



SURROGATE MOTHERS



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
1A5P-G1LE-DS53

1

Warm up

Discuss the questions in pairs or small groups.

1. Do you know anyone who has had a baby using a surrogate?
2. Is surrogacy legal in your country?
3. What do you think should be the requirements for being a surrogate?
4. What are some of the reasons women choose to be surrogates?

2

Focus on vocabulary

Part A: Match the vocabulary to the definitions.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>outlawing</u> (v) | a. grow or develop well or vigorously |
| 2. <u>exploitative</u> (adj.) | b. banning or making illegal |
| 3. <u>vulnerable</u> (adj.) | c. ready, eager, or prepared to do something |
| 4. <u>willing</u> (adj.) | d. be in need of special care, support, or protection |
| 5. <u>demographic</u> (n) | e. investigated thoroughly to make sure someone is suitable for a role |
| 6. <u>vetted</u> (v) | f. a particular sector of a population |
| 7. <u>inflammation</u> (n) | g. condition in which part of the body becomes swollen, hot, and often painful |
| 8. <u>detrimental</u> (adj.) | h. making use of a situation or treating others unfairly to gain an advantage |
| 9. <u>thrive</u> (v) | i. causing harm or damage |

**Part B: Now complete the following sentences with a word from Part A.**

1. Although the baby was born three weeks early, he has _____ and is now a healthy weight.
2. The surrogate was _____ beforehand, including thorough health tests.
3. Some habits, such as smoking, are _____ to your health.
4. The government is thinking about _____ sugary drinks.
5. It is common for an allergic reaction to involve _____.
6. Criminals are often involved in _____ practices.
7. They were not _____ to pay more than £10,000.
8. The town's _____ showed that there are a lot of people living in poverty.
9. _____ members of society should be protected.

3 Listening for specific information

Listen to a radio discussion about surrogacy and answer the question below.



What does Agnes Martin believe is a key reason many women decide to become surrogates?

- a. a desire to help
- b. economic pressure
- c. a sense of duty
- d. being open-minded





4 Listening comprehension

Listen to the news report again. Choose the correct answer.

1. One of the reasons more couples are turning to surrogacy is because...
 - a. it is a cheaper alternative.
 - b. they are unconcerned about the surrogate's health.
 - c. fertility rates are falling.
 - d. they do not have enough time.

2. Agnes Martin believes that a lot of surrogates are...
 - a. taken advantage of.
 - b. aware of the risks they are taking.
 - c. not told how much money they could make.
 - d. carefully selected.

3. Having twin pregnancies...
 - a. is a necessary consequence of surrogacy.
 - b. is important in order to increase birth rates.
 - c. sometimes results in irregular births.
 - d. always results in premature births.

4. Surrogates are normally required to have...
 - a. had a successful birth in the past.
 - b. been drug-free for six months.
 - c. problems during pregnancy.
 - d. successfully raised their own family.

5. A surrogate pregnancy is more likely to result in...
 - a. the baby experiencing inflammation
 - b. the foetus fighting against the mother's body
 - c. disputes about who the real parent is
 - d. the mother and baby experiencing serious health problems

**5 Focus on vocabulary**

Part A: Match the vocabulary with the correct definition.

Group A

anticipate (v) **compensation (n)** **contractually (adv.)** **binding (adj.)** **yielded (v)**

- a. _____ something, typically money, awarded to someone in recognition of loss
- b. _____ describing an obligation or promise that cannot be broken
- c. _____ produced or generated a result
- d. _____ in a way that is connected to the conditions of a legal written agreement
- e. _____ think of as probable; expect or predict

Group B

docked (v) **enigma (n)** **eerily (adv.)** **ombudsman (n)** **reconcile (v)** **trafficking (v)**

- a. _____ an official appointed to investigate individuals' complaints against a public authority
- b. _____ take away a part of someone's pay
- c. _____ restore friendly relations between two people or groups
- d. _____ a person or thing that is mysterious or difficult to understand
- e. _____ in a strange and frightening manner
- f. _____ dealing or trading in something illegal





Part B: Complete the sentences with the words from Part A. You may need to change the form of the words.

1. He didn't turn up for work, so his boss _____ his pay.
2. I never know what she is going to do next. She is such an _____.
3. After the disaster at the theme park, the people who were injured were awarded _____.
4. Drugs _____ is a big problem over the US-Mexico border.
5. The town's _____ recommended taking legal action against the council.
6. They were divorced for a long time, but recently they _____.
7. Nobody could have _____ snow in the middle of June.
8. The experiment _____ surprising results.
9. The agreement was legally _____ and therefore had to be respected.
10. The woman's voice was _____ similar to her dead mother's.
11. All workers are _____ expected to arrive before 8 a.m.

6**Reading for general understanding**

You are going to read a text about a divorce settlement. Scan the text quickly and match the headings with the correct paragraph.

