

# AMAL AND GEORGE CLOONEY ARE HAVING “TSVILING”\*

The Yiddish word for “twins” is “tsviling.”

by  
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Yiddish word list:

two: “tsvey”

pregnant: “shvengern” or “shvanger”

baby: “beybi”; infant: “oyfele”

child: “kind”

name: “nomen”

blessed with children: “gebentsht mit kinder”

pacifier: “smotshik” or “sharopnikel”—a small object  
that effectuates a shutting up.

baby food: “eyfl-esn”

nap/doze: “dreml”

mother-in-law: shviger

George Clooney, 55, and his wife, Amal, are expecting twins. Clooney said, “I don’t know how you fully digest [having two], but I’m excited.” Yes, they’re going to be “gebentsht mit kinder”—blessed with children.

Twins are taking over! The rate of twin births has jumped a whopping 76% since 1980 in the U. S., with one in every 30 babies born a twin.

After decades of claiming he didn't want kids, the "Up in the Air" actor ("aktyor") claimed he wasn't thinking about procreating. "It wasn't high on my list." (Note: The Yiddish word for "list" is "reshime.")

It seems clear ("klor") that Clooney has always kept an open mind about having kids ("kinder"). He told People magazine in 2006, "I don't have that gene that people have to replicate. But everything ("altsding") in my life has changed over time."

The first-time father-to-be joked that he considered naming the children after his thriving tequila company ("firme"), Asamigos, but the idea was vetoed by Amal. "My wife ("froy") says I can't name them Casa and Amigos. That's one thing I'm not allowed to do," he said.

What advice would this mother of three and grandmother ("bobe") of seven give George and Amal? First, "zol zein mit glick." (Mazel-tov!)

- . Childbirth is not for wimps.
- . Little people don't travel far. (Kleyne layt geyn nit vayt")
- . A concierge can help schedule a baby shower, locate photographers for pregnancy portraits, order birth announcements, and plan a Pot Luck luncheon ("tepl-mazel."
- . Hold their hands during vaccinations. Note: The Yiddish word for "hand" is "hant."
- . Fruit ("frukht") Loops are NOT a balanced meal.
- . NO, they can't have a pony.
- . All children say, "I want to be a doctor ("dokter")...or a dinosaur.
- . Chicken soup couldn't hurt.
- . Tuck them in.
- . Look sad ("umetik") when the snowman ("feter-shneyer")

melts. : - )

- . Washable markers aren't.
- . Cultivate the art of napping.  
Note: The Yiddish word meaning "to nap" or "doze" is "dreml."
  
- . Befriend other mothers.
- . Scotchguard everything.
- . All car ("oyto") trip diversions last 3 ("dray") minutes.
- . Let them eat Oreos inside-out.
- . Kids get dirty quicker on more important occasions.  
Think: weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, B-A-R-K Mitzvahs, and Passover.
- . Forget your moral objections to pacifiers.
- . Occasionally you will use the cable television ("kabl-televise") as a babysitter.
- . Snowsuits induce the desire to go to the bathroom ("vashtsimer")
- . The more solemn the moment, the louder the cry. Note: the word meaning to "cry out" is "'shrayen." Remove infants and toddlers from the synagogue during the Rabbi's sermon ("droshe").
- . Yes, they'll need stitches. And, unfortunately, they'll also need braces.
- . It's your duty to brag.  
Note: A "braggart" is a "barimer" or a "umshteller."
  
- . Remember the names of their stuffed animals.
- . You and Dad ("tate") need a "Date Night."
- . They'll outgrow their expensive ("tayer") Stride Rite shoes before the laces get dirty ("shmutsik").
- . When in doubt, say, "We'll see."
- . They'll eat paper ("papier") and dirt and survive.
- . When they fall asleep in a stroller, don't move them.
- . Feel free to remind the kids of your labor pains.
- . Don't buy infant ("oyfele") clothes without snaps.

- . Clothes that fit are too small (“kleyn”).
- . You know more about the chaos theory than most physicists.
- . You’ll never stop wondering if you did a good (“gut”) job.
  
- . Donate pre-pregnancy jeans to charity (“tsdoke”).
- . Half your brain (“moyekh”) leaves with the placenta.
- . Don’t read the label on baby formula.
- . Just when you’ve got them figured out, they change.  
Note: The Yiddish word meaning “to change” is “baytn.”
  
- . Kiss (“kush”) it and make it better (“beser”).
- . Colic happens; cowlicks happens.
- . Don’t leave the teddy bear behind.
- . Don’t use a pediatrician who isn’t a parent.
- . You can never have too many Kleenex.
- . You can blame (“shuld”) just about anything on teething.
- . Cookie dough is better than cookies.
- . Tie their mittens (“kuliklekh”) together.
- . Disney World is NOT an option.
- . Even George Bush didn’t eat his broccoli.
- . Yes (“Yo”), we’re all tired of dinosaurs.
- . Bribe the \$10-an-hour sitter with M&Ms.  
Note: The Yiddish word meaning “to bribe” is “unterkoyfn.”
  
- . No matter what, you will memorize “Good Night Moon.”
  
- . The least demanding child is easily neglected.  
(Di shtile kind ken men fargesn.)
- . There’s no such thing as a bad mother.  
(“Es iz nito aza zakh vi a shlekhte mame.”)  
Source: “Yiddish Wisdom for Parents”
  
- . The Common Core spelling and mathematics (“matenatik”) is harder than the old spelling and math.

This is an example of a question asked of a first-grader in Syosset Public Schools on Long Island:

Write the decodable words on the line below. Mark the words by scooping the base word, writing v-e under it, and putting a line through the silent e. Don't forget to circle the suffix s.

- . Crayola always retires a crayon. (Will their blue green/verde azulado/bleu-vert be replaced with Trump Blue?)
- . Mother's Day comes but once a year ("yor"), Amal.  
Milk it!

Sources: [The-funny-bone.blogspot.com](http://The-funny-bone.blogspot.com)...and others.

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MARJORIE GOTTLIEB WOLFE never stops worrying if she did a good job of raising her three sons, Matthew, Jonathan and Daniel.