# IELTS WRITING 2 – LESSON 26

## THE ARTICLE

The British government has started a new project to help men manage the responsibilities of fatherhood. Fathers will be able to attend workshops and take lessons on how to be a better father. The new scheme hopes to slow down the rate of family breakdown in the U.K.Over a million British children are growing up without a father. A survey said that a 16-year-old in Britain is more likely to own a smartphone thanhave a father. One of the project's leaders, Iain Duncan Smith, told Britain's Daily Mail newspaper that: "It is not only the bond between a mother and her child which makes a real difference to a child's life. It is the bond between a father and his child too."

The new classes will be for men only. They will prepare fathers for how having a new baby will change their relationship. Lessons will help new fathers to develop relationship and communication skills. Other classes will help them to understand what can go wrong and where to go for further support. Mr Smith wants the rate of divorce in the U.K. to go down. He said: "Divorce does harm to children, affecting everything from school work to eating habits, as well as their relationship with mum and dad." He spoke of the importance of helping families, saying: "If we are serious about promoting a strong society, then we also have to beserious about seeking to support and strengthen families."

Sources: http://www.**dailymail**.co.uk/news/article-2893961/Men-lessons-parenting-slow-rate-family-breakdown-survey-reveals-teenagers-likely-smartphones-fathers-home.html
http://www.**telegraph**.co.uk/men/relationships/fatherhood/11321755/Fatherhood-lessons-wont-stop-families-breaking-up.html
http://www.**bbc**.co.uk/news/education-30658123

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# AFTER READING

**6. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**7. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

| | |
|---|---|
| started | only |
| take | develop |
| rate | wrong |
| likely | harm |
| one | spoke |
| life | serious |

**HOMEWORK: CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD**

The British government has *started / stated* a new project to help men manage the responsibilities of fatherhood. Fathers will be *ability / able* to attend workshops and take lessons on *how / what* to be a better father. The new scheme hopes to *slow / slowly* down the rate of family breakdown in the U.K. *Over / More* a million British children are growing up without a father. A survey *said / talked* that a 16-year-old in Britain is more likely to *owning / own* a smartphone than have *a / the* father. One of the project's leaders, Iain Duncan Smith, told Britain's Daily Mail newspaper that: "It is not only the *bond / bonded* between a mother and her child which makes a real difference to a child's *live / life*. It is the bond between a father and his child too."

The new classes will be for men *just / only*. They will prepare fathers for how having a new baby will change *their / them* relationship. Lessons will help new fathers *to / for* develop relationship and communication *skills / skillful*. Other



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classes will help them to understand what can *go / went* wrong and where to go for *farther / further* support. Mr Smith wants the rate of divorce in the U.K. to go down. He said: "Divorce does *harmful / harm* to children, affecting everything from school work to eating habits, as well as their relationship *for / with* mum and dad." He spoke of the importance of helping families, saying: "If we are *serious / seriously* about promoting a strong society, then we also have to be serious about seeking *for / to* support and strengthen families."

**HOMEWORK: DISCUSSION**

1) How are fathers and mothers different for a child?
2) How serious a problem is divorce? How does divorce harm children?
3) Should children stay with the mother or father after a divorce?
4) What should couples do to avoid divorce?
5) How can mothers encourage fathers to be better fathers?

**HOMEWORK: Saying Thank You**

*Write a brief note of thanks to your father for the sacrifices he has made for you to support you and rear you up to be a young adult.*



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