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1 Age

1 Basic vocabulary

Translate these words into your own language:

baby	generation
young	.....	adult	.....
child	.....	middle-aged	.....
teenager	.....	old	.....

2 Ages

Match the expressions on the left with those on the right:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. She's 3 days old. | a. She's still a child. |
| 2. She's 18 months. | b. She's a newborn baby. |
| 3. She's 8. | c. She's a teenager. |
| 4. She's 14. | d. She's an adult. |
| 5. She's 20. | e. She's a toddler. |

Do the same with the following:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 6. He's 28. | f. He's in his early forties. |
| 7. He's 35. | g. He's fairly elderly. |
| 8. He's 48. | h. He's in his mid-thirties. |
| 9. He's 42. | i. He's middle-aged. |
| 10. He's 85. | j. He's in his late twenties. |

The expression elderly people is a more polite way of talking about old people.



3 A two-year-old boy

Look at this example:

He's two years old.

> I've got a two-year-old son.

Re-write these examples in a similar way:

- My son is eleven.
I've got an
- We've got a daughter of six.
We've got a
- Their baby's only two months old.
They've got a

Look at this example:

They are all 10 years old.

> They're all ten-year-olds.

Now re-write these examples in a similar way:

- I teach kids of seven and eight.
I teach
- Most of them were only sixteen.
They were mostly
- The boy the police arrested was only nine!
He was only a

4 Expressions with 'age'

Use these words to complete these expressions with 'age':

of	look	your	same
get	at	all	child

- the age as (me)
- when I was age
- people of ages
- when you to my age
- at the age 43
- you don't your age
- a of his age
- your age

Now use the expressions in the sentences below:

- Do you think you should be smoking
.....? I mean, you're only 15.
- You're lucky to have the chance to go to university., I had to get a job and start earning some money.
- John F. Kennedy became one of the youngest Presidents of the United States
- Isn't Peter home yet? A
should be in bed by 10 – at the latest!
- The great thing about roller-blading is that
..... seem to be doing
it – young and old.
- Our son is the boy
next door. They're in the same class.
- You're not really 50, are you? I don't believe
it.
-,
you'll realise there's more to life than going
clubbing and riding motorbikes.

5 The generation gap

Use the following expressions in the sentences below:

the age difference the generation gap
the younger generation of my generation

- Many older people think that are only interested in money.
- My wife is ten years older than me, but has never been a problem.
- You can't expect me to use the internet! People grew up without telephones!
- My husband and I can't stand the music our children play or their taste in clothes. I suppose it's just!

6 He's very mature for his age

Use the following words in the dialogues below:

great grown-up bright
fit remarkable tall

- Jane's only two years old, but she can count up to ten.
> Really? She sounds very for her age.
- Peter's only 14, but he's nearly as tall as me.
> Yes, he's quite for his age, isn't he?
- Grand-dad plays tennis three times a week.
> I know. He's very for his age.
- You know, Ruth's 50, but she's still a very attractive woman.
> I know. She looks really for her age.
- Laura's only 14, but when she puts make-up on, you'd think she was 17.
> Yes, she's very for her age, isn't she?
- My grandmother's 100, but she lives alone and looks after herself. She's amazing!
> Yes, she's quite for her age.

7 Age idioms

The following idioms are all about getting old. Complete them using these words:

getting dog over wrong

- You can't teach an old new tricks.
- She's the side of 40.
- He's the hill.
- He's on a bit now.

Now use these idioms, changing the grammar if necessary to complete these sentences:

- John will never change the way he does things. You
- In professional football, you're at 35.
- I think I'll have to start taking life a bit easier. I am, you know!
- Sheila looks great for her age. You'd never guess she's of 50!

8 Famous quotes

Complete these quotes with the following words:

age feel income forty

- You're only as old as you
- Life begins at
- Women lie about their; men lie about their

Do you think the last one is true?

Have you ever lied about your age?

Add your own words and expressions

2 Stages of life

1 Basic vocabulary

Put these words into the following sentences:

childhood adolescence birth puberty

1. Was he present at the of his son?
2. I think I had a very happy
3. Girls usually reach about a year before most boys.
4. can be the best or the worst years of your life.

Now use these words, which relate to the later years of life:

old age retirement marriage middle age

5. My first unfortunately only lasted a couple of years.
6. Now that I'm over 40, I can feel approaching.
7. I want to stop work when I'm 60 and have a long and happy
8. In his my father wrote a book about his wartime experiences.

