

Madonna and Chifundo

WORKSHEET A

In early April this year there was great international media interest in the story of the (1) _____ by the American pop star Madonna to adopt a three-year-old girl named Chifundo from an orphanage in the country of Malawi in southern Africa. On 3 April a judge in Malawi decided that the 50-year-old singer should not be allowed to adopt Chifundo because of a (2) _____ stating that foreigners wishing to adopt Malawian children need to have been living in the country for at least eighteen months. This rule, however, had not stopped Madonna already adopting one Malawian child, a boy named David Banda, in October 2006.

The judge's decision provoked very different (3) _____, both inside and outside Malawi.

Many people were (4) _____ because they think the local community or extended family should take care of an orphan like Chifundo, and that international adoption (i.e. adoption by a couple or an individual living in another (5) _____) should only be a last resort.

Some charities working in Africa also said that many children in African orphanages are not actually orphans but have been put there because their (6) _____ are too poor to keep them. There is an argument that when a rich and famous (7) _____ like Madonna adopts a child from an orphanage, it not only fails to address the root causes of African poverty but might also have a bad effect by suggesting to poor parents that the best way to give their children the chance of a better (8) _____ is by putting them in an orphanage – when in fact the reality is that many orphanages are not good places for children to live.

There were also some people who (9) _____ that Madonna could provide a good home for a young child because she is a (10) _____ parent after her recent divorce from English (11) _____ director Guy Ritchie, and because her lifestyle includes lots of travelling.

Many other people, however, were disappointed by the judge's decision. Some argued that often it is simply not (12) _____ for orphans to be taken care of by their extended family or local community, and that there is no reason not to go ahead with international adoption if appropriate adoptive parents can be (13) _____. They pointed out that Madonna seemed sincere not only in her wish to adopt a second (14) _____ child but also in her wish to help Malawian orphans in general – after all she has given lots of money to help (15) _____ and improve a number of Malawian orphanages, including the one where David Banda and Chifundo were living. As for the argument that she is a single parent with an inappropriate lifestyle, some say it would have been better for Chifundo to have at least one loving parent than (16) _____ at all.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Fill in the gaps in the text on Worksheet A with the correct words from the table below. There are four extra words.

film	possible	life	man
try	build	attempt	parents
pleased	single	thinks	reactions
foreigner	found	rule	Malawian
doubted	city	none	country

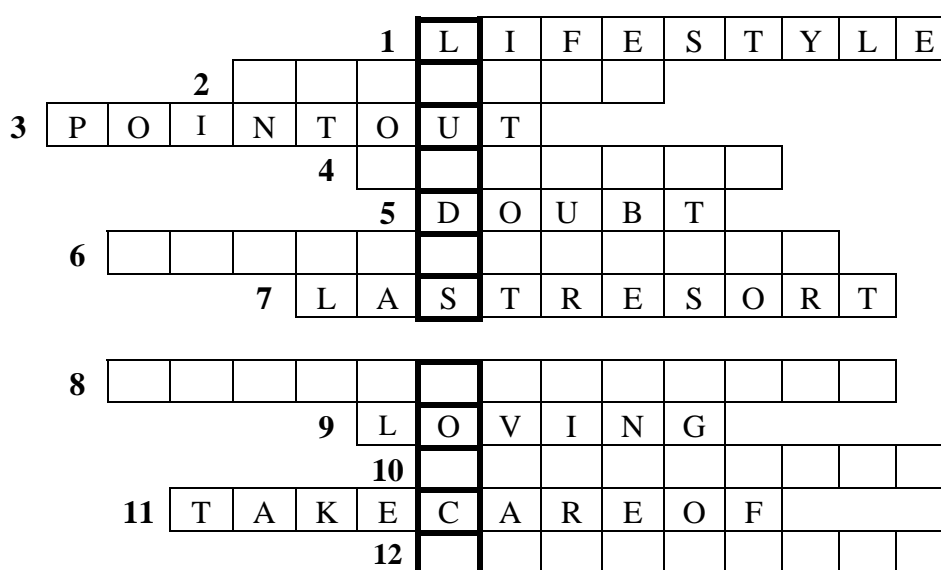
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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 2

Student A

You and your partner have the same crossword, but with different words completed. Take it in turns to describe the words to each other and fill in the gaps. When you have finished, the names of Madonna's two biological children will be revealed. The first is a girl born in 1996, the second a boy born in 2000.



Student B

You and your partner have the same crossword, but with different words completed. Take it in turns to describe the words to each other and fill in the gaps. When you have finished, the names of Madonna's two biological children will be revealed. The first is a girl born in 1996, the second a boy born in 2000.

