



It's true, some wines improve with age. But only if the grapes were good in the first place.

Abigail Van Buren,  
US journalist

# 2B Older and wiser?

## 1 SPEAKING

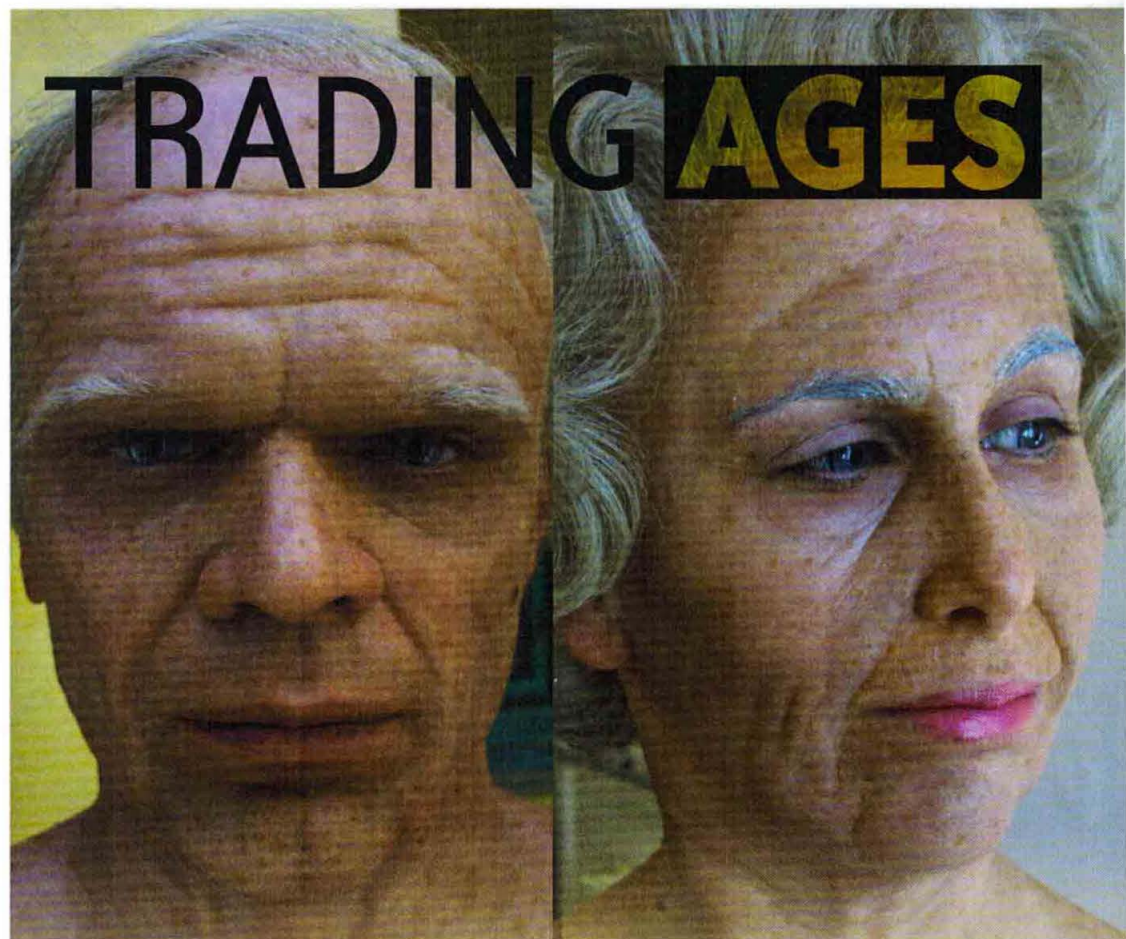
- a Look at some adjectives which are commonly used to describe teenagers or elderly people. With a partner, write them in the column where you think they belong. Are the majority of the adjectives positive or negative?

absent-minded adventurous bad-tempered  
clumsy kind lazy moody narrow-minded  
self-centred stubborn unenthusiastic  
vulnerable weak wise

teenagers	elderly people

## 2 READING

- a Look at the photos of Nick Sydney and Karoline Bell. What do you think has been done to them and why?
- b Read the first paragraph of the article once and check your answer. Look at the **highlighted** phrases related to the body. With a partner, say what you think they mean.