2 In my childhood

Use these words in the patterns below:

growing up at school teens kid
at university child twenties single
childhood teenager student young

- a. in my
- b. when I was a
- c. when I was

Now use the correct form of these verbs:

have spend bring up grow up

1. I my childhood in the country. I loved walking home from school across the fields.
2. I was in the country so it took a long time to get used to living in London.
3. I in the country so when I moved to London it was quite a shock.
4. I a very strict upbringing. I had to study for two hours after school and had to be in bed by 9.

3 When I get old

Match the beginnings of these sentences with the endings below:

1. I don't want to go to university
 2. I'm going to spend more time with my grandchildren
 3. Will you still love me
 4. We won't be able to go out as much
 5. At least we'll have some peace and quiet
- a. when the kids grow up and leave home.
 - b. when I'm old and grey?
 - c. when I leave school.
 - d. when I retire.
 - e. when we have children.

4 Important events in people's lives

Match the verbs with the words on the right:

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 1. leave | a. your wife / your father |
| 2. get | b. schools / jobs / your career |
| 3. change | c. a baby / children |
| 4. have | d. engaged / married / divorced |
| 5. move | e. school / home |
| 6. lose | f. house |

Now use some of the expressions in the sentences below. You might need to change the form of the verb or the pronoun.

7. I'm not sure what I'll do when I
. It depends on my exam results.
8. I wasn't surprised when I heard that they'd decided to I never really understood why they got married.
9. When we move to Bristol the children will have to I'm worried that it might affect their studies.
10. Bill's never really recovered from
. in a car accident two years ago. They'd been married for twenty years.
11. I want to find my own flat but my parents think I'm too young to
12. The place we're in now has only got two bedrooms. We'll have to think about soon.

5 The best day of my life

Complete the following sentences with the expressions below:

my lucky break the best day of my life turning-point the lowest point

1. I'll never forget the day I got married. It was
2. The day I decided to change my career was the big in my life.
3. Being offered that job in Las Vegas was I've never looked back!
4. I've had some bad times, but in my life was probably when I lost my job at IBM.

6 Expressions with 'life'

Complete the following expressions with the words below:

my way whole
new all full

- a. my life
- b. start a life
- c. it's a of life
- d. spent his life
- e. in all life
- f. a very life

Now use the expressions in the sentences below:

1. My grandfather in the navy. He travelled all over the world.
2. I've worked hard Now I'm looking forward to retiring.
3. I was in India last month. The Taj Mahal is incredible. I've never seen anything like it
4. My grandmother's nearly 90 now. She's been married three times and lived in six different countries. She's had
5. My best friend's had enough of Britain. He's going off to America to
6. When I first started this job, I didn't like travelling up and down to London on the train every day but now

7 Decisions and choices

Use these words to complete the sentences below:

bad right wrong wise difficult

1. I had to decide if I wanted to get a job or go to university. It was a very choice.
2. I'm going to give this job up and go back to college. I hope I'm making the decision.
3. I'm pleased you're going to study at Oxford. I think you've made a very choice.
4. It was definitely the decision to come here in October. It's freezing.
5. I hear you're thinking of becoming self-employed. Personally, I think that would be a move.

What was the best / happiest day of your life so far? Have there been any major turning-points in your life?

Add your own words and expressions

3 Babies and children

1 Basic vocabulary

Complete the following sentences with these words:

pregnant feed born newborn
healthy toys birth pregnancy

- I'm going to stop work when the baby is
- Women shouldn't smoke during
- Julie's staying in hospital for a few more days. It was quite a difficult
- Have you heard? Jane's again.
- Looking after a baby is more difficult than you think.
- I'm exhausted. I have to get up three times every night to the baby.
- I don't mind whether it's a boy or a girl as long as it's
- Don't forget to bring some for the children to play with.

2 Expecting a baby

Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the verbs below:

plan expect lose get

- One of the girls at my school pregnant when she was only 14.
- We only to have two children, so Jane was a bit of surprise – to both of us!
- Have you heard? Lisa's another baby. It's due in November.
- A friend of mine crashed her car when she was pregnant and the baby.

3 Having a baby

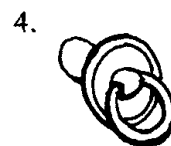
Put the following in the most logical order 1 – 7:

- She gave birth to a beautiful baby girl.
- She got pregnant.
- She went into labour.
- They called her Helen.
- She was in labour for eight hours.
- She was rushed to the maternity ward.
- She had a scan to see if the baby was OK.

