

# Ultrasound Screenings



## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do women in your country see their babies before they are born?
2. Do people in your country pay for ultrasound screenings?
3. Is it necessary to know a woman's accurate due date?
4. Have you ever seen a 3D ultrasound photo?

### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.  
Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| ___ 1. technology     | a) to destroy or prevent from reaching completion      |
| ___ 2. accurate       | b) machines or tools that make things possible for man |
| ___ 3. keep an eye on | c) ultrasound image                                    |
| ___ 4. abnormal       | d) to watch closely                                    |
| ___ 5. technician     | e) a place where pictures or film is taken             |
| ___ 6. fetus          | f) an unborn baby                                      |
| ___ 7. reveal         | g) a specialist in using certain equipment             |
| ___ 8. sabotage       | h) to show something new or previously hidden          |
| ___ 9. routine        | i) not usual   |
| ___ 10. luxury        | j) correct or exact                                    |
| ___ 11. sonogram      | k) an expensive item that is not necessary to live     |
| ___ 12. studio        | l) occurring regularly                                 |

## Reading

### ULTRASOUND SCREENINGS

*An early game of peek-a-boo*

1. Today's **technology** allows us to see babies long before they are born. An ultrasound scan provides a pregnant woman with an **accurate** due date. This technology also allows doctors to **keep an eye on** an **abnormal** pregnancy.
2. In addition to confirming a heartbeat, an ultrasound **technician** can also see the sex of the **fetus**. Some couples do not want to know if they are having a boy or a girl. Sometimes the mother wants to know, but the father wants to keep it a surprise. Technicians in some countries are not allowed to **reveal** the sex. There is a fear that couples might **sabotage** their pregnancy if they find out they are carrying a girl. Technicians aren't always correct about the sex. They can also be wrong about the baby's health.
3. In some countries, **routine** screening is paid for by the government. In others, only rich people can afford the **luxury**. Tom Cruise bought a personal sonogram machine when his child was on the way. Some shopping centers have **sonogram studios** where people purchase photos and even videos of their unborn children. Some couples even host ultrasound parties for the big reveal.
4. Many doctors and techs disagree with the trend of unnecessary ultrasounds. They insist that a normal pregnancy requires no more than one or two scans. Nobody knows for sure whether or not ultrasound screenings pose a risk to the fetus.

## Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. Name 3 things an ultrasound machine can do.
2. What are some ultrasound technicians not allowed to do?
3. Why might ultrasound screenings cause couples to argue?
4. Who pays for ultrasound screenings?
5. Why is a Hollywood actor mentioned?

## Vocabulary Review

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.  
You may need to change the word forms.

1. Sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ tells us more than we need to know.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ that we were having a girl.
3. Requesting a 3D ultrasound is a \_\_\_\_\_ we can't afford.
4. Our shopping mall has a new sonogram \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. I asked for another screening because the baby's kicking seemed \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. She will \_\_\_\_\_ the twins by scheduling \_\_\_\_\_ ultrasound screenings.
7. The woman \_\_\_\_\_ her own pregnancy when she found out her \_\_\_\_\_ due date.
8. Some technicians will not tell the expectant mother the sex of the \_\_\_\_\_ .

## Discussion

1. Would you want to know ahead of time if your baby was going to be born with a health problem?
2. Should technicians prevent parents from learning the sex of their baby?
3. Do ultrasound screenings spoil the surprise of a new baby?
4. Do you think everyday people will soon have ultrasound machines in the home?

## Class Opinion

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions.  
Write their answers in the chart below.

<b>Classmate's name:</b>	<b>If you were pregnant today, would you want to know the sex of your baby?</b>	<b>Should pregnant women have more than two ultrasounds?</b>	<b>Is it wrong to film a fetus for entertainment purposes?</b>

## Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

### ULTRASOUND SCREENINGS

*An early game of peek-a-boo*

1. Today's \_\_\_\_\_ allows us to see babies long before they are born. An ultrasound scan provides a pregnant woman with an accurate due date. This technology also allows doctors to keep an eye on an \_\_\_\_\_ pregnancy.
2. In addition to confirming a heartbeat, an ultrasound \_\_\_\_\_ can also see the sex of the fetus. Some couples do not want to know if they are having a boy or a girl. Sometimes the mother wants to know, but the father wants to keep it a surprise. Technicians in some countries are not allowed to \_\_\_\_\_ the sex. There is a fear that couples might sabotage their pregnancy if they find out they are carrying a girl. Technicians aren't always correct about the sex. They can also be wrong about the baby's health.
3. In some countries, \_\_\_\_\_ screening is paid for by the government. In others, only rich people can afford the \_\_\_\_\_. Tom Cruise bought a personal sonogram machine when his child was on the way. Some shopping centers have sonogram studios where people purchase photos and even videos of their unborn children. Some couples even host ultrasound parties for the big reveal.
4. Many doctors and techs disagree with the trend of unnecessary \_\_\_\_\_. They insist that a normal pregnancy requires no more than one or two scans. Nobody knows for sure whether or not ultrasound \_\_\_\_\_ pose a risk to the fetus.

# Answer Key

### LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students read about and discuss the purpose and controversies surrounding ultrasound screenings.

### TEACHING TIPS:

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

**LEVEL:** Int

**TIME:** 1.5–2 hours

**TAGS:** discussion, ultrasound, ultrasound screenings, babies, family, technology, health

## Pre-Reading

### A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

### B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- |      |      |      |      |       |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. b | 3. d | 5. g | 7. h | 9. l  | 11. c |
| 2. j | 4. i | 6. f | 8. a | 10. k | 12. e |

## Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

## Comprehension

1. Ultrasound machines can provide the due date, sex, and medical information about a fetus.
2. Some technicians are not allowed to tell the parents the sex of their baby.
3. One parent may want to know the sex ahead of time and the other parent may want to keep it a surprise.
4. In some countries ultrasound screening is paid for by the government, but in other countries people have to pay for one.
5. Tom Cruise is mentioned because he bought a sonogram machine to keep an eye on his child.

## Vocabulary Review

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. technology           | 5. abnormal                |
| 2. technician, revealed | 6. keep an eye on, routine |
| 3. luxury               | 7. sabotaged, accurate     |
| 4. studio               | 8. fetus                   |

## Discussion

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

## Class Opinion

Have students walk around the class and ask their classmates questions. They should record their answers in the chart.

## Listening

1. technology, abnormal
2. technician, reveal
3. routine, luxury
4. ultrasounds, screenings