

Ages and stages

Growing up

<i>Age</i>	<i>Stage</i>
0–1 approximately	a baby
1–2	a toddler
2–12 approximately	a child – this period is your childhood
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.

Exercises

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 work two years ago, so he is now
- 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 15 is often a difficult age for boys going through

Find the logical ending for each of the sentence beginnings on the left and construct Rebecca's life.

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|--------------------------|--|
| 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 born. |
| 8 She had a baby | h with another student doing medicine. |
| 9 Her father retired | i when she left school. |

How many of the sentence beginnings on the left can you answer about your own life?
Answer the ones you can.