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Vocabulary: babies 词汇：婴儿

Having a **newborn** can be daunting. What do you need to buy? How will you get the baby to sleep? And how will you pay for everything? Could the answers to these worries lie in a 'baby box'?

The baby box has taken the world by storm, but what is it? Well, it originated in Finland in the 1930s as a kind of **maternity** kit for **expectant** parents. The box, provided by the government, contains supplies, such as **bibs**, **nappies**, and **teething** toys. It also comes with a small mattress, which is placed in the bottom of the box to create the baby's first **cot**. Now, the idea of putting a child to sleep in a box may shock some. But, experts say this could reduce the risks that come with babies sleeping in the same bed as their parents. The box has been a huge success and is said to be one of the main reasons why the rate of **infant mortality** in Finland is so low.



Why are babies sleeping in boxes?

A few years ago, stories of the Finnish baby box went viral. Other countries around the world have since caught onto the idea and adapted it to suit local needs. For example, in South Africa, the box is made of plastic and can be used as a bath rather than a bed. The main objective, however, is to encourage mothers to attend **antenatal classes** during their **pregnancy**. The version trialled in India includes other appropriate supplies, such as a mosquito net to protect babies from malaria.

In Canada, additions to the baby box include a “**crib-side assistance booklet**” to help fathers **bond** with their baby. Written in the style of a car-repair manual, the booklet offers first-time dads helpful advice on matters such as how to **burp** their child.

Of course, the baby box can only do so much. Many believe governments should focus on providing parents with adequate maternity and **paternity leave** and improving health care and education. Good things come in small packages though, and for such a simple idea the baby box really does tick a lot of boxes!

词汇表

newborn	新生儿
maternity	母性的, 产妇的
expectant parents	准父母
a bib	围嘴儿
a nappy	尿布
teething	出牙
a cot	小床
infant mortality	婴儿死亡率
antenatal classes	产前培训班
pregnancy	怀孕
a crib	婴儿床
bond (verb)	培养 (感情)
to burp	打嗝
paternity leave	父亲产假, 陪产假

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. *True or false:* The main aim of the baby box in South Africa is to encourage mothers to bath their babies.
2. How did the rest of the world find out about the Finnish baby box?
3. Why do you think the booklet given in Canada is written in the style of a car manual?
4. *True or false:* The box is only used as a means to package the items?
5. Which country mentioned in the article has adapted the box to provide babies with protection from disease?

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. The baby's not due for another month, but I'm off on _____ leave next week. I can't wait to give birth now!

Paternal	paternity	maternal	maternity
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2. It's time to buy a bed - he's getting too big for that _____.

bib	cot	nappy	toy
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3. Can you put her _____ on ready for dinner time?

bib	crib	nappy	cot
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4. Why is she crying all the time? I think she's _____ - I can see a tooth coming through.

toothing	teething	bonding	burping
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5. It's important for _____ mothers to get as much rest as possible before the baby is born.

expected	expecting	expectant	expert
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. *True or false:* The main aim of the baby box in South Africa is to encourage mothers to bath their babies. **False – the main aim is to encourage mothers to attend antenatal classes.**

2. How did the rest of the world find out about the Finnish baby box? **A story about them on the internet went viral (was circulated rapidly).**

3. Why do you think the booklet given in Canada is written in the style of a car manual? **Maybe they think it will help fathers relate to the information.**

4. *True or false:* The box is only used as a means to package the items? **False, it's also used as a bed for the baby.**

5. Which country mentioned in the article has adapted the box to provide babies with protection from disease? **In India, the baby box includes a mosquito net to help protect babies from Malaria.**

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. The baby's not due for another month, but I'm off on **maternity** leave next week. I can't wait to give birth now!

2. It's time to buy a bed - he's getting too big for that **cot**.

3. Can you put her **bib** on ready for dinner time?

4. Why is she crying all the time? I think she's **teething** - I can see a tooth coming through.

5. It's important for **expectant** mothers to get as much rest as possible before the baby is born.