**World Population Ageing**

**Population aging is the 21st century's dominant demographic phenomenon. Declining fertility, increasing longevity, and the progression of large-sized cohorts to the older ages are causing elder shares to rise throughout the world. The phenomenon of population aging, which is unprecedented in human history, brings with it sweeping changes in population needs and capacities.**

**1) Introduction – solve the riddle.**

What walks on four legs in the morning, two legs in the afternoon, and three legs in the evening?

**2) Discussion**

* Do you have a relationship with anyone who is older than 70?
* In what ways do our bodies change as we get older?
* What do you think is the biggest problem elderly people face?
* Do you treat a 75-year-old differently from someone your own age? How and why?
* Do you think French culture is respectful of the elderly? Are other countries more or less respectful?

Highlight the polite ways to say people are old.

**3) Article on robot caregivers for the elderly**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/06/japan-robots-will-care-for-80-of-elderly-by-2020>

Questions on the text

1) What is lifting robotics?

2) Is using lifting robotics a common phenomenon in Japan?

3) How have caregivers reacted to the use of robotics in their work?

4) What different types of robotic aid are mentioned in the text?

5) Why do the robotic devices not yet resemble humans?

**Discuss:**

* What would you like your life to be like when you are older?
* Do you think life as an older person will be in different in the next 50/60 years?
* Do you think it’s a good idea to have robot caregivers?
* Why do you think elderly patients might be “psychologically resistant” to robot caregivers?

**4) Video: Scottish student doctor who is helping lonely elderly people**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qzHn9jZNDc>

Questions on the video

1) How many cycle rides is Fraser doing per week?

2) Why does the elderly lady (Mary) enjoy the rides?

3) How does Chris say Mary has changed because of the rides?

**Discussion**:

* Do you guys know about any other innovations for caring for elderly people?

**5) Brainstorming session :**

* What are the biggest challenges elderly people face? Loneliness?
* Do you know about any other innovations for caring for elderly people?
* How could these problems be solved?
* Help with mobility, mental health, loneliness, medication, chores, dementia help?
* Ideas for a product or service that could help elderly people in their daily life?
* Maybe improve an existing product?