

More and more 70-year-olds working

10th November, 2015



People are working to an older age in Britain. The number of 70-74 year-old people who work has doubled in the past decade. Around 10 per cent of British people in their early 70s are now working. It is the highest figure since records began. The British government says just over a quarter of a million 70-74-year-olds currently have jobs. In 2005, there were around 100,000 of them. The government said people are working to an older age and are deciding to retire later. A labour union spokesperson said the reason for people working in their old age is because retirement pensions in Britain are becoming more difficult to live on. Many older people have to work and delay retirement to be able to survive.

Employment spokesman Frances O'Grady said: "The last decade has seen [big] changes in the labour market, with far more people working beyond retirement age. While there are plenty who enjoy remaining in work, many need to earn extra cash because they cannot afford to retire." He added that: "We need decent jobs and pensions for all so that people can make a genuine choice about whether they remain in work." A spokesman for small businesses, John Allan, said more older people were starting their own businesses. He said: "More and more older people are [deciding on] a career change later in life and are starting up their own businesses, pursuing something they may have dreamed of doing for years."

Sources: home.bt.com / itv.com

Writing

Everyone should retire in their 60s. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

working / doubled / highest figure / a quarter / retire / pensions / more difficult / decade / labour market / retirement age / pensions / small businesses / career change

True / False

- The number of 70-year-olds working in Britain doubled last year. T / F
- Almost 20% of 70-74-year-olds in Britain have jobs. T / F
- In 2005, there were 100,000 working 70-74-year-olds in Britain. T / F
- People in Britain are retiring later in order to survive. T / F
- Many older people in Britain work because they need extra cash. T / F
- People need good pensions so they can choose whether to work or not. T / F
- Fewer and fewer older people are starting their own businesses. T / F
- Fewer 70-74-year-olds are deciding on a career change. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. number | a. additional |
| 2. records | b. presently |
| 3. currently | c. put off |
| 4. deciding | d. past |
| 5. delay | e. total |
| 6. big | f. choosing |
| 7. beyond | g. huge |
| 8. extra | h. beginning |
| 9. genuine | i. reports |
| 10. starting | j. real |

Discussion – Student A

- How bad is it that people cannot afford to retire?
- What do you like and dislike about your job?
- Would you like to work beyond retirement age?
- Why might young people be angry with old people working?
- Would you like to start your own business?
- How many different careers would you like?
- What have you dreamed of doing for years?
- What questions would you like to ask a 74-year-old worker?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. People are working to an
 2. The number of 70-74 year-old people who
 3. in the past
 4. retirement
 5. delay retirement to be
 6. Employment
 7. working beyond retirement
 8. they cannot afford
 9. starting their
 10. something they may have dreamed
- a. spokesman
 - b. able to survive
 - c. own businesses
 - d. work has doubled
 - e. age
 - f. decade
 - g. of doing for years
 - h. older age in Britain
 - i. pensions
 - j. to retire

Discussion – Student B

- a) At what age do you want to stop working?
- b) What is the best retirement age?
- c) What are people in their 70s good at?
- d) Is it wrong for people in their 70s to work?
- e) What are the good and bad things about working?
- f) What are the difficulties for people when they retire?
- g) How important is a pension?
- h) What happens if old people do not have a pension?

Spelling

1. people who work has duedolb
2. in the past eeacdd
3. It is the highest egifru
4. a eaurrqt of a million
5. deciding to rieret later
6. be able to sveruiv
7. working yobnde retirement
8. plenty who enjoy nreainmig in work
9. jobs and iesspnno
10. make a ngeuein choice
11. a acrree change
12. starting up their own eisbenuss

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. i	3. b	4. f	5. c
6. g	7. d	8. a	9. j	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Software engineer

You think a software engineer is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these jobs of these (and why): English teacher, a nurse or a gardener.

Role B – English teacher

You think an English teacher is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these jobs of these (and why): software engineer, a nurse or a gardener.

Role C – Nurse

You think a nurse is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these jobs of these (and why): an English teacher, software engineer or a gardener.

Role D – Gardener

You think a gardener is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these jobs of these (and why): an English teacher, a nurse or software engineer.

Speaking – Jobs

Rank these with your partner. Put the best jobs at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- software engineer
- English teacher
- police officer
- taxi driver
- nurse
- sales assistant
- flight attendant
- gardener

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.