

Conception and Pregnancy Answers

1. A woman has to have sexual intercourse with a man in order to have a baby

False

If a woman chooses she can have semen placed in her vagina which may lead to her becoming pregnant. It is also possible for a couple to use IVF (in vitro fertilisation) or to adopt a baby.

2. When a woman is pregnant her periods stop

Usually true

The womb lining needs to stay inside her body as the embryo is implanted in it. Some women experience a small amount of bleeding during pregnancy and they will go to the doctor to see if they need any help.

3. Identical twins occur when one egg is fertilised by two sperm

False

Only one sperm can fertilise an egg. Once a sperm has entered the egg it seals itself with a protective coating so no more sperm can enter. Identical twins are formed when the fertilised egg splits early in the pregnancy into two separate cells. Identical twins are always the same sex. Fraternal (non-identical) twins occur when two eggs are fertilised by two sperm.

4. Most babies are born after being inside their mothers for nine months

True

Some babies are born early. They are called premature babies and may need to be cared for in an incubator until they are ready to go home with their families.

5. The umbilical cord provides the foetus with oxygen and nutrition in the mother's womb

True

A foetus doesn't breathe using its lungs and it doesn't digest food like we do. The mother eats and breathes and then nutrients and oxygen are passed in her blood. Her blood then passes through the umbilical cord into the foetus' body where it absorbs what it needs. The umbilical cord becomes our belly button.

6. A girl can become pregnant just before she has her first period

True

An egg is released from the ovary before a girl has her first period. This egg could then be fertilised if she had unprotected sexual intercourse.

continued

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7. A woman can become pregnant the first time she has sexual intercourse

True If no contraception is used it is possible for a woman to become pregnant the first time she has sexual intercourse

8. A woman can buy a pregnancy testing kit from the chemists to find out if she is pregnant

True It is also possible to have a test free of charge at the doctor's or Family Planning Clinic.

9. Pregnancy begins when a woman's egg meets a man's sperm in the woman's vagina

False Fertilisation usually takes place in the fallopian tubes. Fertilisation does not always lead to pregnancy.

10. All pregnant women feel sick in the morning

False Some women do feel sick in the morning, some women have no sickness, and others feel sick at different times of the day.