

I. (Article from Parade Magazine)

Missing children grab headlines, but missing elderly are far more common.

About 3 million Americans with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia **go missing** each year.

Some 95% of **wanderers** are found within a quarter mile of their last location.

However, if an elderly person is not found within 24 hours, there is a 50% chance that he will suffer a serious injury or die.

Now ten states around the country are using a Silver Alert program.

This is **patterned** after the Amber Alerts for missing children.

Texas has issued 45 Silver Alerts within the last year.

Four missing seniors died and 31 returned or were found.

Given the great number of wanderers, some say the alert system could become **inundated**.

The number of seniors with Alzheimer's is expected to triple by 2050.

Some seniors are now wearing id bracelets with their name, address and phone number on them.

When wanderers are found, their id bracelets allow their **caregivers** to be contacted.

*II. Use these words to fill in the blanks in the sentences. You may have to change the tense of the verb.***grab, elderly, dementia, wander, alert, contact, inundate**

1. I'll be there in a minute, I need to _____ my purse.
2. We _____ through the mall for an hour while we waited for John.
3. My grandmother suffers from _____ and will sometimes _____ off.
4. I don't think _____ people get enough support from their families.
5. Will you _____ me if you see my grandmother?
6. My grandmother is much more _____ now that she is off her pain medication.
7. That headline really _____ my attention.
8. I _____ the doctor to her condition.
9. Not all _____ people have _____.
10. I haven't been in _____ with my family for many years.
11. The office was _____ with applications when we announced we were hiring.
12. After a good night's sleep, I am much more _____ in class?
13. An _____ woman stopped to ask me for directions to the hospital.
14. The waves caused by the hurricane _____ the island of Galveston.
15. I'll _____ the police that my grandfather is missing.
16. A new student _____ into the class after we had begun.

III. CONVERSATION PRACTICE: Read this conversation between a father and son. Discuss words or phrases you don't understand.

Dad I think it's time you and Mom moved to an assisted living center.

I don't want to go to a nursing home and neither does your mom.

I think you have the wrong idea about the assisted living center. It's not like a nursing home where you have one little room.

We like having our own furniture and things around us.

At the assisted living center you can have your own things. You rent a small apartment. We'll move your own furniture in and hang your own pictures on the wall.

What would we do with the rest of our furniture? We have a three bedroom house now. We couldn't fit all that into a small apartment.

You're right. You would have to sell some of your furniture.

I suppose we could give some of our things to the grandkids. They need furniture now that they are starting out on their own.

I'm sure the grandkids would love some of your furniture. And you would know it was being appreciated and cared for.

I'm still not sure about this.

One of the nice things about the assisted living center is that you can either cook your own meals or go down to the dining room for a meal prepared by the staff.

Your mom would sure like that. She really hates to cook these days. She can't remember to buy the right ingredients when she's at the store. She gets half way through a recipe and discovers she doesn't have some ingredient she needs. It's really frustrating for her.

I've heard the food is really good at the assisted living center. I'd like to take you and mom over for a visit and they will allow us to stay for dinner. That way you can see what the place looks like and check out their food.

I still don't think we're ready to leave our home. We've lived here for thirty years. You kids grew up here. It would be too hard to leave it.

I know it's hard to make a change, Dad. But, I worry about the two of you living here alone. Mom's beginning to have dementia and you're back bothers you a lot these days. This house is too much for the two of you to keep up. At the assisted living center you could spend your days playing dominos and socializing with the other residents instead of cleaning the house and taking care of the yard.

Son, I know you have our best interests at heart. But we love this house and we have good neighbors all around us. I enjoy mowing the lawn and putting around in the garden. I've talked to your mom about a maid and she's agreed to have someone come in once a week to help her. I think, for now, we'd prefer to stay here at home.

OK, Dad. Just think about what I said. It may be something that you'll need to do in the future.

Questions:

What do you think of this conversation? Would you ever have a conversation like this with your parents. What should the son do if the parents get worse and can't handle living alone? Should he force them to move out of their home?

IV. Discussion:

1. Would you ever send your parents to a nursing home?
2. Would you enjoy having your elderly parents live with you?
3. In your country, are you expected to have your parents move in with you when they are elderly?
4. In your country, does the government provide help in caring for elderly parents?
5. Do you have senior day care in your country?
6. Do you think senior citizens are discriminated against?
7. Do you have someone in your family with dementia?
8. Do you worry what will happen to you when you get old?
9. Tell a memory you have of your grandparent.
10. Are your parents involved in your children's lives?