



A few years ago, the number of boys born in Japan started to outnumber girls. It was the result of **ultrasound**, a medical **technique** which is now possible for parents to determine the sex of their child.

Of course, it's natural for parents to be curious whether they'll be having a boy or a girl. But in Japan, there is a much **sinister** purpose to this sex- **determination** procedure. It's to make sure that they'll be having a boy and a girl. **Fetuses** which are found out to be female are often aborted.

This practice is caused by the age-old Japanese tradition of favoring boys over girls is now threatening to turn into a big social problem just a few years from now. If nothing is done to stop the trend, Japanese society will soon be changed forever.

Vocabulary Words

ultrasound
technique
sinister
determination
fetuses

Questions for discussions

- 1) Is it a serious problem if there are more males than females in your country?**
- 2) What are the other reasons why Japanese / Taiwanese or other Asian culture prefer sons?**
- 3) Do you think that couples should find out the sex of the baby before it's born? If so, for what purpose?**