

Date of birth / / 19 .. Age (years) (months)

Reading

Read through these expressions relating to how old we are and what age does to us.

1900

a new-born baby, 10 Ibs. 3 ozs. at birth ten months old nearly eighteen months old a toddler four next birthday coming up to school age at infants' school a schoolgirl

1910

all those in the 9-11 **age group** he had a happy **childhood** he's a nice kid **a teenager in his youth** the agonies of **adolescence** still a **minor**, legally speaking **a juvenile delinquent** congratulations on your **coming of age**

1920

you have to be **over 21** Miss June Hoskins, **aged** 22, of 35 Stanfield Road **in his mid-twenties in his prime at the** age of 26 she got married **by the age of** 26 she had lived in five different countries **an adult agrown-up**

1930

don't be so **childish he's turned thirty thirtyish** not **a youngster** any more **not as young as she was 36 years of age approaching middle-age the Under 40s** Social Club

1940

on the wrong side of forty beginning to **look his age an ageing** playboy beginning to feel her age I prefer **mature** people she's still got her **girlish** sense of humour **in his late forties** she's **older than she looks**

1950

still playing his **schoolboy** tricks **in her early fifties he's aged a lot** lately he's **getting on (in years)** one of the **older generation I'm twice your age,** young man! the same **age as** her husband **heading for retirement**

1960

he's over the hill * Sunday Excursion for the Over 60s growing old gracefully a pensioner (an old age pensioner, OAP) he's coming up to seventy you're old enough to know better you're as old as you feel an elderly lady

1970

a septuagenerian Help the Aged she's still going strong in her seventy-fifth year his elder brother's death her eldest sister's death becoming senile old age comes to all of us

1980

his eightieth birthday an octogenarian he's as old as the hills* in her second childhood he's got one foot in the grave* he'll soon be pushing up the daisies* she's kicked the bucket* she's passed away / on

Practice

Discuss or write the answers to these questions.

- 1 How has your relationship with your parents and other members of your family changed as you have grown older?
- 2 At which age would you most like to stop the world for ten years so you could enjoy it? Has that age passed or is it still to come?
- 3 Some people say there are a lot of similarities between childhood and old age. Do you agree?
- 4 Do you think young people are growing up faster these days? If so, give examples.
- 5 Do you agree or partly agree with the saying 'Life begins at forty'?

Age

Write on one or more of the following topics.

- 1 a dialogue between a psychiatrist and a middle-aged man who is worried about his age and getting old.
- 2 a section of your speech at a public meeting in support of the vote for teenagers.
- 3 the approximate age at which you normally think of or remember these people, as in the examples.

| Winston Churchill Olga Korbut | in his mid- to late sixties in her early teens, just after adolescence |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 James Dean | 5 Marilyn Monroe |
| 2 Ronald Reagan | 6 Marlon Brando |
| 3 Elvis Presley | 7 Joan Collins |
| 4 Mahatma Gandhi | 8 Mozart |
| Add any other expressions a | bout age as you meet them. |
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