Age: Adults/teenagers
Level: Elementary–pre-intermediate (A1–A2)
Time: 60–90 minutes

Activity: In this lesson, students will:
1. read interesting facts about new babies;
2. learn the names of common baby items and equipment;
3. read and discuss messages of congratulations on the birth of a baby and decide which messages they would send to parents of a new baby;
4. talk about the average number of children that women in different countries have, and talk about someone they know who has a lot of children.

Language focus: vocabulary related to essential newborn baby items and equipment and congratulatory wishes (in different registers)
Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student

Procedure

1. **Warmer: New baby facts**
   In pairs, students read and decide whether the facts are true or false.

   Key:
   Statements 1, 4 and 5 are false. All the other facts are true.

2. **New baby items**
   Students read the words and match them to the images of items that parents might need (or want) for their new baby. They'll use this information again in task 4.

   Key:
   1. blanket
   2. pushchair/buggy/stroller
   3. car seat
   4. cot/crib
   5. baby monitor
   6. sling
   7. bootees
   8. teddy
   9. nappies/diapers
   10. Babygro
   11. bottle

3. **New baby messages**
   Students read the messages that could be written in a card or text message to new parents. By looking closely at the words in the messages, they should decide who each message is most appropriate for: people who are close to them, people who are not close to them but that they probably see on a regular basis, or both. As there are no completely right or wrong answers here, the key will serve as a guideline and the students should give reasons for their answers, such as I would never write 'lots of love' on a message to my colleague.

   Key (suggested answers):
   1. B – because it sounds impersonal
   2. C – because it's neutral
   3. A – because it contains personal questions
   4. C – because it's neutral
   5. C – because it sounds very friendly
   6. A – because it contains the words 'lots of love'

4. **Discussion – a card and gift for new parents**
   Students discuss and answer the questions using information from the two previous tasks. Then they share their sentences with the class.

5. **How many children?**
   In pairs, students see if they can match up the countries on the right to the average numbers of children born per family on the left. One example is already given. They should draw lines to match the numbers and countries and then compare and discuss their answers with the rest of the class. Then ask them where they think their country would be placed on this list if it is not represented there. They answer by using the sentence beginning provided. Pre-teach the word 'average' if necessary. They can then check this link to find out: www.worldpopulationreview. com/countries/total-fertility-rate/

   Key:
7	Niger
4.3	Ethiopia
3.6	Iraq
3.0	Israel
2.25	India
1.75	UK
1.3	Greece
1.1	South Korea

6. Family sizes

Students complete the sentence about someone they know. They can write out this sentence as many times as they like about different people and share their information in pairs or groups. They should try to conduct a short discussion by showing interest and asking and answering questions such as the ones given as examples.

If students don't know anyone who has a large family, encourage them to say something about their parents or grandparents or someone else close to them and say how many children they had, what their names were, etc.

CELEBRATIONS

New baby

Exercise 1: Warmer: New baby facts

In pairs, discuss whether or not you think these facts are true or false.

1. Newborn babies can swim.

_____

2. Babies can't taste salt until they're about four months old.

_____

3. Babies have 300 bones – more bones than adults.

_____

4. Newborns have very large kneecaps.

_____

5. Newborns can only see things that are more than a metre away from their face.

_____

6. In South Korea, a baby is said to be one year old on the day it is born.

_____

CELEBRATIONS

New baby

one stop english

Exercise 2: New baby items

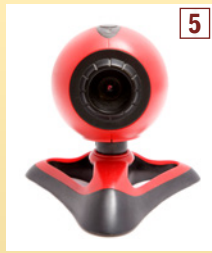**Match the words to the images of items that parents might need (or want) for their new baby.**

teddy	car seat	blanket	bootees	baby monitor	Babygro
pushchair/buggy/stroller		bottle	nappies/diapers	cot/crib	sling

Exercise 3: New baby messages

Read these messages for the parents of a new baby. Which messages would you send to: (A) a good friend or family member, (B) a neighbour or work colleague or (C) both? Say why.

1. Congratulations on your new baby! Best wishes from, …

2. We wish you and your new baby many years of good health, love and happiness.

3. Congratulations on your new little family member! How can I help you? Can I babysit for you?

4. Welcome to the world, little one!

5. We're really excited that your new baby has arrived safe and sound! If you need any help, please let us know.

6. Congratulations on the safe arrival of your new baby. We are looking forward to seeing you very soon. Please let us know if there's anything you need. Lots of love, …

CELEBRATIONS

New baby

Exercise 4: Discussion – a card and gift for new parents

Talk with a partner and write your answers below.

Which of the items in task 2 would you send as a gift to a good friend and which would you send to a co-worker?

Which messages from task 3 would you write in each of the new baby cards to go with the gifts? Or would you write something else? Change the messages if you want to.

We would send our good friend _____

and write this message in the card _____

We would send our co-worker _____

and write this message in the card _____

What other things are good gifts for a new parent and their baby? _____

Exercise 5: How many children?

a. How many children does one woman typically have in these countries? Match the average number of children with the countries.

7	Israel
4.3	UK
3.6	South Korea
3.0	Niger
2.25	Greece
1.75	Iraq
1.3	Ethiopia
1.1	India

Figures correct as of 2019.

b. Complete the sentence about your country.

I think that the average number of children born to one woman in my country is _____.

Exercise 6: Family sizes

Complete the sentence about someone you know.

My grandmother / aunt / friend from school / ... has _____ children.

Read your sentence to a partner and discuss.

> What were their names?
> Where did they live?
> How old was the firstborn child when the youngest child was born?
> Did the family have a big house / car / ... ?