

Pre-Reading Activities

A: Vocabulary

Match the words from today's article with their meanings.

- parents, shock, hospital, mistake, amused, pensioner
1. someone who receives a pension because they are too old to work
 2. a very bad surprise
 3. your mother and father
 4. to do something that is wrong
 5. to think something is funny
 6. a place you go when you are hurt or sick

Glossary: pension - money they get from the government or a company they worked for

B: Discussion

Look at the picture on the right.

What is the man doing?

What do you think today's article is about?



Reading Activities

A: Reading for Overall Understanding

Read today's article quickly and choose the best answer below. Do not use your dictionary.

What is today's article about?

1. A hospital phoned and told a 3-year-old boy to bring his parents with him when he went to hospital.
2. A hospital phoned and told a 103-year-old man to bring his parents with him when he went to hospital.

Please Bring Your Parents

LONDON Wed July 31 (Reuters) - British pensioner Joseph Dickinson, 103, had a shock when his local hospital phoned him to ask him to come in for an eye test and told him to bring his parents.

"I must be getting younger, in fact much younger," he told his local paper, the Hartlepool Mail.

Joseph Dickinson was born in 1899, but because the hospital computer only read the last two numbers it mistook his age

as just three years old.

"It was a mistake," a **spokesman** for City Hospitals Sunderland told Reuters by telephone from northern England on Tuesday.

"I think he was quite amused when he explained to the person at the hospital why he couldn't bring his mother and father with him."

ARTICLE © REUTERS LIMITED. LESSON © WWW.ENGLISH-TO-GO.COM

Glossary: spokesman - a person who speaks for a group

B: Writing and Answering Questions

Part One

Here are some questions about the article. Put the words into the correct order.

1. the / What / is / name / pensioner's ?

2. old / How / he / is ?

3. did / the / hospital / Why / phone / him ?

4. What / the / did / hospital / him / tell ?

5. the / hospital / Why / did / to / bring / his / parents / tell / him ?

6. he / the / hospital / How / did / feel / when / phoned / him ?

Check your work in pairs.

Part Two

Read the article again and answer your questions. Write your answers in the spaces below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Part Three

Work with a partner and take turns to ask and answer the questions until you can do it without looking at your paper.

C: Fluency

Work in pairs and read the text below. Once you have read it, practice it until you can say the paragraph without looking at the paper.

Your partner can look at the paper and help you to remember the words. Do this until you can both say it without stopping or making a mistake.

Joseph Dickinson is 103 years old and is a pensioner. A hospital phoned him to ask him to come in for an eye test and told him to bring his parents. The hospital computer only read the last two numbers of his birth year, 1899. It was a mistake. Joseph Dickinson felt shocked and then amused.

D: Writing

Write the paragraph again below using full stops (.), commas (,), capital letters, articles (a / an / the) and the correct verb forms.

Joseph Dickinson / be / 103 year / old / and / be / pensioner / hospital / phone / him / to ask him / to come / in / for / eye test / and / tell / him / to bring / his parents / hospital / computer / only / read / last / two numbers / of / his / birth year, 1899 / it be / mistake / Joseph Dickinson / feel / shocked / and / then / amused



Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

A: Language

Below are some verbs in their base forms. Look in today's article and find their past simple form. (One is done for you as an example.)

Base form of verb	Past simple form of verb
have	had
phone	
tell	
be	
read	
mistake	
explain	

B: Word Find

Find these words from today's article in the puzzle.

pensioner

shock

mistake

amused

hospital

computer

bring

M	C	A	M	U	S	E	D	R
I	R	O	X	Z	O	Z	E	A
S	K	C	M	X	E	N	F	F
T	C	T	G	P	O	M	K	A
A	O	H	R	I	U	G	Z	G
K	H	E	S	R	H	T	L	I
E	S	N	W	D	F	C	E	X
J	E	B	R	I	N	G	X	R
P	H	O	S	P	I	T	A	L

C: Vocabulary

Work with a partner and ask and answer these questions.

