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Hello and welcome to 6 minutes English. I’m Catherine and I’m Neil

Now Neil, you’re a dad aren’t you?

I am a dad. How did you know? Is it the grey hair in my beard? Is it the wrinkles around the eyes?

I thought that was just your age

Well, yes maybe. In today’s program we’re going to be talking about Fathers and How being a father has changed over the years. But before we hear more about this topic, our question for the day. According to recent research in the UK what percentage of men are present when their children are born. Is it:

A, 55%

B, 75%

Or C, 95%

What do you think?

I think a lot of men these days like to see their children born and not culturally inappropriate so I gotta go for 95%. Well, we will find out if you’re right at the end of the program.

Now Doctor Anna Makim is an evolutionary anthropologist, she studies among other things how human behavior has changed and its changing. She’s written a book called The life of Dad. She’s been studying new fathers and spoke about her research on the BBC Women hour program. She asked why men want become fathers? She starts by saying there are lots of reasons that how many does she mention is her answer

There’s lots of different reasons why men want to be fathers. For some of them, it just a stage in life they’ve reached they got a house they got a job now it’s time to have family. Sometimes, they admit that actually they are not that keen but their partner wants a baby so they kinda going along with it. And a reasonable number actually say they do because they want to undo what their fathers did to them so rewrite history relation to father and the experience to fathering to be a better father than their father was

How many reasons does she mention?

She mentions 3 reasons. The first was that it was that time in life, the guy had a home and a job and having children was the thing to do next

Another reason was that it was what their partner wanted even if that they weren’t that keen themselves. If you’re not keen on something it means you’re not enthusiastic about it. It’s not really something you want to do but because it was their partner wants they agree to do it or doctor Makim says they’re going along with it.

Yes, going along with something is a phrase that means agreeing to do something even though you don’t really want to do it. It’s interesting that doctor Makin says that some men admit to this. To admit to something is to say or agree that something’s true even if you’re perhaps ashamed of it or you don’t want it to be true.

There was one more reason she mentioned and that was some men become parents because they want to be a better father than their own father had been. Let’s listen again

There lots of different reasons why man want to be fathers. For some of them it’s just a stage in life they’ve reached they got a house. They got a job now. It’s time to have family. Sometimes they admit that actually they’re not that keen on that their partner wants a baby. So they can’t going along with it. And a reasonable number actually says they do because they want to undo what their father did to them. So rewrite history relation fathers and the experience of fathering, to be a better father than their father was.

So what is it about some fathers own dads that they didn’t like. Listen to Dr. Markel again.

Well in some cases, you know the father would be neglectful. Some fathers were absent and other they just felt they were very, I suppose we would say, 1950s fathers so distant, disciplinarian, not that involved in their child stay life and certainly not involved in their care. So today’s generation fathers even in 10 years I’ve been studying dads, we’ve seen a massive evolution how hands-on fathers are.

She talked there’s about some negative characteristics associated with dads in the past. She suggested some fathers didn’t have a very close relationship with their sons. They were absent which means they weren’t home a lot and didn’t spend time with their children.

Yes and some fathers were seen disciplinarian that describes someone who may communication with their children or to give strict rules and tell them awful, punish them if they do something wrong.

These days according to Dr. Markel, fathers are much more hands-on. This phrase means they’re much more involved with their children and share bringing up the children with their partners.

And talking of sharing Neil, come on. It’s time to tell me the answer to today’s question.

It’s indeed. According to recent research in the UK, what is the percentage of the father who are there when their children are born? Was it 55%, 75% or 95%?

And I said very optimistic 95%.

Being optimistic is good because you were correct.

Yeah. That’s fantastic.

And now for something else fantastic I will review of today’ vocabulary.

We started up with admit to for when you say something true even if it might make a little bad. And before we go on, I have to admit Neil that it was me who ate your biscuit.

Oh, which one?

The one you left on desk.

Ah. That’s alright. I wasn’t keen on it anyway. It’s been on the floor.

What?

Well I surprise you right? And to be keen on something is our next phrase meaning very interested in and enthusiastic about something.

Then we have to go along with something. This is when you was greed to do something even if you are not keen on it.

And absent father is the one who is not home just in time with his children.

And some fathers are disciplinarian. They have strict rules and give out punishment but these days more father are hangs-on which means they are very multivendor looking after and bringing up their children.

That’s all we have time for today. Join us again next time. Remember you can find us on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and our website bbclearning.com

See you soon. Goodbye

Bye.