14 Growing up

A Ages and stages in the UK



Age	Stage
0	**birth** [the moment a baby is born]
Up to 12 months	a baby
12 months – 3 years old	a **toddler**
3–12 years old	a child: this period is your **childhood**
13–18 approximately	a **teenager:** during this period you are **in your teens**
18+	an **adult**
40+ approximately	people are **middle-aged** [in the middle of their lives]
60 or 65	**retirement** [when people stop work; they are **retired**]
80+	old age (we usually describe people as **elderly**)

B Approximate ages

I'm **in my early twenties** [21–23].
My parents are **in their mid-fifties** [54–56].
My grandmother is **in her late seventies** [77–79].
My grandfather is **nearly/almost eighty** [he's probably 79].
My English teacher's **approximately/roughly** thirty.
[about 30 / more or less 30]

Common mistakes

We can say, **he's 30** or **he's 30 years old**. (NOT he ~~has~~ 30 or he's 30 ~~years~~)
Also: a **30-year-old man** (NOT a 30-~~years-~~old man)

C Past and present

PAST AND PRESENT

My grandmother's name was Mary. She's **dead**[1] now. She died about ten years ago when I was in my teens, but I remember her well. She was **brought up**[2] on a farm in Wales, and her parents were very **strict:** as a teenager, they didn't **allow**[3] her to listen to the radio or go to parties in the village. **In the end**[4], she decided to leave home and get a job in Cardiff. **At first**[5] it wasn't easy, but she **managed**[6] to find work, and she also met the man who became her husband: my grandfather. My mother was born four years later. She had a very different childhood. She grew up in the city, she **was allowed to** go to parties, and when she was in her teens, her parents **let**[7] her **stay out late**[8]. My mum is the same with me.



[1] not living; *opp* **alive**
[2] looked after until you are an adult
[3] give permission
[4] finally, after a lot of time or thought
[5] at the beginning
[6] was able (but it was difficult)
[7] allowed
[8] not go home until late

Language help

Let and **allow** have the same meaning. **Let** is slightly more informal, and **allow** is often used in the passive.
My dad ***let me drive*** *his car. I* ***was allowed to drive*** *my dad's car.*
You're not allowed to *smoke in that room.* (NOT ~~It's not allowed to~~ smoke in that room.)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

14.1 **Complete the sentences.**

1 Isabella is only six months old – she's still *a baby*.
2 Louis was 22 a few months ago, so he's in his .....
3 Amelia is 35, so she's in her .....
4 Abigail will be 13 this year, so she'll soon be a .....
5 William is 53 and his wife is 47, so they're both .....
6 Joan is 80 this year, so she is quite .....
7 Michael was a bus driver for 40 years but he's now .....
8 Leon is 18 this year, so legally he becomes .....
9 The boys are 14 and 16, so they're both in their .....
10 Holly is just over a year old and she's starting to walk, so she's a ..... now.

14.2 **Are the sentences true or false about Mary's life on the opposite page? If a sentence is false, change it to make it true.**

1 Mary was brought up in the city. *False. Mary was brought up on a farm.*
2 She grew up in Wales. .....
3 Her parents let her do what she wanted. .....
4 She wasn't allowed to listen to the radio. .....
5 Life was easy when she went to Cardiff. .....
6 She couldn't get a job in Cardiff. .....

14.3 **Rewrite the sentences without using the underlined words and phrases. Keep a similar meaning.**

1 My parents <u>are dead</u> now. — My parents *aren't alive now*.
2 It was hard but <u>finally</u> I did it. — It was hard but .....
3 She's <u>approximately</u> my age. — She's .....
4 They're <u>almost</u> thirty now. — They're .....
5 <u>I had to do what</u> my parents <u>wanted</u>. — My parents were .....
6 My parents <u>let me</u> stay up and watch TV. — I was .....
7 My mum <u>looked after me</u> in Scotland. — I was .....
8 I <u>was able</u> to pass my exams <u>but it wasn't easy</u>. — I .....
9 I <u>didn't go home until</u> late. — I .....
10 <u>I was allowed to</u> wear what I liked. — My parents .....
11 I was happy <u>as a child</u>. — I had a happy .....
12 My grandparents <u>don't work any more</u>. — My grandparents are .....

14.4 Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, ask a friend and write their answers.

1 Where were you brought up? .....

2 What do you particularly remember about your childhood? .....

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3 Were your parents strict? What weren't you allowed to do when you were a child? .....

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4 How late were you allowed to stay out when you were a teenager? .....

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LIVEWORKSHEETS