

Getting older

a song by Alan Smith Robertson

<https://youtu.be/nkAgeVzxix0>

Pre-listening activities

- Put the following stages of life in the correct order:
 - adolescence
 - middle age
 - infancy
 - the senior years / old age
 - adulthood
 - childhood
- What stage of life are you in?
 - Would you like to be older?
 - Or maybe you wish you were young again?
 - Are you worried about getting old?

You are going to listen to a song.

Can any of the words or phrases in the lyrics below be substituted with the word “get”?

I rise from bed at seven,
I have to go to school,
And when I arrive there they'll teach me
how to follow the rules

I get up at seven

I'm becoming desperate for a girl, when she's around I feel nervous,
I have problems with police, they say my life is worthless.

Now I've aged a little,
I found a job, became married, I bought new digs,
I don't relate well with my girlfriends,
And I can't communicate with my kids.

I think I'm putting on weight and I'm losing my hair,
But I just bought a brand new car so I don't care.

I'm becoming weak, becoming tired,
I'm well past my prime,
I receive a visit from my children,
But only from time to time.

The days are becoming shorter, the days are becoming colder,
My life's coming to an end, it's a weight on my shoulders.

Now listen to check

Post-listening activities

The song talks about three stages of life. What are the main elements of each stage mentioned in the song? Do you agree?

- Childhood / adolescence

- Adulthood / middle age

- Old age

Can you think of any other advantages or disadvantages about being in each stage of life?

From the third verse, what do you think the phrase “I’m past my prime” means?

What time do you get up?

What have you got to do today?

What do you get nervous about?

Are you married? When did you get married? Are you divorced?

Do you get on well with people?

Do you have a car? Maybe a scooter or bicycle? When did you get it?

When was your last birthday? Did you get anything interesting? What about for christmas?

Getting older

A song by Alan Smith Robertson, designed to practice uses of the verb “to get”

<https://youtu.be/nkAgeVzxix0>

Teacher's answer sheet. Length: approximately 40 minutes

notice: Both the song and this worksheet are designed for intermediate level students. You can and should adapt the exercises according to your students' level.

Pre-listening activities

- Put the following stages of life in the correct order:
 - adolescence
 - middle age
 - infancy
 - the senior years / old age
 - adulthood
 - childhood
 - infancy*
 - childhood*
 - adolescence*
 - adulthood*
 - middle age*
 - the senior years / old age*
- What stage of life are you in?
 - Would you like to be older? Or maybe you wish you were young again?
 - Are you worried about getting old?

You are going to listen to a song.

Can any of the words or phrases in the lyrics below be substituted with the word “get”?

Notice: there are a lot of examples of the verb “get” here, so you may want to play the song twice

I **get up** at seven
I've **got** to **get** to school
And when I **get** there they'll teach me
how to follow the rules

*Notice: “I've got to” means “I have to”
“get to school” means “arrive at school”*

I'm **getting** desperate for a girl, when she's around I **get** nervous
I **get in trouble** with police, they say my life is worthless

Now I've **got** a little older,
I **got** a job, **got** married, I **got** new digs
I don't **get on well with** my girlfriends
And I can't **get through to** my kids

Notice: “digs” is an informal term for “lodgings”

I think I'm **getting fat** and I'm losing my hair
But I just **got** a brand new car so I don't care

I'm **getting** weak, **getting** tired,
I'm well past my prime
I **get** a visit from my children
But only from time to time

The days are **getting** shorter, the days are **getting** colder
My life's coming to an end, it's a weight on my shoulders

Post-listening activities

The song talks about three stages of life. What are the main elements of each stage mentioned in the song? Do you agree?

- Childhood / adolescence
 - You get up early*
 - You have to go to school*
 - You have problems relating to girls*
 - Because you are rebellious, you have problems with authority (like the police)*
- Adulthood / middle age
 - You get a job*
 - You get married*
 - You buy a house (with a mortgage)*
 - You still have problems in your personal relationships*
 - And now you have rebellious children who you find it hard to communicate with*
 - You also start to put on weight*
 - You go bald*
 - However, you also have financial freedom so you can buy things like cars*
- Old age
 - You start to feel weak and tired*
 - Your children ignore you*
 - You start to worry about death*

Can you think of any other advantages or disadvantages about being in each stage of life?

Here are some examples:

- Childhood / adolescence
 - In puberty your body is changing; this can be scary. You have time and energy, but no money. Nobody listens to you*
- Adulthood / middle age
 - You have no time; your work takes over your life. You worry about money.*
 - You're more independent and you have more freedom.*
- Old age
 - You have LOTS of free time.*
 - You get discounts; going to the public swimming pool or going by bus is cheaper.*
 - You worry about your health; your sight, your hearing, your muscles... etc.*
 - There are also mental and emotional changes.*
 - Elderly people experience the death of friends and loved ones more often*

From the third verse, what do you think the phrase "I'm past my prime" means?

To be beyond the peak of one's powers. To be losing mental and physical strength.

What time do you get up?

What have you got to do today?

What do you get nervous about?

Are you married? When did you get married? Are you divorced?

Do you get on well with people?

Do you have a car? Maybe a scooter or bicycle? When did you get it?

When was your last birthday? Did you get anything interesting? What about for Christmas?