



Raising Kids

LISTENING

Listen to the text and fill in the gaps.



- 1) The Nordic region holds the _____
 - a. top three plaice is
 - b. top three play sis
 - c. top three plates
 - d. top three places
- 2) The list has been compiled annually since 2016 in _____ University
 - a. collaboration with the
 - b. collaborated with the
 - c. collaborate shun with the
 - d. collar aberration with the
- 3) Denmark topped the list, with Sweden a _____
 - a. closed runner-up
 - b. close runner-up
 - c. closely runner-up
 - d. clothes runner-up
- 4) These countries tend to have generous paternity leave and _____
 - a. external leave
 - b. fraternal leave
 - c. maternity leave
 - d. matronly leave
- 5) offer free preschool and have good overall public _____
 - a. education system
 - b. education systemic
 - c. education systems
 - d. education systemise
- 6) The listing was released as part of the _____ "Countries" list
 - a. annually "Best
 - b. annual "Best
 - c. annul "Best
 - d. ennui "Best
- 7) This survey adopted "a global _____" approach
 - a. perceptions-basted
 - b. perceptions-biased
 - c. perceptions-paste
 - d. perceptions-based
- 8) It used research from the World Bank, as well as the _____ 20,000 people
 - a. aprons of
 - b. opines of
 - c. opinions of
 - d. onions of
- 9) Researchers tested countries against 65 _____
 - a. different met ticks
 - b. different met tricks
 - c. different mat tricks
 - d. different metrics
- 10) gender equality, safety, family friendliness and levels of _____
 - a. received happiness
 - b. perceived happiness
 - c. pre-seeded happiness
 - d. per sieved happiness

VOCABULARY

Draw a line to the correct definition.

Paragraph 1

1. ranked
 2. Nordic
 3. region
 4. compiled
 5. runner-up
 6. Edging out
 7. Paternal
- A competitor or team taking second place in a contest.
 - Of or appropriate to a father.
 - Gave someone or something a rank or place within a grading system.
 - Relating to Scandinavia, Finland, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands.
 - Information collected in order to produce something.
 - Narrowly being defeated / beat a competitor or opponent.
 - An area or division, especially part of a country or the world having definable characteristics but not always fixed boundaries.

Paragraph 2

8. adopted
 9. perception
 10. data
 11. metric
 12. attribute
 13. gender
 14. Equality
- Which sex someone is (male, female or other).
 - A quality or feature regarded as a characteristic or inherent part of someone or something.
 - A system or standard of measuring things and assessing quality.
 - Start to use or follow an idea, method, or course of action.
 - The state of being the same as everyone else, especially in status, rights, and opportunities.
 - A way of regarding, understanding, or interpreting something; a mental impression or image.
 - Facts and statistics collected together for reference or analysis

Raising Kids

Now, read the article that you have just listened to:

Scandinavia has ranked as the best place in the world to raise children. The Nordic region holds the top three places on the U.S. News & World Report's list of "The Best Countries for Raising Kids" in 2020. The list has been compiled annually since 2016 in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania. Denmark topped the list, with Sweden a close runner-up, and neighbour Norway edging out Canada for third place. The 2020 listings will come as little surprise as the three nations also ranked highest on the list for 2019. A spokeswoman explained: "These countries tend to have generous paternity leave and maternity leave, offer free preschool and have good overall public education systems."

The listing was released as part of the annual "Best Countries" list. This survey adopted "a global perceptions-based" approach in examining data and attitudes. It used research from the World Bank, as well as the opinions of 20,000 people in the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Researchers tested countries against 65 different metrics, or what the researchers called "country attributes". These included income equality, well-developed public education and healthcare systems, human rights, gender equality, safety, family friendliness and levels of perceived happiness. Switzerland once again topped the "Best Countries" list, followed by Canada and Japan.

TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if 1-8 below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Scandinavia is part of the Nordic region. | T / F |
| 2. The top three countries to raise children are in Scandinavia. | T / F |
| 3. The USA was fourth on the list of the best places to raise children. | T / F |
| 4. Scandinavian countries tend to have generous paternity leave. | T / F |
| 5. Researchers used a global perceptions approach for their report. | T / F |
| 6. Researchers looked at metrics in 65 different countries. | T / F |
| 7. Researchers looked at levels of unhappiness in different countries. | T / F |
| 8. Switzerland was top on the "Best Countries" list. | T / F |

COMPREHENSION

Answer the questions in the blanks below, using full sentences.

1. What region is Scandinavia in?
2. Since when has this list been compiled?
3. Which country was the runner-up?
4. What did the article say was generous in the Scandinavian countries?
5. What did the article say was free in the Scandinavian countries?
6. What list was the raising kids list a part of?
7. How many people's opinions did researchers look at?
8. How many continents were part of the research?
9. What kind of friendliness did the researchers look at?
10. Which country was top of the Best Countries list?

SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. ranked | • views |
| 2. top | • co-operation |
| 3. compiled | • general |
| 4. collaboration | • contentment |
| 5. overall | • issued |
| 6. released | • leading |
| 7. attitudes | • parity |
| 8. attributes | • rated |
| 9. equality | • qualities |
| 10. happiness | • assembled |

PHRASE MATCH:

Draw a line to the phrase that best completes it (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Scandinavia has ranked | • -based approach |
| 2. The list has been compiled | • equality |
| 3. edging out | • education systems |
| 4. These countries tend to have generous | • happiness |
| 5. good overall public | • Canada for third place |
| 6. This survey adopted a global perceptions | • paternity leave |
| 7. examining data | • friendliness |
| 8. income | • as the best place |
| 9. family | • and attitudes |
| 10. levels of perceived | • annually since 2016 |

GAP FILL - Choose a Word

Put these words into the spaces in the paragraph below.

collaboration
overall
ranked

compiled
leave
region

tend
runner-up

Scandinavia has (1) _____ as the best place in the world to raise children. The Nordic (2) _____ holds the top three places on the U.S. News & World Report's list of "The Best Countries for Raising Kids" in 2020. The list has been (3) _____ annually since 2016 in (4) _____ with the University of Pennsylvania. Denmark topped the list, with Sweden a close (5) _____, and neighbour Norway edging out Canada for third place. The 2020 listings will come as little surprise as the three nations also ranked highest on the list for 2019. A spokeswoman explained: "These countries (6) _____ to have generous paternity leave and maternity (7) _____, offer free preschool and have good (8) _____ public education systems."

Put these words into the spaces in the paragraph below.

public
metrics
perceived

approach
annual
opinions

equality
income

The listing was released as part of the (9) _____ "Best Countries" list. This survey adopted "a global perceptions-based" (10) _____ in examining data and attitudes. It used research from the World Bank, as well as the (11) _____ of 20,000 people in the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Researchers tested countries against 65 different (12) _____, or what the researchers called "country attributes". These included (13) _____ equality, well-developed (14) _____ education and healthcare systems, human rights, gender (15) _____, safety, family friendliness and levels of (16) _____ happiness. Switzerland once again topped the "Best Countries" list, followed by Canada and Japan.

COMPREHENSION - MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the correct answers. Then, compare them to your answers above in the comprehension sentences questions, just after the true/false part.

1) What region is Scandinavia in?

- a) the Steppes
- b) the Nordic region
- c) the Baltic region
- d) Siberia

2) Since when has this list been compiled?

- a) 2014
- b) 2014
- c) 2015
- d) 2016

3) Which country was the runner-up?

- a) Sweden
- b) Switzerland
- c) Canada
- d) Norway

4) What did the article say was generous in the Scandinavian countries?

- a) gender equality
- b) healthcare
- c) maternity and paternity leave
- d) public education

5) What did the article say was free in the Scandinavian countries?

- a) collaboration
- b) preschool
- c) maternity leave
- d) education systems

6) What list was the raising kids list a part of?

