for the bill, 44 against, | b. available |
| 3. controversial | c. ill children |
| 4. There are several conditions | d. and distress |
| 5. in full possession of their | e. and 12 abstentions |
| 6. submit a psychological | f. to meet |
| 7. no treatment | g. law |
| 8. lessen the child's suffering | h. report |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The law has created | a. "murderers" |
| 2. They call it | b. make such decisions |
| 3. not mature enough to | c. too far |
| 4. A man at the vote screamed | d. up too quickly |
| 5. children are growing | e. many opponents |
| 6. hand kids one | f. reduce pain |
| 7. one step | g. immoral |
| 8. modern medicine could | h. more responsibility |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia-5.html>

Belgian lawmakers have passed (1) _____ euthanasia for terminally ill children. There were 86 votes for the bill, 44 against, and 12 abstentions. It is the first nation (2) _____. The controversial law is only for children (3) _____. There are several conditions to meet before an act of euthanasia can take place. The child must be in full possession (4) _____, and request the act. An adult must consent, and a medical team must submit a psychological report. There must also be (5) _____ that would lessen the child's (6) _____.

The law has created (7) _____. They call it immoral and say children are not mature enough to (8) _____. A man at the vote screamed "murderers" (9) _____. The Christian Science Monitor argues that: "In the 21st century, when parents...worry that children are (10) _____, Belgium [will] hand kids one more responsibility." It added: "Allowing children, who aren't even (11) _____ or vote, to decide when it's time to die is (12) _____." Last week, 160 doctors said the law wasn't needed as modern medicine could reduce pain.

EUTHANASIA SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140216-euthanasia-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about euthanasia 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)

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)