1. Do you have pensioners in your country?
If yes, at what age can people retire (stop working)?
If no, who looks after them?
2. Think about one time when you had a shock?
What happened?
3. Where do your parents live?
What do they do?
4. What is a silly mistake you have made?
5. What amuses you?



TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

Pre-Reading Activities

A: Vocabulary - Answers

1. pensioner, 2. shock, 3. parents, 4. mistake, 5. amused, 6. hospital

B: Discussion - Notes

This activity can also be done as a class discussion.

Reading Activities

A: Reading for Overall Understanding - Notes

(At some point in the lesson you may like to go over the error that the hospital computer made with students to make sure they understand it. This will increase their enjoyment of the article.)

A: Reading for Overall Understanding - Answer

The best answer is 2.

B: Writing and Answering Questions - Notes

You will need to check the questions and answers of students for Part One and Part Two before the students go on to do Part Three.

For Part Three, students try to ask and answer the questions enough times in pairs so that they can do the activity without referring to their questions and answers. One student asks the questions, the other answers them and they then swap roles, once they have demonstrated that they have memorized the text. For variety they can change partners once or twice. Students should face their partners when doing this part of the activity. In a one to one situation you can work with the student.

B: Writing and Answering Questions - Answers

Part One

1. What is the pensioner's name?
2. How old is he?
3. Why did the hospital phone him?
4. What did the hospital tell him?
5. Why did the hospital tell him to bring his parents?
6. How did he feel when the hospital phoned him?

Part Two

1. Joseph Dickinson
2. 103
3. To ask him to come in for an eye test.
4. To bring his parents with him.
5. Because the computer only read the last two numbers of the year of his birth date.
6. shocked and then amused (You may need to explain to students that 'shocked' is the adjective, 'shock' is the noun.)

C: Fluency - Notes

Like the previous activity, it is preferable if the students are facing each other while they are doing the activity. After the students become fairly confident, it is good to ask the students to time each other to see how quickly they can say the text without mistakes. You can take time to focus on pronunciation, intonation and stress if you wish. You could make it into a class competition.

D: Writing - Notes

Ask your students to not look back at the text given in Reading Activity C. Once the students have done the activity, they can then swap their writing with their partner's and peer correct. The students can self-check by referring to the text in Reading Activity C.

D: Writing - Answers

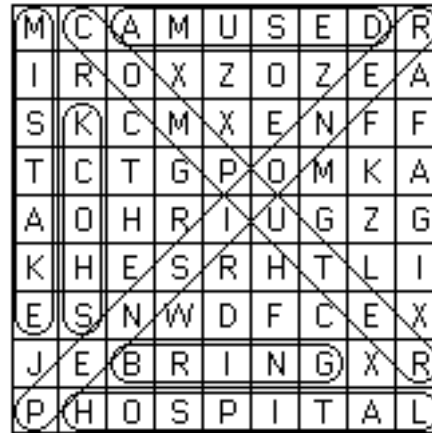
Joseph Dickinson is 103 years old and is a pensioner. A hospital phoned him to ask him to come in for an eye test and told him to bring his parents. The hospital computer only read the last two numbers of his birth year, 1899. It was a mistake. Joseph Dickinson felt shocked and then amused.

Post-Reading Activities

A: Language - Answers

have - had
phone - phoned
tell - told
be - was
read - read
mistake - mistook
explain - explained

B: Word Find - Answers



C: Vocabulary - Notes

If you feel your students need some help, you could provide them with these prompts for questions 4 and 5. (Write them up on the board.) You could then model them by answering them first yourself.

4. What is a silly mistake you have made?
e.g. A silly mistake I made was when.... or e.g. I forgot my lunch yesterday.
5. What amuses you?
e.g. I am amused by... or e.g. I think ... is/are funny.