



Average person to live more than 90 years Holiday Assignment 7

UPPER INTERMEDIATE LEVEL (Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary)

1. Warm-up

Would you like to live to be over 90? Why/why not?

2. Key Vocabulary

Match the words to their synonyms.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. a homicide | a. a drug |
| 2. life expectancy | b. a murder |
| 3. a projection | c. an absence |
| 4. an improvement | d. an advancement |
| 5. a lack | e. a prediction |
| 6. a factor | f. a reason |
| 7. a vaccine | g. longevity |

3. Before you read

You are going to read an article about the results of a study to find the age that people will live to in different countries by the year 2030. Before you read, choose the name of a country for each of the gaps in the sentences below. Then read the text on the next page to check your answers.

France Japan Mexico South Korea the United States

1. Women in _____ will have the longest life expectancy by 2030.
2. _____ will have the lowest life expectancy of any advanced country.
3. _____ and the United States will have a similar life expectancy.
4. The average age that men will live to in _____ will stay high in the rankings.
5. Women in South Korea and _____ will have a higher life expectancy than those in Japan.



Life expectancy to reach 90 by 2030

22nd of February 2017

1 Average life expectancy will be over 90 in some countries by 2030, and will rise in many other countries.

2 A large international study carried out by Imperial College London and the World Health Organization analyzed lifespans in 35 developed and emerging countries, including the United States, Britain, Germany, Australia, Poland and Mexico.

3 The study showed that South Korean women were likely to have the highest life expectancy, with a projection of 90.8. However, the United States would have the lowest life expectancy among developed countries, with figures similar to middle-income countries such as Mexico and Croatia. The study predicts an average age of 80 for American men and 83 for women, figures that will be less than those for Chile.

4 The greater average life expectancy in South Korea was linked by the researchers to the factors of good childhood nutrition, low blood pressure, low levels of smoking and good access to healthcare, plus new medical knowledge and technologies.

5 Majid Ezzati, the lead researcher and a professor at Imperial College's School of Public Health said: "South Korea has gotten a lot of things right," and "they seem to have been a more equal place and have things that have benefited people".

6 He said that the United States was almost the opposite of South Korea, and that society in the US was so unequal that it affected how the nation performed in the study. There is a lack of

universal healthcare in the country, and relatively high child and pregnant mother death rates. Homicide and obesity rates are also high. People will also stop growing taller in the US, which was linked by the study to nutrition in early life.

7 The researchers said that the predictions presented big challenges for pensions and the cost of caring for the elderly. Prof Ezzati stated: "The fact that we will continue to live longer means we need to think about strengthening the health and social care systems to support an ageing population with multiple health needs."

8 Japan, despite a reputation for longevity, will fall sharply down the global rankings. It currently has the world's highest life expectancy for women, but will be overtaken by South Korea and France. Male life expectancy will drop from fourth to eleventh.

9 The gap in men and women's life expectancy will start to close in most countries. Men traditionally had more unhealthy lifestyles, as they smoked and drank more, had more road accidents and were killed more often, but as lifestyles have become more similar, so will the age they live to.

10 The study did not look at unpredictable events such as a breakthrough vaccine for cancer which would dramatically alter the forecasts.

11 Prof Ezzati said that: "We repeatedly hear that improvements in human longevity are about to come to an end... (but) I don't believe we're anywhere near the upper limit of life expectancy - if there even is one."

Sources: BBC News, The Telegraph



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4. Checking understanding

Read the text again and put 'T' (True) or 'F' (False) next to each statement below.

1. People in Korea will live longer because they rarely drink alcohol.
2. The average age people will live to in America will go down because of inequality in the country.
3. Men and women now have comparable lifestyles.
4. The study considered how unexpected events might change life expectancy predictions.
5. Researchers think that there is a fixed limit on how long we can live for.

5. Find the words

Find a word or phrase in the text which means...

1. the food that you eat and how your body uses it to keep healthy and grow (*noun, P.4*): _____
2. the state of being extremely overweight (*noun, P.6*): _____
3. existing everywhere (*adj, P.6*): _____
4. go down by a large amount (*collocation, P.8*): _____
5. significantly change (*phrase, P.10*): _____
6. very important, groundbreaking (*adj., P.10*): _____

6. Collocations

Match the adjectives on the left to the nouns on the right to make collocations from the text.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. emerging | a. blood pressure |
| 2. ageing | b. countries |
| 3. unpredictable | c. events |
| 4. low | d. people |
| 5. elderly | e. population |
| 6. lead | f. researcher |

Now make your own sentences using these phrases.

7. Talking Point (to be discussed with teachers)

1. Are you surprised by any of the results of the study? Why/why not?
2. What do you think people's life expectancy in your country will be by 2030? Why?
3. Do you think that the study's predictions will come true? Why/why not?