

UNIT 7

4D Ultrasound



a Look at the picture and answer the following questions.

- 1 Where is the baby?
 - a in a laboratory
 - b in a museum
 - c in a uterus
- 2 How do you think the picture was taken?

b Read the article below and answer the following questions.

- 1 What is 4D ultrasound?
- 2 Why is 4D better than 2D or 3D images?
- 3 Why is 4D ultrasound useful for doctors?

Recent technology has developed the 4D ultrasound which is now making **prenatal** screening much easier. The 4D ultrasound produces sound waves from many angles. The sound waves show moving images of the **unborn**. The images are more detailed and are captured at a much faster rate compared to 2D or 3D scanning.

Expectant mothers (and fathers) have a better view of **foetal** movements inside the **womb**. They can even ask

their doctors for a DVD copy or still images of the baby.

Doctors also benefit from the use of 4D ultrasound. They have a better view of the foetal development inside the mother's womb and note if there are any abnormalities or **malformations**, thus being able to be more prepared for any complications when the baby is born, or if possible, even treat any problems even while the baby is still in the womb.

C Match the words in bold 1–6 to their meanings a–f.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 prenatal | a uterus |
| 2 unborn | b part of the body which has not developed normally |
| 3 expectant | c before birth |
| 4 foetal (UK) / fetal (US) | d pregnant |
| 5 womb | e still in the uterus |
| 6 malformation | f baby in the uterus |

d In pairs, make a list of advantages and disadvantages of 4D ultrasound. Use the information in the text and your own ideas.

Advantages	Disadvantages

Word study

The prefix *pre-* means *before* and is very common in medical terminology.

e Try to guess the meaning of the following medical terms. Check in a dictionary if you are not sure. The first one is done for you.

Prenatal = *pre* + *natal* (birth) = *before birth*

Pre-cancer

Preterm (baby)

Precaution

Share your knowledge

- 1 Why might parents like this technology?
- 2 Are there any negative aspects to this technology?