

Podcast #112 Being Old in the USA

Original Version

Getting old is no fun. You used to walk six miles. Now walking three miles is an effort. You used to eat just about anything. Now you study the nutrition labels. You used to sleep through the night. Now you are up at least once. You used to see a doctor annually. Now you see at least one doctor a month.

You are no longer simply a citizen. You are what's called a senior citizen. You probably don't work. You have a lot of free time. Maybe too much free time. Some people know how to fill those hours. They take courses. They do volunteer work. They read a lot. They help care for grandchildren. Some seniors don't know what to do. They watch a lot of TV. They sit on park benches. They watch the world go by. It depends on the individual.

A good many seniors have a decent income. They are able to travel. They eat out. They go to the theater. They know how to use the Internet. They have a good life. Most seniors are not in that category. This is due to bad luck or bad life choices. They have to watch every penny. They don't buy the best food. They can't afford good medical care. Travel is out of the question. Life can become pretty gray.

Housing for seniors varies. Once again, money makes a difference. Some places offer many services, and days are filled with activities. Cheaper places provide a lot less. People have to adapt. They really have no choice.

Podcast #112 Being Old in the USA

Choose the correct word or term.

Getting old (is – isn't) no fun. You used (to be walking – walk) six miles. Now walking three miles (makes – is) an effort. You used to eat just about (anything – anythings). Now you study the nutrition (labels – lables). You used to sleep (threw – through) the night. Now (your – you are) up at least once. You used to see a doctor (annual – annually). Now you see at least one doctor a month.

You are no longer simply a citizen. You are (what's – whats) called a senior citizen. You probably (do'nt – don't) work. You have (a lot – alot) of free time. Maybe (to – too) much free time. Some people (knowing – know) how to fill those hours. They (do – take) courses. They (make – do) volunteer work. They read a lot. They (help take care for – help care for) grandchildren. Some seniors don't know (what to do – what for to do). They watch a lot of (TV – T-V). They (are sitting – sit) on park benches. They watch the world (go – to go) by. It depends (to – on) the individual.

A good many seniors have a (descent – decent) income. They are able (to travel – to be traveling). They eat (outside – out). They go to the theater. They (know how to use – know to use) the Internet. They have a good life. Most seniors are not in that (category – catagory) . This is (due – do) to bad luck or bad life choices. They (must to – have to) watch every penny. They (not buy – don't buy) the best food. They (can't– don't) afford good medical care. Travel is (out of – outside) the question. Life can become pretty gray.

Housing for seniors (varys – varies). Once again, money (makes – make) a difference. Some places offer many services, and days are (filed – filled) with activities. Cheaper places (provide – provides) a lot less. People have to adapt. They really (haven't – have) no choice.

Podcast #112 Being Old in the USA

Practice with incorrect or missing articles, indefinite pronouns, and verbs.

In the following version of the story, circle or underline places where (a) a grammatically incorrect article is used, or (b) any of the following is missing:

- a grammatically required article (*a, an, the*)
- a personal pronoun (for example, *he*)
- a possessive pronoun (for example, *his*)
- an indefinite pronoun such as *some* or *any*
- a form of the verb *to be* (for example, *was*)

The first paragraph has been underlined to show where you would circle or underline a word or phrase.

The getting old no fun. You used to walk six miles. Now the walking three miles is effort. Used to eat just about anything. Now study the nutrition labels. You used to sleep through night. Now are up at least once. You used to see doctor annually. Now you see at least one doctor a month.

You are no longer simply citizen. You are what's called the senior citizen. Probably don't work. You have lot of free time. Maybe too much free time. Some people know how to fill hours. Take courses. They do volunteer work. They read a lot. They help care for grandchildren. Some seniors don't know what to do. They watch a lot of TV. They sit on the park benches. They watch world go by. It depends on individual.

A good many seniors have decent income. They are able to travel. They eat out. They go to theater. They know how to use Internet. They have good life. Most seniors not in that category. This due to bad luck or bad life choices. They have to watch every penny. They don't buy best food. They can't afford the good medical care. Travel out of question. Life can become pretty gray.

Housing for the seniors varies. Once again, money makes difference. Some places offer many services, and days are filled with the activities. Cheaper places provide lot less. People have to adapt. They really have no choice.