

B1-B2 English Worksheet: Why Some Seniors Are Unretiring - 08

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Article

Many older people in the United States are working again after retirement. Some have gone back to work because prices are rising and their savings are not enough. Others want to stay busy, meet people and feel useful. A recent Associated Press report describes seniors who use apps to find flexible gig work, such as driving, dog walking or doing laundry for other people.

For some retirees, this kind of work has clear advantages. They can choose their hours, earn extra money and work only when they feel able to do it. However, gig work is not always easy. Older workers may have to pay for fuel, repairs or insurance themselves. They may also have no paid holiday, no sick pay and no regular income.

This trend raises important questions about retirement. If people live longer but cannot pay their bills, they may need to work for more years. At the same time, many older people still have experience, energy and skills to offer. The question is whether later-life work gives people freedom, or whether it shows that retirement is becoming harder to afford.

True/False

Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).

1. Some older people are working again after retirement.
2. The article says prices are falling for older people.
3. Some seniors use apps to find flexible gig work.
4. Gig work always gives older workers paid holiday and sick pay.
5. Some retirees like choosing their own hours.
6. Older gig workers never need to pay for fuel or repairs.
7. People may need to work for more years if they cannot pay their bills.
8. The article says older people have no skills to offer.

Phrase Match

Match the phrases (1-10) to the correct definitions (A-J).

Phrases (1-10)	Definitions (A-J)
1. working again	A. get work that changes easily with your life
2. gone back to work	B. things are becoming more expensive
3. prices are rising	C. have enough money for normal costs
4. stay busy	D. having a job again
5. find flexible gig work	E. decide when they work
6. choose their hours	F. continue working for a longer time
7. earn extra money	G. useful abilities that someone can give
8. pay their bills	H. returned to having a job
9. work for more years	I. get more money in addition to normal income
10. skills to offer	J. keep active and not have too much free time

Synonym Match

Match the words (1-10) to the correct synonyms (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. retirement	A. adaptable
2. savings	B. earnings
3. flexible	C. fixes
4. advantages	D. knowledge
5. repairs	E. pattern
6. regular	F. independence
7. income	G. stopping work
8. trend	H. benefits
9. experience	I. normal
10. freedom	J. money kept

Use the new language

Choose 5 words or phrases from the worksheet and write your own sentences.

Discussion Questions

Student A

1. Do many older people work after retirement in your country?
2. Would you like to stop working completely when you are older?
3. What jobs are good for older workers?
4. Would you like flexible work or regular work?
5. Why do some older people want to stay busy?
6. Is it easy to live on a pension where you live?
7. What skills can older workers offer?
8. Would you use an app to find extra work?

Student B

1. Is it a good or bad thing if more seniors work after retirement?
2. Should governments help older people more with money?
3. Is gig work safe enough for older workers?
4. What problems can older people have when they work again?
5. Do companies value older workers enough?
6. How might retirement change in the future?
7. Is working longer better than being bored at home?
8. What is more important in old age: freedom, money or health?

Answer Key

True/False: 1=T, 2=F, 3=T, 4=F, 5=T, 6=F, 7=T, 8=F

Phrase Match: 1=D, 2=H, 3=B, 4=J, 5=A, 6=E, 7=I, 8=C, 9=F, 10=G

Synonym Match: 1=G, 2=J, 3=A, 4=H, 5=C, 6=I, 7=B, 8=E, 9=D, 10=F

Example sentences with the phrases

1. My neighbour is working again because his pension is small.
2. She has gone back to work three days a week.
3. Prices are rising, so many families are spending carefully.
4. Some retired people volunteer because they want to stay busy.
5. Apps can help people find flexible gig work.
6. Many drivers like gig work because they can choose their hours.
7. He walks dogs to earn extra money.
8. Some seniors work because they need to pay their bills.
9. People may work for more years in the future.
10. Older workers have many skills to offer.