

This month's Everyday English (pages 49–50) looks at the words and phrases you need when you're **CARING FOR THE ELDERLY**. In the exercises below, you can practise this area of language further.

1. How's your dad?

intermediate

Choose the right word to complete the phrases which show that an elderly relative isn't very well, but is doing OK.

age • circumstances • considered • days
expected • managing

- a) He has good days and bad _____.
- b) He's _____.
- c) He's doing as well as can be _____.
- d) He's doing OK under the _____.
- e) He's not bad for his _____.
- f) He's quite well, all things _____.



Comstock

2. How can I help?

easy

People who are caring for elderly relatives are often glad to have offers of help. Match the sentence halves below to complete the offers.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a) What can I do | <input type="text" value="a"/> | 1. in on her? |
| b) Let me give | <input type="text" value="b"/> | 2. no trouble. |
| c) Would you like me to look | <input type="text" value="c"/> | 3. shopping for her? |
| d) Can I do a bit of | <input type="text" value="d"/> | 4. there's anything I can do. |
| e) I can give her a lift | <input type="text" value="e"/> | 5. to help? |
| f) Let me know if | <input type="text" value="f"/> | 6. to the day centre if you like. |
| g) I'd like to help, and it's | <input type="text" value="g"/> | 7. you a break. |

3. Informal expressions

advanced

People often avoid medical terms like "senile dementia" when talking about the mental decline of their elderly loved ones. Rearrange the letters to complete the informal expressions that describe mental decline in an affectionate way.

- a) Poor Mum! She's going a little bit **TDOYT**. _____
- b) My dear old Dad's losing the **TOLP**. _____
- c) I think I'm losing my **MRAESBL**. _____
- d) Poor old Grandma! She's losing her **PGIR** on reality. _____
- e) Oh, no! I can't remember where I parked the car. I'm having a **EINORS EMMNOT**. _____

4. Formal and informal

advanced

For each of the everyday words and expressions highlighted in the spoken text below, choose the more formal version from the list on the right.

Poor old Mum! She **(a) came out of** hospital last week, and she's back in her own home now, thank goodness. But she's very frail, bless her! It's her age, that's all. **(b) She's still got all her faculties**, though: no doubt about that. Straight away her GP **(c) put us in touch with** social services, and a social worker **(d) popped in** the next day to see us and **(e) sort out what kind of help she needs**. The social worker put together a "care package". Mum **(f) can have** a home help as well to help her **(g) get dressed, do a bit of housework** and so on. They'll get her **(h) a walking frame** and **(i) put in some handrails around the house**, too.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="text" value="a"/> | 1. carry out a needs assessment |
| <input type="text" value="b"/> | 2. disability equipment |
| <input type="text" value="c"/> | 3. is entitled to |
| <input type="text" value="d"/> | 4. made a home visit |
| <input type="text" value="e"/> | 5. make adaptations to the home |
| <input type="text" value="f"/> | 6. she functions well mentally |
| <input type="text" value="g"/> | 7. referred us to |
| <input type="text" value="h"/> | 8. was discharged from |
| <input type="text" value="i"/> | 9. with personal and domestic tasks |

5. Choosing a home

medium

A couple are choosing a nursing home for an elderly relative. Which section of the brochure do they need to look at? Match their questions to the different pages.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| a) What's the weekly fee, and what does it cover? | <input type="text" value="a"/> | 1. Accommodation |
| b) Do all rooms have an en-suite bathroom? | <input type="text" value="b"/> | 2. Costs |
| c) Can residents keep their own GP? | <input type="text" value="c"/> | 3. Contracts |
| d) How much notice must residents give if they wish to move out? | <input type="text" value="d"/> | 4. Leisure programme |
| e) Are special diets catered for? | <input type="text" value="e"/> | 5. Medical care |
| f) Is there more than just bingo? | <input type="text" value="f"/> | 6. Nutrition |