

1 Age

"Growing old is mandatory, but growing up is optional." - Walt Disney



Did you know?

In 2007 a giant Bowhead Whale was caught off the coast of Alaska. It had part of an **ancient** harpoon from 1880 in its side from where it had survived a hunt 120 years earlier. Scientists believe the Bowhead Whale can live as long as 200 years.

According to a United Nations report, people from Hong Kong have the longest **life expectancy**. The average person from Hong Kong lives until they are 84.7 years old.

Luxembourg is the country with the lowest **retirement age**. On average men retire at 57.6 and women retire at 59.6. The country with the oldest retirement age is Mexico, where men work until 72.3 years of age on average and women until they are 68.7.

The *Turritopsis dohrnii*, known as the **immortal** jellyfish, can reverse ageing. It turns mature cells back into young cells, resetting its life cycle. This fascinating creature pushes the boundaries of life with its seemingly endless existence.

The **lifespan** of a mayfly is incredibly short, lasting only for a day or two.

- Discuss the meaning of the words in **bold**.

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Vocabulary match

childhood	to be neither young nor old
teenager	a very young child
pensioner	to behave like an adult and not like a child
middle-aged	the time when you were young
mature	someone who has finished their working life
retirement	the time after your working life has ended
toddler	someone aged between 13 and 19

Idioms and collocations

Ben wants to be an archaeologist when he *grows* _____.

You look *great for your* _____! What's the secret?

I want to climb Mount Everest while I'm still *in my* _____.

Although I'm retired and a grandmother, I still feel *young at* _____.

The age _____ for voting in the UK is 18.

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1 Age

What's the best age to be?

In your country how old do you have to be to smoke, drink, drive or get married?

How old were you when you left home?

What advice would you give to someone half your age?

What do you think is the best age to have children?

What do you think is the best age for a political leader?

What's the retirement age in your country?

Have you ever lied about your age?

Would you like to live until you were 1000?

Do you think a large age gap can be a problem in a relationship?