

SENIOR CITIZENS DAY

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/08/senior_citizens_day.html

CONTENTS:

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| The Reading / Tapescript | 2 |
| Phrase Match | 3 |
| Listening Gap Fill | 4 |
| Listening / Reading Gap Fill | 5 |
| Choose the Correct Word | 6 |
| Multiple Choice | 7 |
| Spelling | 8 |
| Put the Text Back Together | 9 |
| Scrambled Sentences | 10 |
| Discussion | 11 |
| Student Survey | 12 |
| Writing | 13 |
| Homework | 14 |

ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Senior Citizens Day is on August the 21st. It is a day to celebrate the world's older people. Their number is increasing rapidly every year. In 1950 there were 200 million people over 60 years old. That number nearly tripled to 600 million in 2000. Experts say that by 2025, there will be over 1 billion old folk. The day was started by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan. He said there should be a day for us to show our gratitude for what old people have achieved in their lives, and for their contributions to our communities and society. It is also a day on which we can focus on the rights of the aged all over the world. In today's world where equality is so important, there are many issues surrounding ageism.

There are many things we can do on Senior Citizens Day. Perhaps the first thing we should do is tell the older people in our lives how much we love them. We should thank them for all they have done for us. It is important to spend time with seniors, especially those who live alone, who may be lonely. Spending time with seniors shows them they are still appreciated. There are many things we can learn from them. They are full of wonderful stories of a different age. President Reagan said: "For all they have achieved throughout life and for all they continue to accomplish, we owe older citizens our thanks...We can best demonstrate our gratitude and esteem by making sure that our communities are good places in which to grow older."

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. a day to celebrate the world's | a. old people have achieved |
| 2. Their number is increasing | b. to 600 million |
| 3. That number nearly tripled | c. of the aged |
| 4. show our gratitude for what | d. older people |
| 5. focus on the rights | e. surrounding ageism |
| 6. there are many issues | f. rapidly every year |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. tell the older people in our lives | a. of a different age |
| 2. It is important to spend | b. learn from them |
| 3. There are many things we can | c. time with seniors |
| 4. wonderful stories | d. how much we love them |
| 5. we owe older citizens | e. which to grow older |
| 6. good places in | f. our thanks |

LISTENING GAP FILL

Senior Citizens Day is on August the 21st. It is _____ the world's older people. Their number is _____ every year. In 1950 there were 200 million people over 60 years old. That number nearly tripled to 600 million in 2000. _____ by 2025, there will be over 1 billion old folk. The day was started by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan. He said there should _____ to show our gratitude for what old people have achieved in their lives, and for their contributions to our communities and society. It is also a day on which _____ the rights of the aged all over the world. In today's world where equality is so important, there are many _____ ageism.

There are many things we can do on Senior Citizens Day. Perhaps the first thing we should _____ people in our lives how much we love them. We should thank them for _____ for us. It is important to spend time with seniors, especially those who live alone, _____. Spending time with seniors shows them they are still appreciated. There are many things we can learn from them. They are full of wonderful stories of _____. President Reagan said: "For all they have achieved throughout life and for all they continue to accomplish, _____ citizens our thanks...We can best demonstrate our gratitude _____ making sure that our communities are good places in which to grow older."

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Senior Citizens Day is on August the 21st. It is a day to _____ the world's older people. Their number is increasing _____ every year. In 1950 there were 200 million people over 60 years old. That number nearly _____ to 600 million in 2000. Experts say that by 2025, there will be over 1 billion old _____. The day was started by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan. He said there should be a day for us to show our _____ for what old people have achieved in their lives, and for their contributions to our communities and society. It is also a day on which we can _____ on the _____ of the aged all over the world. In today's world where equality is so important, there are many issues surrounding _____.

tripled

focus

rapidly

celebrate

ageism

gratitude

folk

rights

There are many things we can do on Senior Citizens Day. Perhaps the first thing we should do is _____ the older people in our lives how much we love them. We should thank them for all they have _____ for us. It is important to spend time with seniors, especially those who live alone, who may be _____. Spending time with seniors shows them they are still appreciated. There are many things we can _____ from them. They are full of wonderful stories of a different _____. President Reagan said: "For all they have achieved throughout life and for all they _____ to accomplish, we _____ older citizens our thanks...We can best demonstrate our gratitude and esteem by making sure that our communities are good places in which to _____ older."

done

age

owe

learn

grow

tell

lonely

continue

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

Senior Citizens Day is on August the 21st. It is a day to celebrate the world's *older / elder* people. Their number is increasing *rapids / rapidly* every year. In 1950 there were 200 million people over 60 years old. That number nearly *tripled / triple* to 600 million in 2000. Experts say that by 2025, there will be over 1 billion old folk. The day was started by *former / farmer* U.S. President Ronald Reagan. He said there should be a day for us to show our *grateful / gratitude* for what old people have *achieved / achievement* in their lives, and for their contributions to our communities and *society / social*. It is also a day on which we can focus on the rights of the aged all over the world. In today's world where equality is so important, there are many issues surrounding *ageism / ageist*.

