Age and Ageing

**Growing up**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Age* | period of life | *Stage* |
| 0-1 approximately |  | a **baby** |
| 1-2 |  | a **toddler** |
| 2-12 approximately | **childhood** | a **child** |
| 13-17 approximately |  | a **teenager**(14 = early teens) |
| 18+ |  | an **adult** |
| 20-30 |  | **in your twenties**(24-26 = **mid twenties)** |
| 30-40 |  | **in your thirties**(38 = **late thirties)** |
| 40+ |  | people are **middle-aged; in middle age** |
| 60 or 65 |  | **retirement**(= when people stop work; they are **retired)** |
| 75+ |  | **old age**(you can also use **elderly**) |

**Note:**For boys, the period between 14-17 approximately (slightly younger for girls) is called **adolescence,**i.e. you are an **adolescent. In**law you are an **adult**at the age of 18, but many people think of you as an adult when you leave school.

**HW Ex. 1. What stage of life are these people at?**

1. Paul isn’t 2 yet, so he’s still a…………………………
2. Albert was a bus driver for 40 years but stopped
3. Susan is 25, so she is in her……………………………
4. Caroline is 50 this year so she is now in her…….
5. Ron is 33 and his wife is 32, so they are both in.
6. Joan is 75 this year, so she is quite,………………….
7. Jason was born six weeks ago, so he’s a…………..
8. Leyla is 13 this year, so she’ll soon be a…………..
9. Ravi is 18 this year, so legally he becomes………..
10. It is often a difficult age for boys going through ……..

**HW Ex.2. Find the logical ending for each of the sentence beginnings on the left and construct a paragraph.**

*E.g. Sam****was born****in Scotland but when he was two, his father got a new job in London and he****grew up****in the south of England. He****went to university****at****18****where he …*

1. **A) Rebecca’s life.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 Rebecca was born | a.             was a boy at her secondary school. |
| 2 She grew up | b.            in her early thirties. |
| 3 Her first boyfriend | c.             on a farm with lots of animals. |
| 4 She went out with him | d.            when she was in her late twenties. |
| 5 She went to university | e.             in a small local hospital in 1972. |
| 6 She fell in love | f.             for six months. |
| 7 They got married | g.            just after the baby was bom. |
| 8 She had a baby | h.             with another student doing medicine. |
| 9 Her father retired | i.              when she left school. |

## **HW Reading: Grandparents: are today’s children missing out?**

**Read the text attentively:**

**W**hen Isabel Hanraham was a young girl growing up in Campbeltown, Scot­land, she saw her grandmother every day on her way to school.

“I walked past her house and she would always make sure I was but­toned up and warm. Then, on the way home, she’d say to me: ‘Come in, I’ve got buns for tea’. I could always take my friends in with me, too.”

Isabel, a 58-year-old civil servant living in Putney, London, is a gran herself now. And though she tries to model herself on her own grandmother, this isn’t easy. Her own grandchildren live in Spain.

“I’ve never had my own grandchildren live near me. They were born in Spain as my son, John, has made his life out there.”

Nevertheless, Isabel is determined to have a strong relationship with Uri, seven, and Scott, four.

“It wouldn’t be fair to expect my son to move back to England. I accept it. And I manage to see the grandchildren at least twice a year. We also tele­phone a lot and I send them parcels; last year, they came over for Christmas for the first time — it was wonderful.

They know I’m grandma and when I phone them up I have to be careful not do say I’m coming over soon as they think I mean the next minute and rush to the window to wait for me.”

Grandmas and grandpas are special people to those of us lucky enough to have enjoyed this ad­ded dimension to family life. But Isabel Hanrahan’s experience of long-distance grandchildren is not un­common. Once many children had gran living round the corner and mum could call on her for help or free babysitting. Now, with growing mobility and changes in family life, can grandparents remain as special?

Lucy Harrison, 27, who lives in Kingston, Surrey, has also had a relationship at a distance with her grandmother, yet she maintains that distance makes no difference whatsoever to the bond formed be­tween the generations.

“I only really feel the separation since she’s been in a nursing home and so needs her family a

bit more. I feel sad we’re not all there to help her,” says Lucy, who helps to run a local organic food co­operative in Kingston.