**For a BBC TV documentary, 29-year-old KAROLINE BELL and 32-year-old NICK SYDNEY experienced what it was like to be old...**

It took five hours every morning to make Karoline and Nick look like elderly people in their seventies. They were given synthetic wrinkled skin, false teeth, and grey wigs. They also wore body suits to make them look fatter and contact lenses to make their eyes look older. The discomfort of the make-up, the heavy suits, and the contact lenses (which made their eyesight worse) gave them a small taste of the physical problems of old



age. They were also coached to walk and speak like people in their seventies. Then they had to live each day, for a month, as an old person, with a video diary to record their experiences and hidden cameras to record how other people reacted to them.



### old or elderly?

Old and elderly mean the same thing, but elderly is only used for people and is more polite.

- b In pairs or small groups, discuss the questions.
- 1 Do you think the adjectives in a truly describe most teenagers and elderly people or do you think these are stereotypes?
  - 2 In what way might these stereotypes be damaging?
  - 3 Do you know people in these two age groups who a) conform to the stereotypes b) don't conform to the stereotypes? How?



c You are going to read about what happened in the programme. Before you read talk to a partner.

- 1 In what way do you think people treated them differently because they appeared to be old people?
- 2 What do you think they learnt about what old age is really like?
- 3 How do you think they felt after making the programme?

d Now read the rest of the article and check.

1 **A**fterwards both of them described the 'invisibility' of being old. Karoline was astonished to be ignored by some workmen, who only hours before had been wolf-whistling at her when she had been an attractive young woman. Nick said 'I learnt that how people <sup>1</sup>treat you depends on what you look like.' On one occasion a bus driver treated him very rudely when he tried to pay his fare with a large note. 'I was amazed. He wouldn't have talked like that to my young self.' Nick was also nearly robbed when he was taking money out of a cash machine.

15 **T**here is a point in the documentary when Karoline <sup>2</sup>breaks down and cries. It comes at the end of a day out with her two new pensioner friends, Betty and Sylvia, who she met at a day centre. It is partly because she feels guilty that she is tricking them, but mainly because she realizes that they are individuals, and not just members of what she had previously thought of as 'the elderly'. 'They were talking about real things and I felt unqualified. I didn't have that life experience. They had <sup>3</sup>been through so much. It made me realize how ignorant I was. It was as if I was seeing the young people inside them. Before I would have just seen the wrinkles.'

20 **A**t the start of the documentary Karoline had said that old people scared her, and that in spite of loving her 86-year-old grandmother, who lives in a home, she had found it difficult to visit her.

25 **B**oth she and Nick found making the programme life-changing. Nick said 'I'd never thought about getting old before.' Karoline said 'The whole experience of living as an old person helped me to understand them far better and also to understand myself. One of the things that surprised me most was how important relationships still were to elderly people. I was shocked by the fact that older people could still have their hearts broken. After a while I felt like one of them. I felt in a way that they were just young people in an old body trying to <sup>4</sup>deal with the problems of old age. <sup>5</sup>I'm not ready to be 73, but I'm not scared like I was.'

Adapted from The Times

e Read the article again and answer the questions with **K** (Karoline), **N** (Nick), or **B** (both of them).

#### Who...?

- 1  found the physical preparation for their role very uncomfortable
- 2  was given classes on how to move like an elderly person
- 3  was surprised not to be noticed by people who had previously reacted to him / her
- 4  noticed that people were less polite to older people
- 5  found that playing the role of an older person made him / her more emotional
- 6  realized that old people were very different from what he / she had previously imagined
- 7  used to be frightened of old people
- 8  had never worried about what it would be like to be old
- 9  hadn't expected love and friendship to be so important to old people

f Now look at the **highlighted** verb phrases and match them with their meaning.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> be prepared        | <input type="checkbox"/> loses control of his / her feelings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> behave towards you | <input type="checkbox"/> solve a problem or do a task        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> experienced        |  |

g How much contact do you normally have with elderly people? Do you think that they are treated well in your country?

### 3 GRAMMAR

using adjectives as nouns, adjective order

a Look at the sentences in 1 and 2 below and decide if you think they are right (✓) or wrong (✗). Compare with a partner and say why you think the crossed ones are wrong.

