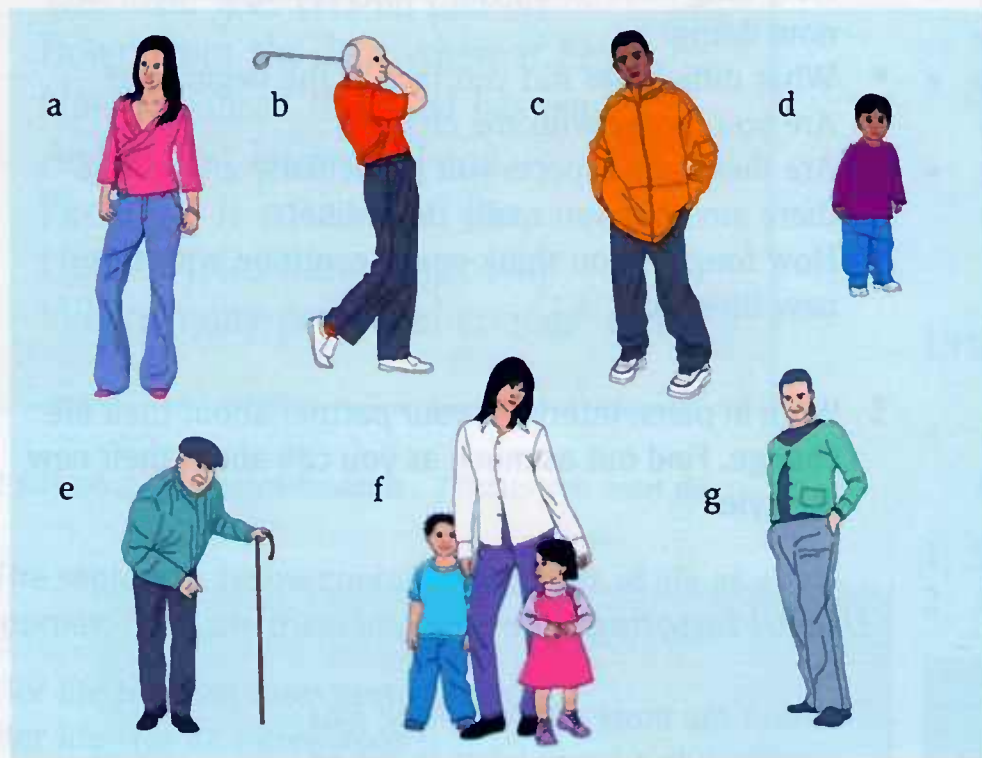


7B | Happy birthday

SPEAKING & VOCABULARY: life stages

1 Match the sentences 1–7 to the pictures a–g.



- 1 He retired many years ago and lives in a home for the **elderly**.
- 2 He's a **pensioner** now, but he's still very active.
- 3 He's a **toddler**.
- 4 He's a typical **adolescent**.
- 5 She's **middle-aged**, probably in her late forties or early fifties.
- 6 She's still a **teenager**, but she's very adult in some ways.
- 7 She's **thirty something** and she's got two young children.

2 Use the words in bold in exercise 1 to make sentences about people you know. Talk about these people with a partner.

3 Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.

- Which stage of life do you associate with the following adjectives: wise, rebellious, overworked, lively, irresponsible, happy, bored?
- Which stage are you in at the moment? What are the advantages and disadvantages of being your age?
- Which stage are you most looking forward to? Why?

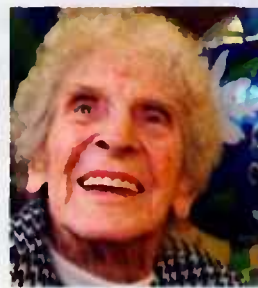
READING

1 You are going to read an article about a woman who is celebrating her 110th birthday. Answer the questions.

- 1 How do you think she's going to celebrate her birthday?
- 2 In what way has the world changed since she was a young girl? What do you think are the changes that have shocked her most?

2 Read the article and compare your ideas to the information in the article. Has Maria led a happy life?

Maria prepares to celebrate her 110th birthday



Maria Pettigrew says the odd drop of sherry in the evening has helped her live so long.

