

1.2 *Three sets of twins!*

Aim: Develop reading skills such as understanding vocabulary in context and making inferences

Preparation: Make one copy of Worksheet 1.2 for every S.

Comment: Use after or in place of the reading on page 9.

A Group work

- Give each S a copy of the reading. Explain the task. Read the questions aloud.
- Ss work in groups to discuss the questions.

B

- Explain the task. Read the statements aloud. Then have Ss read the article.
- Ss work individually to choose the correct answer.
- Go over the answers as a class. Have Ss correct the false statements and identify relevant parts of the text to explain their answers.

Answers

1. False 2. False 3. True 4. False 5. True

C Group work

- Explain the task. Read the questions aloud.
- Ss work in small groups to discuss the questions.
- Have groups share their answers with the class.

A Group work Do you know any twins? Do you know a family with more than one set of twins? Discuss and share your ideas with the class.

Three Sets of Twins!

Even though they already had two sets of twins, Karen and Colin Rodger felt their family was not yet complete. So the couple, who are from Langbank, Scotland, were understandably delighted when Karen became pregnant again at 41. They were confident that they would not have another set of twins after doctors told them the odds of that happening – 1 in 500,000. As a result, when Karen texted Colin to tell him they'd beaten the odds, he thought she was joking. "This is not funny," he texted back. Karen soon convinced him it was true. When she gave birth to twin daughters Isla and Rowan, Colin called the event life changing.

Though the odds were against Karen giving birth to twins, the number of multiple births has been increasing by an average of 4% a year in the U.K. since the 1980s. In the early part of that decade, 1 in 100 births was a twin, triplet, or quadruplet. In 2010, the odds increased to 1 in 32 children. Across the world, numbers seem to be rising. One explanation for this might be the increasing number of women who are waiting until their



thirties and forties to become mothers. Research has shown that multiple pregnancies become more likely as women get older. Other possible explanations include better health care, advanced fertility technologies, and even factors such as diet, lifestyle, weight, and height. Having one set of twins in the family also increases the likelihood of having another set. Even so, having three sets of twins is highly unlikely. Yet the Roger family proves it does happen.

B Read the article. Are these statements true or false? Choose the correct answer.

	True	False
1. The odds were in favor of the Rodger family having a third set of twins.	☐	☐
2. Colin Rodger was not surprised to learn that Karen was carrying twins.	☐	☐
3. The incidence of twin births has been steadily increasing in the U.K.	☐	☐
4. Multiple births are on the decline in countries other than the U.K.	☐	☐
5. There's an increased chance of older women having multiple births.	☐	☐

C Group work Discuss these questions. Then share your answers with the class.

1. What information in the article is most surprising to you?
2. What challenges might a family with more than one set of twins face?