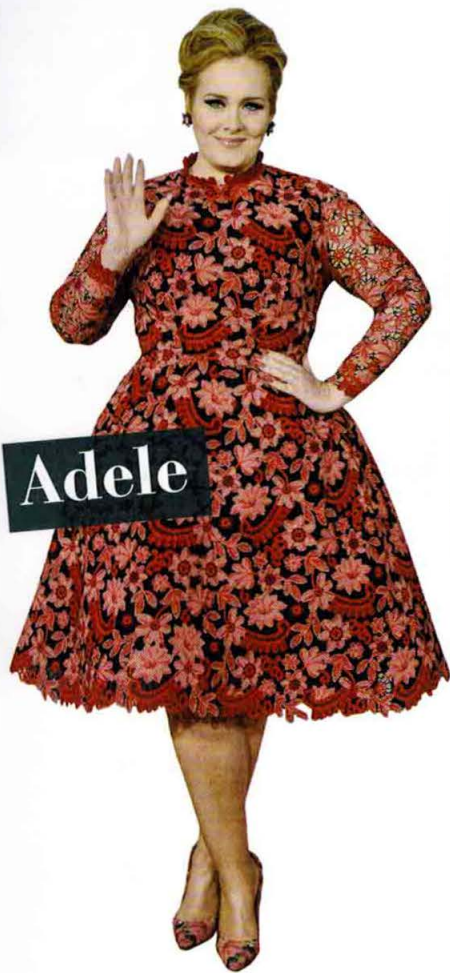
- 1 a  The old have a harder life than the young.  
b  The old people have a harder life than the young people.  
c  Old people have a harder life than young people.
- 2 a  The man was with a blonde tall Swedish woman.  
b  The man was with a tall Swedish blonde woman.  
c  The man was with a tall blonde Swedish woman.

b ► **p.135 Grammar Bank 2B.** Learn more about using adjective as nouns, and adjective order, and practise them.

c Answer the questions in pairs or small groups. Do you agree? Why (not)?

- The elderly are best looked after in residential homes, not at home.
- Politicians should be at least 40 years old – younger people don't have enough experience for such a responsible job.
- Society doesn't sufficiently value the wisdom that elderly people have.
- Rich people are usually meaner than poor people.
- The government could and should do more for the unemployed.
- The homeless should be allowed to live rent-free in empty second homes.

## 4 LISTENING

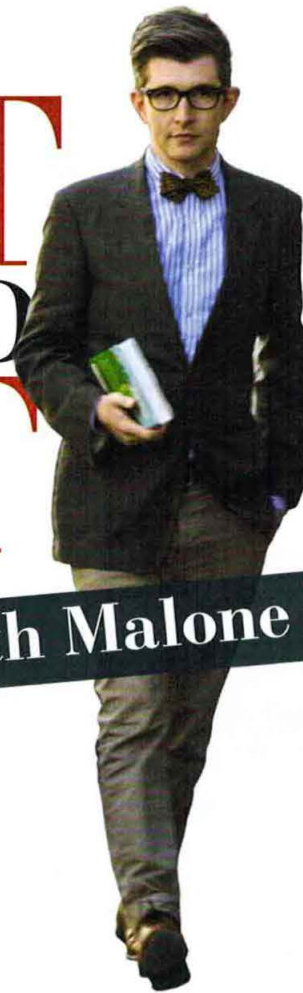


Adele



Jane Fonda

# BEST DRESSED LIST



Gareth Malone



Mick Jagger

- a Look at the photos. How old do you think these people are? Do you like the way they are dressed? Why (not)?
- b **1 45**) Listen to a radio programme where two fashion journalists are talking about 'dressing your age'. Do they agree that men and women should dress their age? Complete their two fashion rules.
- Liza** Wear whatever you think \_\_\_\_\_ and makes you \_\_\_\_\_.
- Adrian** Dress for \_\_\_\_\_, not for \_\_\_\_\_.
- c Listen again and make notes. Why do the journalists mention the following?
- | Liza  | Adrian  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a warm cardigan and slippers</li> <li>• a leather miniskirt</li> <li>• teenagers</li> <li>• women of 30+</li> <li>• very short shorts</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• men in their 20s who wear blazers and chinos or suits</li> <li>• men in their 30s</li> </ul> |
- d Who do you agree with most, Liza or Adrian?

