

# Surrogacy

*"A mother is she who can take the place of all others, but whose place no one else can take."*

—Cardinal Mermillod



## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What is a surrogate mother?
2. How much, if anything, should a surrogate mother charge?
3. What reasons, besides infertility, might a couple or person have for hiring a surrogate mother?

### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. genetic                | a) the joining of an egg and sperm in a container                       |
| _____ 2. in vitro fertilization | b) to give up or hand over  |
| _____ 3. infertile              | c) a person who is against something or feels negatively about it       |
| _____ 4. commission             | d) to provide restrictions and rules                                    |
| _____ 5. altruistic             | e) unable to reproduce naturally  |
| _____ 6. regulate               | f) concerns related to what is right and what is wrong                  |
| _____ 7. obligation             | g) having related genes   |
| _____ 8. relinquish             | h) to employ or authorize someone to do something                       |
| _____ 9. personality clash      | i) a duty to take a certain course of action (moral or legal)           |
| _____ 10. stillborn             | j) born dead  |
| _____ 11. ethical               | k) done out of the goodness of one's heart (not for financial gain)     |
| _____ 12. naysayer              | l) a situation in which people don't get along due to personality types |

## Reading

### SURROGACY

*A labor of love*

1. A surrogate mother is a woman who becomes pregnant and delivers a baby for someone else. The surrogate may or may not know the intended parents. In some cases, the surrogate is **genetically** related to the baby because her egg is used. In other cases, **in vitro fertilization** (IVF) is used. In this type of surrogacy, an embryo from the biological parents is implanted into the surrogate's womb, and she becomes the gestational mother.
2. **Infertile** couples, same-sex couples, singles, and even fertile women use surrogates to start or grow their families. Some **commissioning** parents pay a fee to the surrogate. This is called a commercial arrangement and is usually used by infertile couples. Social surrogacy is a new trend used by wealthy fertile women who don't want to go through the physical changes and discomforts of pregnancy and childbirth. Another type of arrangement is **altruistic** surrogacy. With this arrangement, a woman helps out a friend or loved one without requiring a payment. Regardless of whether or not money is exchanged, most surrogates say their service is a *labor of love*.
3. Should surrogacy be **regulated** by the government? Commercial surrogacy is illegal in many countries, including China. Many wealthy Chinese couples hire American surrogates. Not only is commercial surrogacy legal in many US states, babies born in America become US citizens. Others who are struggling with infertility turn to countries such as India or Thailand where arrangements are less expensive and regulations aren't as strict. Without a contract, however, a surrogate has no **obligation** to **relinquish** the baby.
4. While surrogacy arrangements often have happy endings, there are several things that can go wrong. **Personality clashes**, legal disagreements, and misunderstandings about expectations are just a few. What happens if the surrogate becomes pregnant with multiples? What if an ultrasound shows that the unborn baby has a disability? What if a baby is **stillborn** and money has already been exchanged? It is not uncommon for a surrogate to become emotionally attached to a baby. What if she changes her mind and disappears?
5. With so many "what ifs" many people think surrogacy should be banned altogether. Some feel money and contracts should never be tied to a human life, while others say adoption is a more **ethical** option. Would these **naysayers** change their minds if they found themselves struggling with infertility?

## Comprehension

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

1. Why are some surrogates known as "gestational mothers"?
2. What is a "social surrogacy" arrangement?
3. What is an "altruistic surrogacy"?
4. Why might wealthy couples who aren't American citizens choose surrogates in the US?
5. What types of things can go wrong in a surrogacy arrangement? Name at least 3.
6. What ethical problem do naysayers have against surrogacy?

## Vocabulary Review

Which word from page 1 is described in the sentence?

The bolded word offers a hint. More than one option may be possible.

#	Sentence	Word
1	These are the people who plan to <b>hire</b> me to carry their baby.	
2	Her reason for doing this is that she wants <b>to help</b> her brother start a family.	
3	The child <b>died</b> before the woman went into labor.	
4	The women <b>didn't get along</b> . One was very soft spoken and the other was extremely outgoing.	
5	In <b>this country</b> , no money can exchange hands between the couple and the gestational mother.	
6	The woman's egg and the man's sperm are placed <b>in a glass dish</b> .	
7	The surrogate refused to <b>give up</b> the baby to the same-sex couple.	
8	The surrogate <b>only provides a womb</b> , not an egg.	
9	It's your <b>responsibility</b> to bring the surrogate to her appointment.	
10	Some people think it's <b>morally wrong</b> to pay a surrogate for her service.	

## Discussion Questions

1. How involved should surrogate mothers be after a child is born?
2. What costs are involved in surrogacy?
3. What complications would occur if a commissioning couple became pregnant naturally while waiting for a baby to be born from a surrogate?
4. How does surrogacy compare to foster parenting?
5. What is your opinion about "social surrogacy"? Should surrogacy be limited to women who are infertile?

## Research

### IN PAIRS OR SMALL GROUPS

Baby Gammy was born with Down syndrome in 2014. His surrogate mother was from Thailand. His biological parents were from Australia. The biological parents took Gammy's twin sister back to Australia, but left Gammy with his surrogate.

Do a little research into the case of Baby Gammy. Whose story do you believe, the story of the Thai surrogate, or the story of the commissioning couple? What complications did this case involve?

# Grammar Review

## PRONOUNS IN RELATIVE CLAUSES

Relative clauses use relative pronouns (e.g., who, that, which) to define or give more information about a noun. In English, there are many different pronouns that you can use in relative clauses to mean the same thing. Sometimes you can even eliminate the pronoun to get the same meaning. Choosing which pronoun to use is often a case of **formality**. Look at the following example sentences for people, places, and things:

### PEOPLE

Pronoun	Example	Usage
whom	The surrogate <b>whom we chose</b> is a college graduate.	formal, written English
who	The surrogate <b>who we chose</b> is a college graduate.	less formal
that	The surrogate <b>that we chose</b> is a college grad.	even less formal, common
(none)	The surrogate <b>we chose</b> is a college grad.	informal, common in speaking

### PLACES

Pronoun	Example	Usage
in which	The city <b>in which our child was born</b> is well known in India.	formal, written English
which	The hospital <b>which our baby was born in</b> is on the other side of town.	formal
where	The coffee shop <b>where we met</b> our surrogate mother was near our house.	common, natural
that	The park <b>that we took family photos in</b> is just over there.	informal
(none)	The town <b>you were born in</b> was very small.	informal

### THINGS

Pronoun	Example	Usage
which	The contract <b>which we signed</b> outlined all of the legal requirements.	formal
that	The contract <b>that we signed</b> outlined the legalities.	less formal
(none)	The contract <b>we signed</b> has all the legal stuff.	informal

Work together with a partner. Make up your own sentences using these pronouns and write them in your notebook. Write three sentences each about people, places, and things. Experiment with formality. Use the topic of "Family" for all of your sentences.

## Listening – Gap Fill

🔊 <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2014/10/01/podcasts-surrogate-mothers/>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

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5. banned  
4. misunderstandings  
3. struggling, however  
2. Regardless  
1. intended parents

**ANSWERS:**