1. Unexpected emotional costs
2. Calls for surrogacy to be outlawed
3. A global centre of surrogacy
4. Balancing act for agencies
5. Mass displacement





Difficult choices

Ukrainian surrogates

1. _____

Ukraine has become a hot spot for international surrogacy as a result of the way its surrogacy laws are written and its more affordable costs (\$18,000 for the surrogate's compensation; a teacher in Ukraine earns less than a quarter of that per year; around \$40,000 for the total costs) relative to that of surrogacy in other countries. First, it is important to note that Ukrainian law only allows married, heterosexual couples, who either medically cannot carry a child or have had four unsuccessful attempts at IVF, to enter into legally binding commercial surrogacy agreements.

2. _____

Beyond the actual financial costs of surrogacy, the costs of surrogacy also include deep emotional investment in the process. The war in Ukraine coupled with the ongoing pandemic has yielded heightened emotional costs - and, in turn, unintended consequences - that are far greater than those most intended parents and surrogates would experience if it wasn't for these circumstances.

3. _____

In March 2022, it was estimated that approximately 800 couples around the world were expecting babies born to surrogates in Ukraine. Although surrogates contractually agreed to moving out of the country, there was no way to anticipate that they would have no choice but to move much earlier into their pregnancy, with much shorter notice, without their families, possibly out of Ukraine, more than once, in the middle of a war.

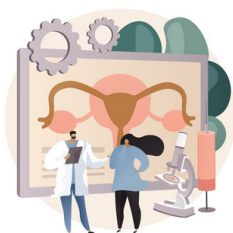
4. _____

Commercial surrogacy is outlawed in most of the world, although it is legal in some jurisdictions including certain US states. The Ukrainian ombudsman for children has said he believes it should also be banned in Ukraine, where an estimated 2,000 to 2,500 children are born via surrogacy each year. The human rights group La Strada receives 100 calls a year from distressed Ukrainian surrogates. "They send us their contracts so we can assess how legal they are," says Yuliia Anosova, a lawyer for the organisation who is currently a refugee in Poland. "They're a total disaster. Often, they're not even legal." She recalls one contract in which a woman was forced to relocate mid-pregnancy and told her salary would be docked if she refused.

5. _____

Once the war began, surrogates, intended parents, and their agencies all tried to come up with solutions to problems no one could ever have predicted. Intended parents now had to reconcile their wishes to ensure the safety of their baby while also respecting the self-autonomy of the surrogate. Likewise, surrogates had to do their best to respect the wishes of the intended parents while also trying to do what was best for their own families' safety and wellbeing. As for the agencies, they were stuck in the middle of this enigma. Agencies were responsible for ensuring that their surrogates were safe, and their clients pacified and reassured - all without falling into the trap of orchestrating what could look eerily similar to human trafficking. Moreover, agencies had to navigate international laws, so that in the event a surrogate gave birth outside of Ukraine, the intended parents would still retain all parental rights to the baby.

Sources: *Law.com, TheGuardian.com*





7

Reading for detail

Read the text again and decide whether the statements are true (T), false (F) or not given (NG).

1. A teacher in Ukraine earns \$18,000 per year. _____
2. Homosexual couples cannot enter into a surrogacy agreement. _____
3. Surrogates were aware that they might have to move. _____
4. Surrogacy is allowed in certain parts of New York. _____
5. Some contracts that surrogates sign are invalid. _____
6. It was obvious for the surrogacy agencies what steps they should take. _____
7. Organising flights to America for the surrogates was challenging. _____

8

Talking point

Discuss these questions in pairs or small groups

1. Do you think that surrogacy has more advantages or disadvantages?
2. Under what conditions do you think someone should consider surrogacy?
3. Do you think surrogacy will continue to increase?
4. What do you think is a fair amount of money for a surrogate mother to receive?





9

Extended activity/Homework

Read the case study below and choose the correct answer from the options below.

Baby M was a 1987 custody case that led to the first American court ruling on the _____¹ of surrogacy. Mary Beth Whitehead was a surrogate for William and Elizabeth Stern. She agreed to be impregnated artificially and then _____² up the baby when it was born. However, following the birth she returned, demanding to see the child. She then kidnapped *Baby M* for 87 days.

After she was persuaded to come back, the two parties entered into a court _____³. At first, the judge agreed that the initial contract was _____⁴, but after appealing the decision in the Supreme court, Whitehead had her parental rights restored and was allowed to visit the child. However, the judge still awarded custody to the Sterns as he believed this was in the best _____⁵ of the child. He also _____⁶ similar surrogacy contracts, commenting that they were "illegal, perhaps criminal, and potentially degrading to women."

Baby M was a _____⁷ legal case, as it raised significant questions about who is the real parent in the case of children born via a surrogate. Many people argued over whether surrogacy is a woman's right, or whether it opens the door to _____⁸.

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|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. A. truth | B. logic | C. validity | D. reality |
| 2. A. give | B. hold | C. make | D. take |
| 3. A. fight | B. argument | C. disagreement | D. battle |
| 4. A. binding | B. permanent | C. decided | D. closed |
| 5. A. interests | B. options | C. opportunities | D. chances |
| 6. A. outlawed | B. allowed | C. sanctioned | D. boycotted |
| 7. A. signal | B. landmark | C. mark | D. watershed |
| 8. A. utilisation | B. exploitation | C. dilapidation | D. carefulness |