

"TIME FLIES"

Complete the text by adding a word to each blank.

Does your birthday seem to come (1) around faster each year? The common perception that time flies as you get older was first noted by the psychologist William James in the nineteenth century. More recently, scientists in London set (2) _____ to investigate the extent to (3) _____ age has an effect (4) _____ the way that time is perceived.

Researchers asked people, divided (5) _____ three age groups, to say how long ago they thought certain major public events had happened. The result (6) _____ that people in the 19-21 age group thought that the events had occurred more recently (7) _____ they actually had, while the over 60s dated events too far back. The middle-aged group were the most accurate.

These results show that our perception of time really (8) _____ depend on age, although no one quite knows (9) _____ this should be. One possible explanation is (10) _____ as we get older, we accumulate memories for events (11) _____ as birthdays and holidays. These regular events, occurring at the same time each year, act as mental markers, increasing the impression (12) _____ time passing more quickly. Another possible explanation is that we perceive time in relation (13) _____ our own age. When you are four, a year is a quarter of your life, (14) _____ it's only a fortieth for a forty year old.

(15) _____ the real explanation may be, one thing is certain. We should take time out to enjoy ourselves while we're young, because it speeds (16) _____ as we get older.

