

Part C: Fill in the gaps with an appropriate word from the box.

retire / life / wonderful / lonely / pace / hobby / enjoy / abundance / alone / rely on

It is strongly believed that a person's golden years are the most wonderful years of their _____¹ without the stress and obligation of work, a time to relax and enjoy a slower _____² of life. However, while this might be true for some individuals, I think for many, retirement comes with challenges and difficulties.

As most people do not get to _____³ until they reach the age of sixty or sixty-five, they often tend to encounter health issues such as aches and pains, dangerous heart disease, diabetes, and dementia. As a result, they are not able to do and _____⁴ activities they could have done in their younger years like hiking, traveling, sports or even spending time with their grandkids. They also have to attend more hospital appointments, _____⁵ medication and worry about deteriorating health issues.

Additionally, I believe that for many, retirement can be _____⁶, depressing and isolating. Going from working full-time (or overtime) to having free time in _____⁷ can be challenging for some. Many people lose that sense of purpose and don't know what to do with their free time. Not everyone has the resources to follow their dreams, for example, traveling around the world or taking up a new _____⁸. I also believe many people have fewer social connections and interactions as they get older becoming more isolated as a result. For instance, many older people in the United Kingdom live _____⁹ or in a retirement home with family visiting only occasionally.

In conclusion, retirement is not always as _____¹⁰ as people think it will be. I think for many it can be a time full of anxiety, and solitude. In reality, most people don't get to pursue their dreams and live the life they would like to or perhaps imagined.



3**Language point: giving examples**

Part A: You should support your argument by adding non-personalized examples. Read the essay again (page three) and underline the four words or phrases used to give examples.

Part B: Think of a number of examples for each of these arguments and then complete the sentences with a word or phrase from the previous activity in Part A.

1. People who retire can do many activities to keep them active
2. Taking an early retirement can bring many benefits
3. How people spend their retirement varies depending on the country
4. Retiring abroad has many advantages



**4****Writing task**

Part A: In pairs, read the IELTS Part 2 question on a similar topic. Write a list of ideas for and against working after retirement. Then add any appropriate examples you could use to support your ideas.

Some believe that people should not continue to work once they reach the age of retirement. Do you agree or disagree?

reasons to continue working	reasons to stop working

Part B: Now, decide if you agree or disagree with the statement and write a response. You have 40 minutes to complete the task and you should write a minimum of 250 words.

