
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Take Away English 隨身英語

An ageing population

人口老齡化



詞彙 : age 年齡老化

There's one thing for certain – we're all getting older. And while the older amongst us may be **no spring chickens** any more, growing old **gracefully** is no bad thing. And with age comes **wisdom**. However, as the world population **ages**, will there be enough people to replace our younger selves?

A situation where there are more old people than young certainly has an effect on the world. A report by the Pew Research Center says that globally the number of people over 65 years old will triple by 2050, drastically altering some countries' **demographic make-up**.

This growing and **dependent** population means that there is an increased demand for health and **social care**. Governments will struggle to provide satisfactory **pensions**, which are ultimately funded by taxes paid by the **working population**. And long-term, a smaller population of economically-active people may be a problem for companies trying to recruit staff.

Attitudes to an **ageing population** vary around the world. The Pew Research Center survey found that 87% of Japanese people were most concerned about it, while only 26% of people from the USA were. Here, immigration is helping to boost the younger workforce. Some countries thought **the elderly** should take care of themselves, while others thought it was the responsibility of the family. Many thought the government should be responsible.

But **old age** shouldn't just be seen negatively. Elderly people have knowledge and experience they can **pass on**. Some have wealth which they can spend, helping the economy. And some help society by doing voluntary or charity work. Of course, solutions are needed to tackle the issue, and these include increasing the **retirement age**, encouraging people to save for the future, persuading skilled and educated migrants to fill labour shortages, or even convincing people to have more children.

詞彙表

no spring chicken

不再年輕

gracefully

優雅地，體面地

wisdom	智慧
age	變老，老齡化
demographic make-up	人口構成
dependent	需要被贍養的，依賴他人生活的
social care	社會護理服務
pension	養老金
working population	勞動人口
ageing population	老齡化人口
the elderly	老人，上了年紀的人
old age	老齡，老年
pass on	傳授
retirement age	退休年齡

測驗與練習

1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. According to research, what will happen to the number of over 65-year-olds by 2050?
2. Who funds the pensions paid out by governments?
3. Who do people think should take care of the elderly?
4. True or false? *Skilled migrants can help overcome the problems of a shrinking workforce.*
5. What can elderly people do with the experience and knowledge they have?

2. 選擇意思恰當的單詞或片語來完成下列句子。

1. The professor was known for her experience and _____.

pensions	wisdom	pass on	dependant
----------	--------	---------	-----------

2. I'm planning for my _____ by saving money every month.

old age	elderly	retirement age	pass on
---------	---------	----------------	---------

3. Although incredibly _____, my 90-year-old grandma has such a wonderful spirit.

depending	dependable	dependent	depends
-----------	------------	-----------	---------

4. I'm going to _____ my knowledge of baking to my children.

gracefully	wisdom	old age	pass on
------------	--------	---------	---------

5. A special grocery delivery service has been set up to help the _____ in the community.

old age	elderly	pension	retirement age
---------	---------	---------	----------------

答案

1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. According to research, what will happen to the number of over 65-year-olds by 2050?

A report by the Pew Research Center says that globally, the number of people over 65 years old will triple by 2050.

2. Who funds the pensions paid out by governments?

Governments provide pensions which are ultimately funded by taxes paid by the working population.

3. Who do people think should take care of the elderly?

It varies. Some think they should take care of themselves, while others believe it should be the family's job. Many think it's the government's responsibility.

4. True or false? *Skilled migrants can help overcome the problems of a shrinking workforce.*

True. Encouraging skilled and educated migrants can fill labour shortages.

5. What can elderly people do with the experience and knowledge they have?

Elderly people have knowledge and experience they can pass on.

2. 選擇意思恰當的單詞或片語來完成下列句子。

1. The professor was known for her experience and **wisdom**.

2. I'm planning for my **old age** by saving money every month.

3. Although incredibly **dependent**, my 90-year-old grandma has such a wonderful spirit.

4. I'm going to **pass on** my knowledge of baking to my children.

5. A special grocery delivery service has been set up to help the **elderly** in the community.