4 We've just had a baby

Match the words with the pictures:

dummy pram cot buggy



Complete the following sentences with the words and phrases below:

nappy sleepless nights child-minder
twins baby-sitter nursery school
crawling breast-feeding maternity leave

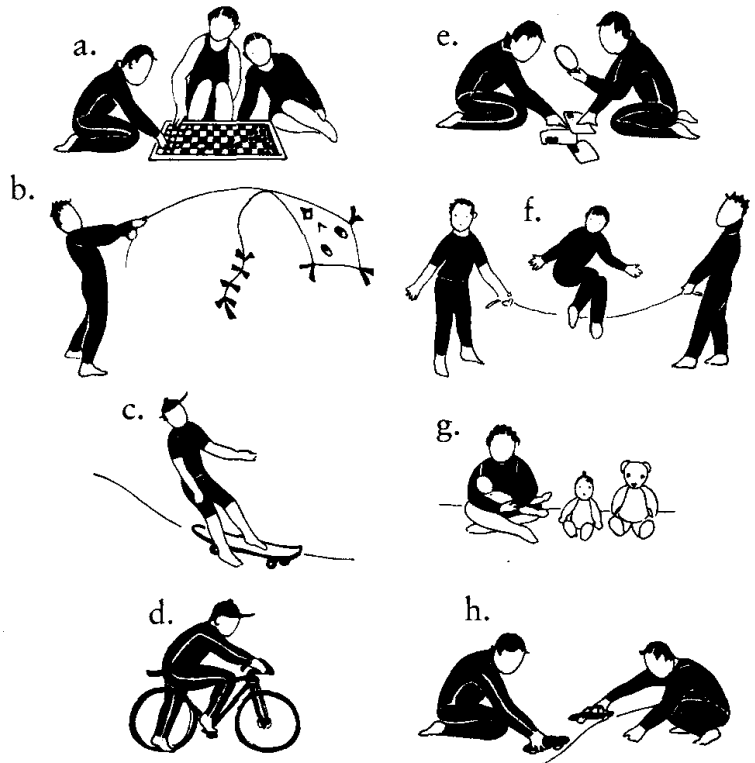
- We've had quite a few since the baby was born. I'm absolutely exhausted most of the time.
- The baby's crying again. I think her needs changing.
- I can't drink any alcohol at the moment. I'm
- I wish we could go out a bit more in the evening, but getting a is very expensive.
- I've still got two months of my left but I'm not sure what to do then. I'd quite like to go back to work but employing a to look after the baby will be so expensive.
- Justin's six months now. He's just started He'll be walking in no time.
- Jenny's nearly three now. She'll soon be able to go to and I'll be able to go back to work.
- If you think having one baby to look after is difficult, imagine what it's like if you have or even triplets.

5 Childhood memories

Match the sentences below with the pictures on the right:

I remember

1. playing with toy cars.
2. playing with dolls.
3. collecting stamps.
4. playing board games with the family.
5. learning to ride a bike.
6. skipping in the playground at school.
7. flying my kite.
8. skate-boarding.



6 Good or bad behaviour

Read this text and then put the coloured expressions into the correct group below:

I wish our children were more like my brother's children. His children are so well-behaved – they're so polite and they always seem to do what they're told. Our children are so naughty all the time. Tommy's always getting into trouble at school – last week he broke a window in one of the classrooms. And my daughter Jenny's no better – last week she got told off by her teacher for drawing on the desk in the classroom. I do love my children very much – I just wish they could learn to behave themselves a bit better.

being good:	.....	.....	.....
not being good:	.....	.....	.....

7 Rules

Match the beginnings of the sentences on the left with the endings on the right. Some of the beginnings match with more than one ending.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. My parents made me | a. brush my teeth before I went to bed. |
| 2. They didn't let me | b. wear make-up till I was 14. |
| 3. I had to | c. do my homework before I could watch TV. |
| 4. I couldn't | d. watch TV after 9 o'clock. |
| 5. I wasn't allowed to | |

Now complete the first part of each sentence so that it is true for you.

In some countries it's against the law to smack your children. What do you think?

Add your own words and expressions

4 Death

1 Basic vocabulary

Use these words in the sentences below:

died dead death deaths dying

1. The ambulance was too late. The boy was by the time it arrived at the hospital.
2. I'm a bit upset. My grandmother last week.
3. My best friend is very upset. Her father is of cancer.
4. My brother never really recovered after his wife's sudden
5. The number of in road accidents has increased again this year.

If you say that somebody has passed away or that somebody has just lost his wife or lost her husband, it is kinder and less shocking than saying that somebody has 'died'.

