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## **Level 4**

### **Childcare fees higher than housing costs in UK**

**6th March, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140306-childcare-4.html>

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**Please try the harder Level 5 and the 26–page Level 6 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140306-childcare-4.html>

British parents pay more on childcare each year than on their mortgage. This is according to a survey from a British childcare group. It said nursery fees in some areas have risen by up to 13 per cent in the past year. Babysitting and child-minding costs increased by an average of four per cent. The report said childcare in the U.K. is becoming less affordable. A lack of nursery places shows the system isn't working.

Would-be parents might now think twice about starting a family. A family of four with one child at nursery and another in an after-school club spends an average of \$12,571 a year on childcare. That's a quarter of their income. This does not include food, clothes, entertainment, toys, books and electronic gadgets for the children. A childcare expert warned that when parents have to spend so much on childcare, the system "isn't fit for purpose".

Sources: <http://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/nursery-world/news/1142471/childcare-fees-mortgage-rise-slows>  
<http://www.parentdish.co.uk/2014/03/03/childcare-costs-higher-than-average-uk-mortgage-payments/>  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-26373725>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140306-childcare-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. British parents pay            | a. affordable               |
| 2. This is according              | b. fees                     |
| 3. nursery                        | c. the system isn't working |
| 4. increased by an                | d. more on childcare        |
| 5. becoming less                  | e. average of four per cent |
| 6. A lack of nursery places shows | f. to a survey              |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Would-be          | a. gadgets           |
| 2. think twice about | b. of \$12,571       |
| 3. spends an average | c. for purpose       |
| 4. That's a quarter  | d. parents           |
| 5. electronic        | e. starting a family |
| 6. isn't fit         | f. of their income   |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140306-childcare-4.html>

British (1) \_\_\_\_\_ childcare each year than on their mortgage. This (2) \_\_\_\_\_ survey from a British childcare group. It said nursery fees in some (3) \_\_\_\_\_ up to 13 per cent in the past year. Babysitting (4) \_\_\_\_\_ increased by an average of four per cent. The (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the U.K. is becoming less affordable. A (6) \_\_\_\_\_ shows the system isn't working.

Would-be parents might (7) \_\_\_\_\_ starting a family. A family of (8) \_\_\_\_\_ at nursery and another in an after-school club spends an average of \$12,571 a year on childcare. That's a (9) \_\_\_\_\_. This does not include food, clothes, entertainment, toys, books (10) \_\_\_\_\_ for the children. A childcare expert warned that when parents (11) \_\_\_\_\_ much on childcare, the system "(12) \_\_\_\_\_".

# CHILDCARE COSTS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140306-childcare-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about childcare costs 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Childcare fees higher than housing costs in UK – 6th March, 2014*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

# FREE WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140306-childcare-4.html>

Write about **childcare costs** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.

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