## 5 VOCABULARY clothes and fashion

- a In two minutes write down as many items of clothing or jewellery as you can that you can wear...
- on your hands and arms
  - round your neck
  - on your feet
  - on your head
- b **► p.153 Vocabulary Bank** *Clothes and fashion.*
- c Do the quiz with a partner.

# CLOTHES QUIZ

- 1** What are the opposites of these adjectives and verbs?
- get dressed short-sleeved  
smart tight trendy
- 2** What material are the following usually made of?
- cycling shorts jeans shoes  
a sweater a tie tights
- 3** Complete the sentence you say if something, e.g. a sweater...
- a is too big *It doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ me.*  
b looks awful on you *It doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ me.*  
c goes perfectly with your trousers *It \_\_\_\_\_ my trousers.*
- 4** In what situations do you normally...?
- a try clothes on  
b dress up  
c hang clothes up  
d get changed







## 6 PRONUNCIATION

### vowel sounds

#### Vowel sounds

English vowel sounds are either short, long, or diphthongs (a combination of two short sounds).

- a Look at the sound pictures below. Which are short sounds, which are long, and which are diphthongs?

 boot	 bull	 fish
 bird	 bike	 train

- b **1 50**) In pairs, put two words in each column. Listen and check.

fur hooded lace linen loose lycra  
plain put on shirt shoes silk skirt  
slippers striped suede suit tight wool

- c **p.166 Sound Bank.** Look at the typical spellings for these sounds.

- d Practise saying these phrases.

- a loose linen suit
- pink silk slippers
- blue suede shoes
- a tight lycra skirt
- a red and white striped tie
- a pale grey suede jacket

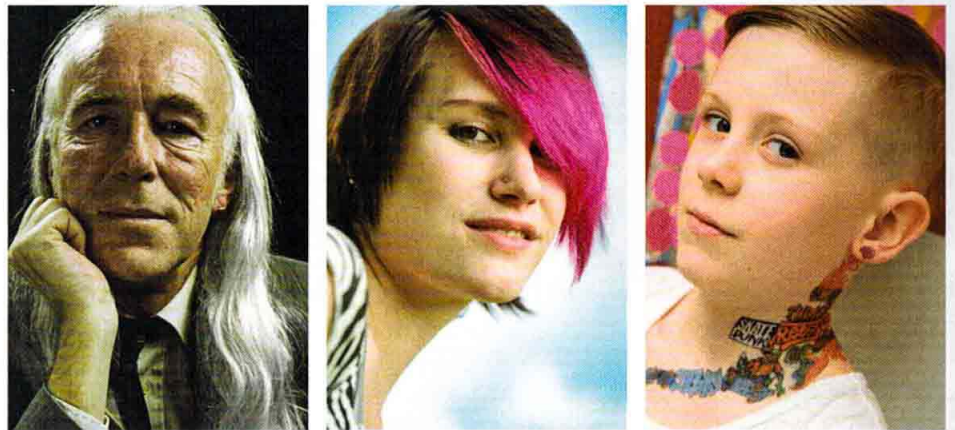


## 7 SPEAKING

Talk in small groups.

- 1 At what age do you think it is OK for men or women to have...?

grey or white hair   very long hair   pink streaked hair   a piercing  
an earring in one ear   a tattoo



*I think pink streaked hair looks great at any age.*

*I don't agree. I think it looks ridiculous unless you're under 20.*

- 2 In what situations do you think it is not OK to wear...?

torn denim jeans   a baseball cap worn backwards  
very short shorts   large sunglasses   a mini-skirt   no shirt

- 3 Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Say why.

**You shouldn't judge other people by the way they dress.**

**It's better to buy cheap clothes that don't last because then you can buy new ones more often.**

**People who follow fashion are usually vain and selfish.**

**It's very risky to buy clothes online.**

**Only sheep follow fashion. Good dressers have their own style.**

**Fur coats should be banned.**

**Women, but not men, are always expected to dress smartly for work or on TV.**

## 8 WRITING

- a Imagine you were given two items of clothing for your birthday which you don't like. You have decided to sell them on eBay. Write a detailed description, making them sound as attractive as possible. Set a starting price.



**For sale!** Blue and white striped cotton skirt – never worn! Size 40. Would look great with white T-shirt. Perfect for the summer.

**£3.99**  
1 bid

+£3.00  
postage

7 days left  
Thursday 24 April 15:36

- b Now read some other students' adverts. Are there any things that you'd like to bid for?