Lucy’s maternal gran, Ethel Sargaison, is 94. One of the last survivors of a family of 11, she lives in Belfast. Ethel is known everywhere, however, by her nickname, Gaggie.

“She’s called Gaggie because my brother Tim called her that when he was little and couldn’t say grandma,” Lucy explains.

Gaggie is the family matriarch even though she fives ides away from most of them. A keen story­teller, she has always taken an interest in Lucy’s friends as well as all the family.

“I think she’s special because she takes you as you are. She’s very accepting,” Lucy says. “She takes a lot without question. She’s one of the most important people to us and we value her all the more because of the distance. When they’re that far away you can never take them for granted.”

So, even with grans living miles away, they are still cherished, loved and highly regarded. But what is so special about this relationship? And can it sur­vive the onslaught of changing family life — the high divorce rates, single parenthood and step-families?

“There’s a romantic view of the extended family that once was but no longer exists,” says John Wheatley of the Family Policy Studies Centre in London. “But in fact many women with young chil­dren really rely on their mums to help out. Many grans do still live around the corner — perhaps not so much in the south-eastern comer of Britain but certainly in the rest of the country.”

So with more single-parent families and more working mothers, grans are, if anything, playing as vital a role as they ever did.

A wonderful example of this is shown in the BBC sitcom Three Up, Two Down, in which the young parents concentrate on their careers and leave their widowed parents to look after their baby grandson, Joe. It’s a role which the prematurely redundant grand-father Sam particularly enjoys as it gives him a new interest in life.

“We have an ageing population which means we’ll see more three and four generation families in fu­ture. The elderly live longer and tend to be more ac­tive and healthy now,” adds John Wheatley.

However Julia Courthey, an Open University tu­tor with an interest in women’s history, says better health and more activity means many grans proba­bly don’t want too active a role in raising families second time around.

“These days 60 can be quite young,” she says. “A granny might well have a job or interests of her own. Many have given up a lot to raise their own chil­dren. Now they look forward to childfree, carefree years. So while grandparents still enjoy their grand­children they may well not want to provide a free babysitting service for ever.”

One grandma who would definitely agree with this point of view is 36-year-old Cheryl Smattwood, a housing rights worker in Leek.

“When, at 18, my daughter Kirsten announced she was pregnant, I made it clear from the start that I didn’t want to be a permanent babysitter,” says Cheryl. “I felt I’d just had 18 years of nappies and small children. Now that I’ve been back to college and taken a degree I’ve embarked on a career of my own. And I wasn’t about to give that up for anyone. Kirsten fully understands my de­cision.

“I’m proud of the way she has taken to mother­hood and I see her\* son, Josh, as a happy and wel­come addition to our family.

“I had a very special relationship with my own maternal gran, who died recently. There is definite­ly a bond between grandparents and grandchildren.”

But for one woman who became a mother later than Cheryl became a grandmother, it was too late for this bond to develop.

But, despite all these changes, this still remains one relationship where the generation gap frequent­ly helps family life.

History tutor Julia Courthey says: “Grandparents can make history come alive and belong to you. “Everyone should be with their grandparents at some time, because when it works it’s absolutely wonderful.”

**From Best Magazine**

1. **HW Answer the questions in your own words in the written form.**

a) Formerly grandparents were an integral part of growing up. And now?

b) How can we explain the disappearance of this strong relationship?

c) In your opinion, what can be done to solve the problem?

d) Explain the meaning of Julia’s words: “Everyone should be with their grand­

e) parents at some time, because when it works it’s absolutely wonderful.”

1. **Find evidence in the text to prove the following and explain each of them using your own words:**

a)’I’ve never had my   own grandchildren   live near me’.

b) ‘There’s a romantic view of the extended family that once was but today no longer exists’.

c)’I didn’t want to be a permanent babysitter’

d)’I really feel the distance now she’s in a nursing home”.

1. **Explain why**

a) Isabel Hanrahan tries to model herself on her grandmother.

b) For Lucy distance makes no difference.

c) Ethel is known by her nickname “Gaggie”.

d) Nowadays, grans play a vital role.