

Language

Complete the text using the correct forms of the appropriate verbs from the box below:

<i>expect</i>	<i>give</i>	<i>adopt</i>
<i>marry</i>	<i>start</i>	<i>fall</i>
<i>be</i>	<i>raise</i>	<i>lose</i>

Jason and Annie (1) in March 1990. Very soon afterwards they decided to (2) a family and Annie became pregnant very quickly. Their first child, a son, (3) born at the beginning of 1991. Annie loved children and six months later she (4) another baby. In spring 1992 Annie (5) birth to a baby girl. Tragically, however, there were complications at the birth and Annie died a few days later. Jason gave up his job and (6) the children on his own for five years. Then he met Lucy, (7) in love with her and they got married. Lucy loved Jason's children but really wanted some of her own. After (8) two babies in early pregnancy, the doctors told her that she was unlikely ever to be able to have children of her own. As a result, Jason and Lucy decided to (9) a baby, which they did in 1999. Jason's son and daughter think their new baby sister is wonderful.

Discussion

1. IVF

Which of the options below do you think are acceptable courses of action for a couple who are unable to have children?

- IVF treatment in which the mother's egg is fertilised with the sperm of her husband or partner
- IVF treatment using the mother's egg and sperm from a sperm bank
- paying another woman to have a baby using your husband's sperm

2. Adoption

What kind of people should be allowed to adopt children? Here are six different situations. Do you think any of these people should be stopped from adopting?

1. a young man and woman in their mid-twenties who have been married for three years and cannot have children
2. a lesbian couple in their thirties who want a child
3. a couple in their mid-forties who have just got married
4. a couple in their late thirties who have been married for twelve years and cannot have children
5. a couple of gay men in their thirties who want to bring up a child
6. a couple in their early fifties who have grown-up children by their first marriages, but want to start a second family now that they have re-married

3. Many people adopt children from abroad. Which of the following is closest to your view?

1. It is better for children to grow up in a loving family in the West than in an orphanage in their own country.
2. It is immoral to remove children from their own country and culture.
3. No child should be adopted by people from another country without the consent of the child's natural parents.
4. This is a very difficult issue and it depends on the situation of the children and their natural parents.

Finally

Diane Blood gave birth to her second child, another boy, Joel Michael, seven years after the removal of her dying husband's sperm. All four grandparents were present. The baby was born in Britain, but Mrs Blood had had to go to Belgium to be inseminated. One particular disappointment for Diane was the refusal of the British authorities to allow her to put her husband's name on her children's birth certificates. There are thought to be about 40 women in Britain in a similar situation to Diane Blood.

If you look on the internet, you will find more about the ethics of cases like this.