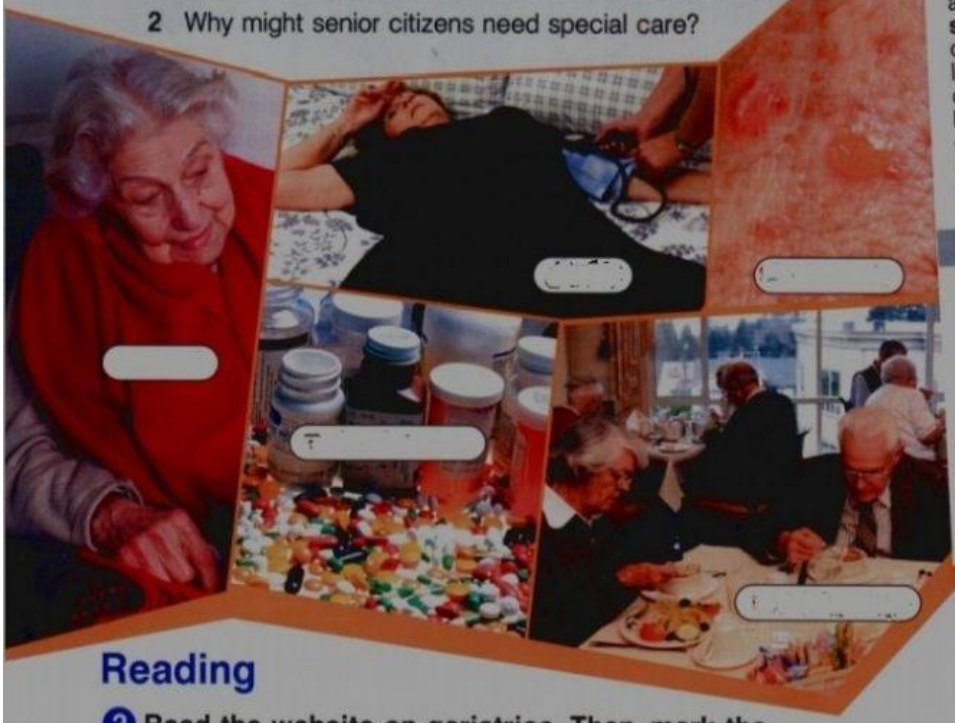
15 Geriatrics

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

1 What are some common diseases in elderly patients?
2 Why might senior citizens need special care?



Medical Specialties: Geriatrics

Geriatrics has developed as a field of medicine focusing on the prevention and treatment of diseases in **elderly** people.

Common Ailments

Certain diseases become more common with advanced age. For example, the risk of a **stroke** increases significantly. **Hearing loss** can require implants to maintain functional levels. Inability to be physically active can cause **bed sores**. Additionally, **Alzheimer's Disease** is a terminal illness that robs people of their memories and their ability to think clearly. Other ailments, such as spells of **dizziness** or **incontinence**, could indicate more serious problems.

Caring for Seniors

Senior citizens must often take several regular medications. This puts them at risk for **polypharmacy**, which can cause dangerous **drug interactions**. It is important to assist seniors who may have trouble understanding when and how much medicine to take. Should their health issues make them incapable of caring for themselves, several care options exist. **Assisted living** centers help seniors with their medical needs while still granting them independence. Seriously ill seniors may need to be placed in a **nursing home**.

Reading

2 Read the website on geriatrics. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

1 ___ Bedsores are a result of incontinence.
2 ___ Dizziness could be a sign of a more serious disease.
3 ___ Nursing homes provide the most freedom for seniors needing assistance.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

1 ___ stroke
2 ___ incontinence
3 ___ nursing home
4 ___ geriatrics
5 ___ polypharmacy
6 ___ bed sore

A the use of too many medications at once
B a field of medicine that focuses on preventing and treating diseases in older people
C a rapid loss of brain functions due to a loss of blood to the brain
D the inability to control one's bladder or bowel movements
E a skin wound caused by too much pressure cutting off blood circulation to a part of the body
F a facility that provides 24-hour care to elderly patients

4 Fill in the blanks with the correct words and phrases from the word bank.

WORD BANK

assisted living
hearing loss elderly
Alzheimer's Disease
drug interaction dizziness

1 You must manage your prescriptions to prevent a serious _____.
2 My grandfather suffers from _____ and often forgets my name.
3 My mother really enjoys the _____ arrangement in her apartment.
4 It is important to recognize the specific illnesses that affect _____ people.
5 This morning I felt such _____ I could barely stand up.
6 My grandmother's _____ is worse so she is getting an ear implant.

LIVEWORKSHEETS