- a) the Best Countries list
- b) the World Education list
- c) the WHO list
- d) the A-Z of Countries list

7) How many people's opinions did researchers look at?

- a) 10,000
- b) 30,000
- c) 20,000
- d) 40,000

8) How many continents were part of the research?

- a) 5
- b) 4
- c) 6
- d) 3

9) What kind of friendliness did the researchers look at?

- a) family-friendliness
- b) child-friendliness
- c) user-friendliness
- d) teacher-friendliness

10) Which country was top of the Best Countries list?

- a) Japan
- b) Canada
- c) Finland
- d) Switzerland

GAP FILL - Multiple Choice

Fill in the blanks using the options given for each word below.

Scandinavia has (1) _____ as the best place in the world to raise children. The Nordic region holds the top three places on the U.S. News & World Report's list of "The Best Countries for Raising Kids" in 2020. The list has been (2) _____ annually since 2016 (3) _____ collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania. Denmark topped the list, with Sweden a close runner-up, and neighbour Norway edging (4) _____ Canada for third place. The 2020 listings will come as little surprise as the three nations also ranked highest on the list for 2019. A spokeswoman explained: "These countries (5) _____ to have generous paternity leave and maternity leave, offer free preschool and have good (6) _____ public education systems."

The listing was released (7) _____ part of the annual "Best Countries" list. This survey adopted "a global perceptions-based" approach (8) _____ examining data and attitudes. It used research from the World Bank, as well as the opinions of 20,000 people in the (9) _____, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Researchers tested countries against 65 different (10) _____, or what the researchers called "country attributes". These included income equality, well-developed public education and healthcare systems, (11) _____ rights, gender equality, safety, family friendliness and levels of perceived happiness. Switzerland once again (12) _____ the "Best Countries" list, followed by Canada and Japan.

Which of these words go in the above text?

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. (a) wrinkled | (b) wrangled | (c) rankled | (d) ranked |
| 2. (a) combed | (b) collided | (c) complied | (d) compiled |
| 3. (a) on | (b) in | (c) of | (d) at |
| 4. (a) up | (b) in | (c) out | (d) of |
| 5. (a) tend | (b) trend | (c) tread | (d) treat |
| 6. (a) overall | (b) overalls | (c) overly | (d) overtly |
| 7. (a) has | (b) is | (c) was | (d) as |
| 8. (a) in | (b) to | (c) up | (d) on |
| 9. (a) Americans | (b) Americas | (c) America | (d) American |
| 10. (a) metres | (b) mortises | (c) metrics | (d) matrices |
| 11. (a) humanly | (b) humane | (c) human | (d) humanist |
| 12. (a) tipped | (b) topped | (c) tapped | (d) tepid |

Cut and Paste

Put the text back together:

(____) The listing was released as part of the annual "Best Countries" list. This survey adopted "a global perceptions-

(____) leave and maternity leave, offer free preschool and have good overall public education systems."

(____) based" approach in examining data and attitudes. It used research from the World Bank, as well as the

(____) in 2020. The list has been compiled annually since 2016 in collaboration with the University

(____) region holds the top three places on the U.S. News & World Report's list of "The Best Countries for Raising Kids"

(____) equality, well-developed public education and healthcare systems, human rights, gender equality, safety, family

(____) highest on the list for 2019. A spokeswoman explained: "These countries tend to have generous paternity

(____) friendliness and levels of perceived happiness. Switzerland once

(____) opinions of 20,000 people in the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Researchers tested countries against 65 different

(____) again topped the "Best Countries" list, followed by Canada and Japan.

(____) out Canada for third place. The 2020 listings will come as little surprise as the three nations also ranked

(____) of Pennsylvania. Denmark topped the list, with Sweden a close runner-up, and neighbour Norway edging

(**1**) Scandinavia has ranked as the best place in the world to raise children. The Nordic

(____) metrics, or what the researchers called "country attributes". These included income