

43.Retirement

As people get grayer they become more interested in planning for their retirement. Once upon a time, old folks were taken care of by their children. But now, only a few want to spend their "second life" being coddled by their kids; instead many want to pursue their own interests without being burdened by their progeny, maybe for the first time in their adult lives. But of course they think financial independence is necessary. As a result, a movement is afoot for the creation of more jobs for the elderly, and some aggressive oldsters are even demanding that the retirement age be lifted or made voluntary.

Experience and dependability are pointed to as good reasons for hiring older people. One problem with hiring or keeping additional old workers, though, is that fewer jobs than are available for the young, who possibly need them even more-or else they will continue to depend on their parents to support them until employed. It seems that, whichever course they pursue, the old ones just can't gain their independence from their offspring.

Comprehension

1. What do you suppose "second life" refers to?
2. What special qualities do old people bring to the workplace?
3. How many synonyms for "old" can you find?

Your opinion

1. What plans do you have for your retirement?
2. How are you preparing for your retirement?
3. Instead of living alone or with your kids, would you prefer to live in a retirement home?
4. Do you want to live with your grown-up children when you retire? Or do you want to live with your spouse only? Or by yourself?
5. Will you ask your children to give you money every month when you retire?
6. What do you think about a law which forces grown-ups to take care of their parents?





7. What do you think about extending the retirement age? To what age?
8. Do you think your savings will be enough to provide you with a cozy retirement? Or are you afraid of political or economic fluctuations?
9. Do you believe the Social Trust Fund will fulfill its promises, as the government guarantees?
10. What would you do if the retirement fund went bust in the future?