Now match the words on the left with the definitions on the right:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 6. widow | a. the document which says what will happen to your possessions when you die |
| 7. widower | b. the person whose job it is to arrange funerals |
| 8. will | c. the ceremony for burying or cremating someone |
| 9. undertaker | d. a woman whose husband is dead |
| 10. funeral | e. a man whose wife is dead |

2 When someone dies

Complete each of the following sentences with the phrases below:

made a will	left me £2,000 in her will	inherited the family business
was widowed	came to her funeral	died of cancer

1. As soon as Mrs Johnson knew she was dying, she, leaving all her money to The Red Cross. She a few months later.
2. When my aunt died, she
3. When her father died, Sally
4. Helen was very popular. When she died, more than two hundred people
5. Poor Sheila! She only a year after she got married. Her husband had a heart attack and died very suddenly while they were on holiday in New Zealand.

3 How did he die?

Which of these expressions go with the two structures below?

a road accident	the war	cancer
a heart attack	old age	a car crash

- a. He died of
- b. He was killed in

Now use the correct form of these verbs:

freeze	starve	bleed
burn	drown	choke

1. Ten people to death in a fire in Birmingham last night.
2. Aid workers have warned that unless food is sent soon, thousands of people will to death.
3. The victim of the attack was stabbed in the chest and to death.
4. The baby swallowed a coin and to death.
5. It is believed that the two climbers to death in temperatures of minus 30°.
6. A man today after jumping into the River Thames to save his dog.

Now match the verbs and nouns to make three expressions which fit in the sentence below:

committed	his own life
killed	suicide
took	himself

7. Police believe the young man after his wife left him.

4 Funerals

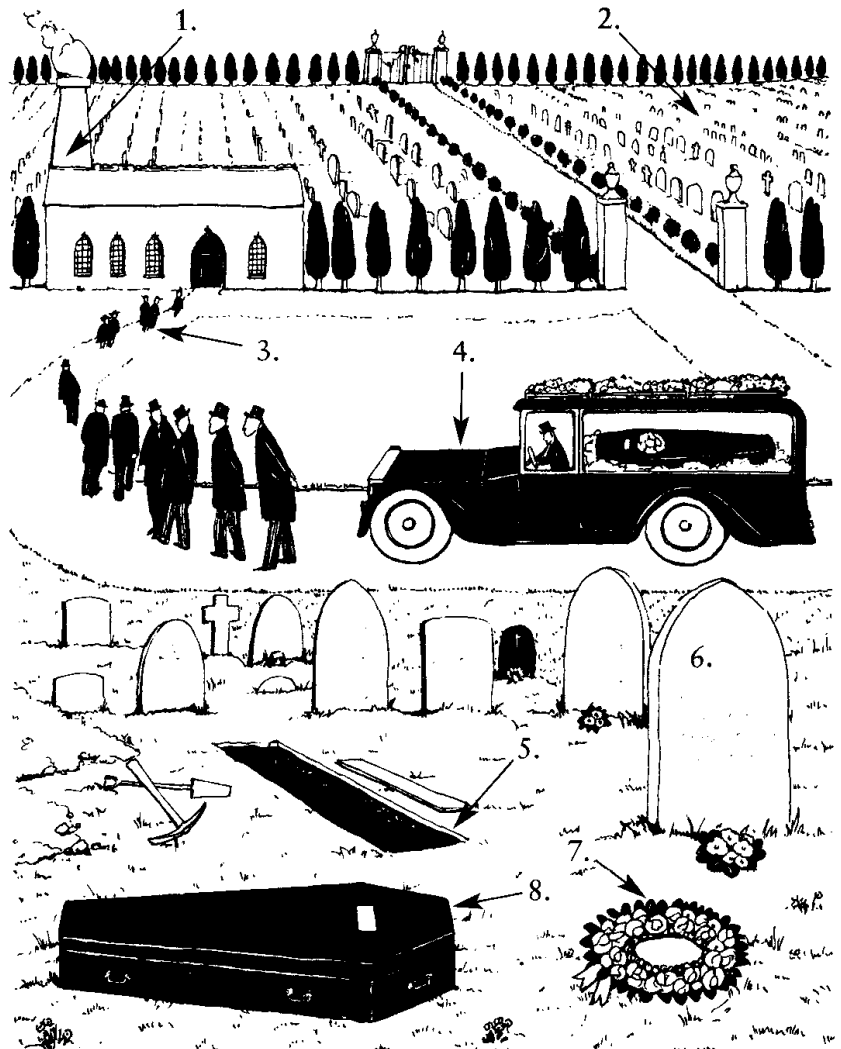
Match these words with the picture:

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| grave | coffin |
| gravestone | cemetery |
| hearse | mourners |
| crematorium | wreath |

Now use the correct form of these verbs:

- bury cremate scatter visit

I've only ever been to two funerals. My mother died five years ago and she was (9) in a little churchyard near where she lived. I still try to (10) her grave every month if I can. A few months ago one of my best friends was killed in an accident. He was (11) and his ashes were (12) in the sea near Bournemouth, where he grew up.



