47 Ages and stages

A Growing up

Age	Stage
0–1 approximately	a **baby**
1–2	a **toddler**
2–12 approximately	a child – this period is your **childhood**
13–17 approximately	a **teenager** (14 = early teens)
18+	an **adult**
20–30	**in your twenties** (24–26 = mid twenties)
30–40	**in your thirties** (38 = late thirties)
40+	people are **middle-aged; in middle age**
60 or 65	**retirement** (= when people stop work; they are **retired**)
75+	**old age** (you can also use **elderly**)

Note: For boys, the period between 14–17 approximately (slightly younger for girls) is called **adolescence**, i.e. you are an **adolescent**. In law you are an **adult** at the age of 18, b. many people think of you as an adult when you leave school.

B Childhood and adolescence

Sam (on the right) **was born** in Scotland but when he was two, his father got a new job in London and he **grew up** in the south of England. He **went to university** at 18 where he …

C Romance

… where he **met** Anthea. He **went out with** her (= she was his **girlfriend**; he was her **boyfriend**) for three years, but towards the end they had lots of **rows** (= arguments) and they **split up** (= broke up / separated). In his **mid twenties** …

D Marriage

… in his mid twenties he **met** Maureen. They **fell in love** and **got married** within six months. A year later she got **pregnant** and they had their first child, a boy. As you can see, she is now **expecting** their second child (to be pregnant = to be expecting a baby). But sadly Sam met another woman and he left Maureen two months ago to live with the other woman.

Exercises

47.1 **What stage of life are these people at?**

1 Paul isn't 2 yet, so he's still a ....
2 Albert was a bus driver for 40 years but stopped work two years ago, so he is now
   ....
3 Susan is 25, so she is in her ....
4 Caroline is 50 this year so she is now in her ....
5 Ron is 33 and his wife is 32, so they are both in ....
6 Joan is 75 this year, so she is quite ....
7 Jason was born six weeks ago, so he's a ....
8 Leyla is 13 this year, so she'll soon be a ....
9 Ravi is 18 this year, so legally he becomes ....
10 15 is often a difficult age for boys going through ....

47.2 **Are these sentences *true* or *false* about the people on the opposite page? If the sentences are *false*, write the correct answer below. Try to answer the questions first without looking at the opposite page.**

1 Sam was born in Scotland.
   ....
2 He grew up in the south of Ireland.
   ....
3 He went out with Anthea for two years.
   ....
4 They split up because Sam went to live in Japan.
   ....
5 Sam fell in love with Maureen.
   ....
6 They had a baby a year after they got married.
   ....
7 Maureen is now expecting her third child.
   ....
8 Maureen left Sam.
   ....

47.3 **Find the logical ending for each of the sentence beginnings on the left and construct Rebecca's life.**

1 Rebecca was born	a was a boy at her secondary school.
2 She grew up	b in her early thirties.
3 Her first boyfriend	c on a farm with lots of animals.
4 She went out with him	d when she was in her late twenties.
5 She went to university	e in a small local hospital in 1972.
6 She fell in love	f for six months.
7 They got married	g just after the baby was born.
8 She had a baby	h with another student doing medicine.
9 Her father retired	i when she left school.

How many of the sentence beginnings on the left can you answer about your own life?
Answer the ones you can.