
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Driving change in Afghanistan



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Transcript

Like most women in Afghanistan, Sara Bahayi does all the **housework** and brings up the children. She also **looks after** her mother.

But that's where the similarities end. Sara is single and the family's **breadwinner**. She works as a taxi driver in Mazar-e-Sharif – a job almost always done by men.

Sara breaks a cultural **taboo** behind the wheel but otherwise follows the tradition of taxi drivers around the world: she loves a good **chat**.

Vocabulary

housework

the activities which keep a home clean and tidy

looks after

takes care of

breadwinner

member of a family who earns the money which supports the family

taboo

an action or subject which a religion or society doesn't accept

chat

informal conversation

Watch the video online: Driving change in Afghanistan <http://bbc.in/1HAuc9v>

Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports. Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

housework / looks after / breadwinner / taboo / chat

1. Mothers are increasingly the primary _____ in their families, a new report has found, marking a dramatic shift in US household finances.

A record 40% of US homes with children relied on mothers as their main or only source of income, a Pew survey found.

2. Almost all cultural _____ revolve around death, regardless of location. The number four is considered bad luck in China, because it tonally sounds like the word for death, while the number eight is good, because it sounds similar to the word for wealth.

3. More than a fifth of men wish they had _____ their children rather than returning to work, researchers say.

4. The Hello Barbie will be able to play interactive games and tell stories and jokes.

It will also listen to the child's conversation and adapt to it over time - so, for instance, if a child mentions that they like to dance, the doll may refer to this in a future _____.

5. Prof Marie Murphy, from the University of Ulster, who led the study, said: "_____ is physical activity and any physical activity should theoretically increase the amount of calories expended".

Answers

1. Mothers are increasingly the primary **breadwinners** in their families, a new report has found, marking a dramatic shift in US household finances.

A record 40% of US homes with children relied on mothers as their main or only source of income, a Pew survey found.

Source: US mothers increasingly main family breadwinner

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-22707433>

2. Almost all cultural **taboos** revolve around death, regardless of location. The number four is considered bad luck in China, because it tonally sounds like the word for death, while the number eight is good, because it sounds similar to the word for wealth.

Source: The perils of 'taboo' gifts

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/blogs-magazine-monitor-31004333>

3. More than a fifth of men wish they had **looked after** their children rather than returning to work, researchers say.

Source: Fifth of working fathers 'would rather look after baby'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-26274518>

4. The Hello Barbie will be able to play interactive games and tell stories and jokes.

It will also listen to the child's conversation and adapt to it over time - so, for instance, if a child mentions that they like to dance, the doll may refer to this in a future **chat**.

Source: Barbie doll will be internet connected to chat to kids

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-31502898>

5. Prof Marie Murphy, from the University of Ulster, who led the study, said: "**Housework** is physical activity and any physical activity should theoretically increase the amount of calories expended".

Source: Housework 'not strenuous enough' for exercise targets

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-24570276>