Scotland's oldest woman, who has lived in three centuries, is today celebrating her 110th birthday.

Maria Pettigrew explains that her

- recipe for a long life is a simple diet, not smoking and the odd drop of sherry in the evenings.
- 10 Her friends and family have been preparing a special party for her at the hospital where she lives. She wants to look good for her birthday and she has been putting together a special outfit for the occasion. Speaking from the hospital, she said: 'My nurse has taken me out
- 15 shopping a couple of times, once to buy shoes and once to order a new wedding ring, because this one is getting a bit loose.'

Maria was born one of four children in Liberton, Edinburgh, to policeman Andrew Scougall and mother Helen. She left school at fourteen to work on a farm, where she met the two loves of her life. At nineteen, she married one of them, farm worker William McCardle. Her secret admirer, Tom Pettigrew, was heartbroken and he left for Australia to set up a new home.

25 Shortly after the First World War William died in a flu epidemic. Maria brought up their three children on her own until thirteen years later when Tom returned from Melbourne. He confessed his secret love to Maria and the pair were married for 42 years.

30 Maria says: 'I've only had two boyfriends and they were both decent men. Two happy marriages – what more could a woman ask for?'

Maria keeps in good health, although her eyesight is beginning to fail. She lived in her own home, doing her own cooking and housework until five years ago, when she moved to the hospital.

Maria was born before telephones, televisions and washing machines were invented. Of all the changes she has lived through she says that 'the most extraordinary thing I ever saw was a motor car. I had never seen one before. I was so shocked I fell in a ditch.'

Maria has six grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren and they have all been helping with the preparations for the party. Maria is sure she will enjoy sharing her birthday cake with her children, grandchildren and the rest of her family and friends today. Though no doubt they'll have to help her blow out all those candles!

3 Read the article again and put the topics in the correct order.

- Maria's childhood
- her two husbands
- Maria's secret for a long life
- Maria's health
- the changes that Maria has seen
- preparations for her birthday party

4 Work in pairs, A and B. Test your partner's memory.

A: Turn to page 128. Ask your partner the questions.

B: Turn to page 131. Ask your partner the questions.

5 Would you like to live to be 110 years old? Why or why not?

GRAMMAR: present perfect continuous 2

Use the present perfect continuous

- to talk about an action that has been in progress recently. The action may or may not still be in progress.
They've been planning the party for weeks.
They've been decorating the living room.

- to emphasize an action, or the duration of an action.
They've been writing invitations all day.

Use the present perfect simple (not the continuous)

- to talk about the result of an action.
They've written more than a hundred invitations.
- to talk about single, completed actions.
They've ordered a special birthday cake.
She's bought a new pair of shoes.

➤ FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE, SEE PAGE 24

➤ SEE LANGUAGE REFERENCE PAGE 74

1 Complete the text. Put the verbs in brackets into the present perfect simple or continuous.

It's my mum and dad's golden wedding anniversary next weekend. We (1) _____ (*arrange*) a surprise party for them for the last three months. We (2) _____ (*book*) a room in a local hotel and we (3) _____ (*order*) an enormous cake with a photo of their wedding on top. We (4) _____ (*work*) hard trying to get in touch with friends and family from all over the world and so far we (5) _____ (*receive*) more than 50 replies to our invitations. Mum and Dad suspect that we (6) _____ (*plan*) something special, but they don't really know what. I know that Mum (7) _____ (*think*) very carefully about their outfits. She (8) _____ (*buy*) a new dress and she (9) _____ (*persuade*) my dad that he needs a new suit.

2 Work in pairs. Look at the picture. Write as many sentences as possible to say what the people have been doing recently.

They've been preparing food for the party.



SPEAKING

1 Work in two groups, A and B. You are going to talk about the changes that have taken place in your lifetime.

Group A: Look at the questions on page 128.

Group B: Look at the questions on page 131.

2 Use your notes and the Useful language to help you report back to the class on your discussion.

Useful language

Our group has been discussing ...

We spent a lot of time talking about ...

We think that the biggest changes have been ...

We agreed that the ...

We thought it was particularly interesting that ...