There are many things we can do on Senior Citizens Day. Perhaps the first thing we should do is *tell / told* the older people in our lives how *much / many* we love them. We should thank them for all they have done for us. It is important to *spending / spend* time with seniors, especially those who live alone, who may be *loneliness / lonely*. Spending time with seniors shows them they are still appreciated. There are many things we can *learn / learnt* from them. They are full of wonderful stories of a different *age / ages*. President Reagan said: "For all they have achieved throughout life and for all they continue to accomplish, we *owe / lend* older citizens our thanks...We can best demonstrate our gratitude and esteem by making sure that our communities are good places in which to *growth / grow* older."

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Senior Citizens Day is on August the 21st. It is a day to celebrate the world's (1) _____ people. Their number is increasing (2) _____ every year. In 1950 there were 200 million people over 60 years old. That number nearly (3) _____ to 600 million in 2000. Experts say that by 2025, there will be over 1 billion old folk. The day was started by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan. He said there should be a day for us to show our (4) _____ for what old people have achieved in their lives, and for their contributions to our communities and (5) _____. It is also a day on which we can focus on the rights of the aged all over the world. In today's world where (6) _____ is so important, there are many issues surrounding ageism.

There are many things we can do on Senior Citizens Day. Perhaps the first thing we should do is tell the older people in our (7) _____ how much we love them. We should thank them for all they have (8) _____ for us. It is important to spend time with seniors, especially those who live alone, who may be (9) _____. Spending time with seniors shows them they are still appreciated. There are many things we can learn from them. They are full of wonderful stories of a different (10) _____. President Reagan said: "For all they have achieved throughout life and for all they continue to accomplish, we (11) _____ older citizens our thanks...We can best demonstrate our gratitude and esteem by making sure that our communities are good places in which to (12) _____ older."

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) oldies | (b) oldish | (c) older | (d) olden |
| 2. | (a) rapidly | (b) rapids | (c) rapid | (d) rabid |
| 3. | (a) three | (b) tripled | (c) three-fold | (d) trio |
| 4. | (a) grateful | (b) gratitude | (c) gratefully | (d) grated |
| 5. | (a) socially | (b) social | (c) society | (d) societal |
| 6. | (a) equals | (b) equal | (c) equalities | (d) equality |
| 7. | (a) lively | (b) living | (c) lives | (d) alive |
| 8. | (a) doing | (b) does | (c) did | (d) done |
| 9. | (a) alone | (b) loneliness | (c) lonesome | (d) lonely |
| 10. | (a) age | (b) ages | (c) aged | (d) aging |
| 11. | (a) woe | (b) woo | (c) ewe | (d) owe |
| 12. | (a) growth | (b) grow | (c) grew | (d) growing |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. increasing ldaipry every year
2. That number nearly tilepdr
3. fremor U.S. President
4. what old people have hicveead
5. the rtsghi of the aged
6. issues surrounding gmiaes

Paragraph 2

7. the older people in our eilvs
8. dnesp time with seniors
9. they are still praeipdetca
10. otuhtugorh life
11. demonstrate our tturgaei
12. rwog older

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () world where equality is so important, there are many issues surrounding ageism.
- () to 600 million in 2000. Experts say that by 2025, there will be over 1 billion old folk. The day was started
- () society. It is also a day on which we can focus on the rights of the aged all over the world. In today's
- () demonstrate our gratitude and esteem by making sure that our communities are good places in which to grow older."
- () people in our lives how much we love them. We should thank them for all they have done for us. It is important to spend
- (**1**) Senior Citizens Day is on August the 21st. It is a day to celebrate the world's older people. Their number is
- () There are many things we can do on Senior Citizens Day. Perhaps the first thing we should do is tell the older
- () increasing rapidly every year. In 1950 there were 200 million people over 60 years old. That number nearly tripled
- () time with seniors, especially those who live alone, who may be lonely. Spending time
- () with seniors shows them they are still appreciated. There are many things we can learn from them. They are full
- () old people have achieved in their lives, and for their contributions to our communities and
- () by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan. He said there should be a day for us to show our gratitude for what
- () of wonderful stories of a different age. President Reagan said: "For all they have achieved
- () throughout life and for all they continue to accomplish, we owe older citizens our thanks...We can best

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. A world's day older to people celebrate the.

2. year every rapidly increasing is number Their.

3. tripled nearly number That million 600 to.

4. our what have Show for people gratitude old achieved.

5. aged can the the We on of focus rights.

6. We us for done have they all for them thank should.

7. spend It time is with important seniors to.

8. things learn many can them are we from There.

9. owe citizens thanks We older our.

10. Communities places to good which older are in grow.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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THE SENIOR CITIZENS DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about Senior Citizens Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

| | STUDENT 1 _____ | STUDENT 2 _____ | STUDENT 3 _____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. | | | |
| Q.2. | | | |
| Q.3. | | | |
| Q.4. | | | |
| Q.5. | | | |

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Senior Citizens Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Senior Citizens Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about Senior Citizens Day. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.