

Today is the last English Conversation Club session for 2025. The last two weeks we discussed *childhood and the teenage years*. In this handout, we continue our discussion of the different stages of human development. In case you did not have a chance to finish last week's handout, I have copied the part about Teen Slang below. Feel free to go over it or skip it.

The rest of the handout focuses on *Adulthood* and the *age of majority*.

### Part 1. Teen Slang (from last week)

Read and discuss the following slang words that teens use. How many do you know?

1. **"67" / "6-7"** (six – seven) this phrase doesn't actually mean anything, but teens use it as a nonsense punchline or random response to questions; it came from a viral TikTok meme that comes from the drill song *Doot Doot* by Skrilla, where the lyrics repeat "six" and "seven"; on TikTok it's often said with a specific exaggerated voice and paired with a hand gesture (palms up, moving up and down)

View this video that tries to explain "6-7": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaHd3bIP3Pc>

2. **bounce** (bouns)– to leave a place; similar to terms like "Let's roll out" or "Let's get outta here".  
Example: "Hey, let's bounce, I have to get up early tomorrow!"
3. **flick** (flik): a photo or picture; "Did you get flicks of that outfit you wore last night?"
4. **fire** (fyr)- cool or awesome  
Example: "Those new shoes are fire!"
5. **fit** - short for outfit.  
Example: "Cool fit, where'd you get that sweater?"
6. **feral** (fair-uhl): used in past tense when someone acted crazy  
Example: "I will go feral if we don't leave school early".
7. **flex** (fleks)- Showing off.  
Example: "If I had that car, I'd be flexing too!"
8. **chill** - calm or cool. Can be used to describe a feeling or as a verb.  
Example: "Hey, I'm feelin' pretty chill" or "You gotta meet this girl, she's super chill."  
Or as a verb, "Dude, you need to chill out."
9. **cooked (kuhkt)**: this can mean "you're done" or "that's over"; loss of hope over a situation  
Example: "I'm so cooked for this test tomorrow, I didn't study."
10. **cringe (krinj)**: something embarrassing, gives a feeling of repulsion  
Example: ""Stop showing off. That's so cringe, please stop."

## Adulthood and the Age of Majority

**Part 2. What is the Age of Majority?**

The **age of majority** is the age in a person's life when they are considered to be an adult by law. It is the moment when **minors** (my-ners) are legally responsible for their actions, decisions, and bodies. The control and legal responsibilities of their parents or guardians come to an end. Most countries set the age of majority at 18, but some have a higher age and others lower. The word **majority** comes from the Latin word *maior* which means *greater*. People under the age of majority are referred to as *minors*. *Minor* comes from the Latin word *menor* which means *smaller*.

What is the Age of Majority in these places? In one of these countries, the age of majority is 16! Do you know which one? The age of majority for the first country – the United States – is already filled out. Fill out the rest of the chart. The answer key is at the end of this lesson.

Place	Age of Majority	Place	Age of Majority
U.S. (except 3 states)	18	Nebraska	
Mexico		Cuba	
Singapore		most EU countries	
China		Alabama	
Scotland		Mississippi	
New Zealand		Denmark, Norway	
Puerto Rico		Your country	

Do not confuse *age of majority* with the age of maturity, marriageable age, school-leaving age, drinking age, driving age, voting age, smoking age, or employment age. These rights and privileges may start at different ages. Look at the chart below. It shows when it is legal to do certain things in California. Discuss when you think a person should have the right to do each of the things listed.

Right or Privilege	Legal age in California	What do you think?	Right or Privilege	Legal age in California	What do you think?
Vote	18		Get married without parental permission	18	
Join the military	17 (federal law)		Rent a car	21	
Work with permit	14		Buy stocks	18	
Buy alcohol	21		Open a bank account	18	
Get a library Card	In general, no min. age		Open a Facebook account	13 (Meta's rule)	
Obtain a Private Pilot License	16		Obtain a learner's permit to drive	15 1/2	

### Part 3. Discussion Questions

1. What do you think makes someone an adult?
2. When did you feel like you were an adult?
3. Do people respect elders in your home country?
4. Do you agree or disagree that you can never be too old to start something new? Why?
5. What do you like most about being an adult?
6. What do you like least about getting older?
7. Do you feel most societies are *ageist* (ay-jist)? That is, are they biased against older people?
8. What advice would you give to your younger self?
9. Do you like being the age at which you now are?
10. Do you worry about getting older?
11. Is it polite to ask someone their age in your home country?
12. Do you think scientists can slow the aging process?

### Part 4. Idioms about Age

#### 1 - To Be Young at Heart

Meaning: to think or behave younger than one's age. Usually used in a positive sense.

Example: Even though grandpa is older now, he still is young at heart.

#### 2 - I wasn't born yesterday.

Meaning: to not be easily deceived.

Example: He can't fool me. You know, I wasn't born yesterday.

#### 3 - Leave the Nest

Meaning: to move out of one's parent's house.

Example: He finally [left the nest](#) at 25 years old.

#### 4 - Empty Nester

Meaning: used to describe a parent whose children have left the house.

Example: It's hard for her to be an empty nester because she misses seeing her son every day.

#### 5 - Long In the Tooth

Meaning: to be too old to do something.

Example: He is a little long in the tooth to be out on the dance floor don't you think?

#### 6 - To Be No Spring Chicken

Meaning: to no longer be young.

Example: I'm no spring chicken, but I can beat you in football any day.

#### 7 - To Rob the Cradle

Meaning: to be in a romantic relationship with someone that is much younger than you are.

Example: He is 37 years old and yet he is dating a 20-year-old. Talk about robbing the cradle.

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8 - To Have a Senior Moment

Meaning: when someone forgets a word or location; sometimes common in older people.

Example: I'm having a senior moment because I cannot remember where I put my car keys.

9 - To Be Wise Beyond (One's) Years

Meaning: to be smarter than your age.

Example: Even though he is young, he has demonstrated to be wise beyond his years.

10 - To Be Past (Your/Its) Prime

Meaning: after the best or most successful years of life.

Example: He showed that he can still play basketball, but he is definitely past his prime.

11 - You Can't Put an Old Head on Young Shoulders

Meaning: a phrase to say that you can't expect a young person to have the wisdom of an older person.

Example: I know that you can't put an old head on young shoulders, and yet, I still get so frustrated with my son and the risky things that he does!

12 - Young Blood

Meaning: a young person or person who has a lot of energy and fresh ideas.

Example: We need to get some young blood on our team.

References

29 Age Idioms (Meaning & Examples), June 28, 2020 by WES, <https://englishbyday.com/age-idioms/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age\\_of\\_majority](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_majority)

Answer Key for Age of Majority in Different Countries

Place	Age of Majority	Place	Age of Majority
U.S. (except 3)	18	Nebraska	19
Mexico	18	Cuba	16
Singapore	21	most EU countries	18
China	18	Alabama	19
Scotland	16	Mississippi	21
New Zealand	20	Denmark, Norway	20
Puerto Rico	21	Your country	???