

**Pronunciation: Have the students practice saying these word pairs. Talk about the change in the vowel or consonant sounds.**

dose - rose      do - go      tough - cough      thorough - through      threat - treat  
 shirt - shift      blind - blend      chick - check      past - pasta      clouds - crowds      love - move  
 grease (noun form) - cheese      even - seven      head - lead (verb form)      round - wound (injury)

**Teachers: These paragraphs are a continuation of last week's lesson. Have the students take turns reading them and leading a discussion to answer the questions. (Teachers told me they didn't finish last weeks lesson, so I included the last few paragraphs. If your students have already read these, move on.)**

9. Age 65 marks the official senior citizen age-the legal age at which you can retire and collect Social Security benefits. Though these days, the government encourages people to work much longer by providing higher monthly benefits if you postpone retirement. What is the retirement age in your country? Does your country provide benefits to retirees? Is running out of money after you retire a serious concern in your country?

10. There are several names for elderly people including, "old timer", "old folks" or "old as the hills". More negative terms include: geezer and codger. Sometimes older women are referred to as "little old ladies". This is because sometimes, people shrink as they age. In the U.S., ageism is a big problem. That is the idea that someone who is older is no longer competent and useful. Studies show businesses discriminate against older people in hiring much more than they discriminate by race or sex. Is this also a problem in your country? Are there any solutions to this problem?

11. The period of old age can be referred to as, "twilight years", "golden years" or "autumn of one's life". Though these are pleasant descriptors, many Americans feel that the last few years of life are far from being "golden". Indeed, these years are frequently marked by ill health and lost independence. It is not common here for older parents to move in with their children as it is in some countries. Those who cannot live alone are encouraged to go to "assisted living centers" or "skilled nursing facilities". Though in the past, these places could be very grim, nowadays there are many luxurious living centers where seniors can enjoy a large degree of independence, but have someone there to help out with some of their needs. But these places are very expensive and available only to those who can afford to spend from three to ten thousand dollars a month. How does this compare with conditions for seniors in your country?

12. Certain life stages are referred to as "an age". For example, "awkward age" refers to adolescence at the time of puberty. EX: He's thirteen and at that awkward age. At this stage, adolescents feel their noses and ears are too big, and they feel very clumsy and awkward. Are your memories from this age (12-14) bad or good?

13. An "in-between age" is a period of transition. For example, an adolescent moving into their older teens. Underage refers to a person who is not old enough to legally do activities such as driving, voting or drinking. EX: There's not much for underage kids to do at night. The restaurant can lose its liquor license if it serves alcohol to underage students.

14. The voting age is 18. College age is 18-22 when many students attend college. A "ripe old age" refers to someone quite old. EX: He lived to the ripe old age of 90. A "gray panther" is an elderly person who strongly seeks to protect their rights as they age. A "cougar" is a disparaging reference to a woman who dates much younger men. Do you have "cougars" in your country? How do people feel about age differences in dating couples?

15. Someone who ages gracefully, continues to look youthful and have a youthful attitude as they age, without acting inappropriately for their age. For example, a woman who continued to take care with their looks and clothes would be aging gracefully. A woman in her 80's wearing mini-skirts would not be aging

gracefully. Neither would a woman who “lets herself go” and no longer pays attention to her hygiene and looks.

16. If you are told to “act your age”, it means, act appropriately. This term generally applies to someone who is acting too young.

17. If you “look your age” or “show your age”, you appear to be aging. EX: Look at all my wrinkles. I’m starting to show my age.

18. A person who is “ageless” doesn’t show their age. For example, they might be in their 50’s or in their 80’s. EX: She is so active and involved in the community that she seems ageless.

19. A “generation gap” is the lack of understanding between one generation and another. It was a term used in the 60’s to describe hippies and their parents who served in World War II and tended to be very conservative and responsible. These responsible people had a hard time understanding their “free love” hippie children. Did your country experience this large generation gap in the sixties? Do you feel there is a large generation gap now between young people and their grandparents? Do you feel like your grandparents understand you better than your parents do?

### **Discussion Questions (continued from last week)**

1. As a general rule, are young people more selfish than older people? Give an example to support your belief.
2. Is it better for kids to learn of the dangers of life themselves, or should they be repeatedly warned against drinking, drugs and sexual promiscuity?
3. At what age can young people drive, drink, vote and serve in the military in your country? Do you think any of the age limits should be changed?
4. Should people be forced to retire by age 65 in order to provide work opportunities for the younger generations?
5. Do you feel like most older people are hopelessly out of touch with the modern age? Do the elderly people you know feel comfortable with texting, tweeting and streaming?
6. Does it scare you when you notice that your parents are aging? For example, when I was in college, my dad came to pick me up from the airport. I hadn’t seen him for several months. As he rested his hand on the gear shift, I noticed all the age spots and wrinkles on his hands. It shocked me and made me really sad to realize he was growing old. I really wanted him to stay young and vibrant like he was when I was a child. Have you had a similar experience?
7. What is something you learned from an older person?
8. Are your parents very engaged in caring for your children?
9. Are your children as close to their grandparents as you were to your own grandparents?
10. What do you think of older people who wear trendy clothes?
11. Is age just a “state of mind”?
12. Many countries are facing an aging population where there are not enough young working people to help support the elderly. Many countries encourage immigration to have enough workers to keep their economy growing. Is this a problem in your country?
13. Is it acceptable for young adults to expect continued financial support from their parents even into their late twenties?
14. How would you feel about moving back in with your parents after you are married?
15. What is the best thing about your parents?
16. In the Brexit vote this year, many young people blamed the older British people for voting to leave the EU. The younger people said, “you are betraying us.” Younger people in general wanted to be more connected to Europe and have the freedom to move and work across borders. They also are more comfortable with a more diverse culture. The same feelings were prevalent in the recent U.S. presidential election where “angry, old, white men” were frequently blamed for the rise of Trump. Do you see this generational political divide in your country?