5 Death idioms

The idea of death is often used in a metaphorical sense. Match the following sentences 1-5 to the ideas a-e:

1. What a boring place! It's completely dead after 10 o'clock at night.
 2. My Walkman isn't working. I think the batteries must be dead.
 3. Latin is a dead language.
 4. I'm dying for a drink.
 5. The break-up of the Soviet Union signalled the death of communism.
- a. I really need one.
 - b. They are not working any more.
 - c. The end of something.
 - d. Nothing happens.
 - e. It is not used any more.

A tomb is different from a grave. Graves, always below the ground, are where ordinary people are buried. Tombs, often above the ground, are grand memorials to very important or rich people. We talk about my grandfather's grave, but the Tomb of Tutankhamun.

Here is an amusing little poem which some native speakers say when they hear someone coughing:

*It's not the cough that'll carry you off.
It's the coffin they'll carry you off in!*

This headline appeared in a British newspaper in 1997. What was the story?

NATION FILLED WITH GRIEF

Add your own words and expressions

5 Family

1 Basic vocabulary

Your immediate family: your mother, father, brothers and sisters, or, if you are married, your husband, wife and your sons and daughters.

Your relatives or your relations: all your immediate family plus your grandparents, great-grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins.

Use these words below:

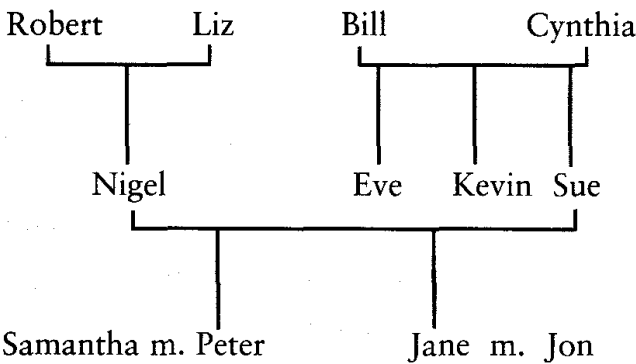
aunt	grandfather	grandsons
uncle	grandmother	nephew
niece	granddaughters	cousins

- 1. Your parents' parents are your and your
- 2. Your father's brother and sister are your and your
- 3. Your aunt's and uncle's children are your
- 4. Your brother's son and daughter are your and your
- 5. Your children's children are your and your

Relations and relatives are two words for the same people.

2 In-laws

Your in-laws are your husband's or wife's family or your children's husbands and wives. Look at this family tree and put names to the relations:



- 1. Nigel's mother-in-law _____
- 2. his father-in-law _____
- 3. his brother-in-law _____
- 4. his sister-in-law _____
- 5. his son-in-law _____
- 6. his daughter-in-law _____

3 Different types of family

Look at the following short texts and find an example of:

- a. a nuclear family
 - b. an extended family
 - c. a single-parent family
 - d. a couple who adopted a child
 - e. a couple with no children
1. We're married with three kids. Our eldest son, Simon, has just started secondary school, our daughter, Lisa, is eight and our youngest son, Luke, is only five.
 2. We've only been married for a year. We're not planning to start a family just yet.
 3. I'm a single mum. I bring up my son Josh on my own. Josh doesn't mind being an only child but I think he'd like a brother or sister one day.
 4. We share the house with my mother and father and my wife's sister and her kids. Everyone helps to look after all the children.
 5. We couldn't have children of our own so we decided that adoption was the only answer. Lily came to live with us two years ago. She seems very happy at the moment but we realise that she might want to find her real mother one day.

You can say single mother, single father, single mum, single dad or a single-parent family.

Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences below:

- 1. We're not planning to start
 - 2. They help us take care of
 - 3. We adopted
 - 4. We share
 - 5. She might want to find
- a. the house with my wife's family.
 - b. a baby from China.
 - c. her real mother one day.
 - d. the children.
 - e. a family just yet.