



# 12 It's never too late

Articles • Determiners • Hot words – *life, time* • Linking and commenting

## TEST YOUR GRAMMAR

- Tell the story of Mary's grandfather, matching a line from A with a line from C. Use the correct article from B to connect the lines. Tell the story to a partner.
- T 12.1** Listen and check. What extra information do you hear?

A	B	C
1 My grandfather used to be		dinner with him.
2 He retired		captain of the ship.
3 He decided to go on		sea cruise.
4 He enjoyed	a/an	cruise very much.
5 He sailed all round	one	year before last.
6 He met	the	judge.
7 He invited her to have	no article	love at any age.
8 They got on really well with		another.
9 My grandfather says you can find		world.
10 They were married by		attractive widow.

## THE PACE OF LIFE

### Articles and determiners

- Do the quiz about your pace of life. Circle *a, b, c*, or *d*. Discuss your answers with a partner. Turn to p158 and find out what kind of person you are. Do you agree?
- Find these highlighted words in the quiz. Underline the nouns that follow. Which are followed by *of*?

enough the whole all each plenty  
a great deal hardly any several none  
no (a) few (a) little most every

- These lines are similar to those in the quiz but not the same. Find them in the quiz. What are the differences?
  - I leave sufficient time for relaxation.
  - Non-stop all of the time.
  - More than enough things.
  - Lots of enthusiasm.
  - Very few, just a couple of minor things.
  - There aren't any uncompleted projects.
  - I see every one of my projects through.
  - I don't have any patience.
  - I have hardly any hobbies or leisure time.
  - In quite a few ways.
  - In all kinds of ways.
  - Nearly all of the time by email.

## How well do you

- How would you describe the pace of your life?**
  - Easy-going. I just take life as it comes.
  - Quite fast, but I leave enough time for relaxation.
  - At times frantic, at times relaxed.
  - Non-stop the whole time but I like it that way.
- How do you tackle all the things you have to do each day?**
  - I do those things I feel like doing.
  - I prioritize. I do the important things and put off all the rest.
  - There's either not enough time to do everything or too much time with nothing to do. I find this difficult.
  - I have a daily 'to do' list that I tick off after each item is completed.
- How many things have you begun and not finished in the last few years?**
  - Plenty of things. I begin with a great deal of enthusiasm but then get bored.
  - Hardly any, just one or two minor things.
  - Several things. Sometimes I get distracted and move from one thing to another.
  - None. There are no uncompleted projects in my life. I see each of my projects through before I start the next.



**4 When do you switch off your mobile phone?**

- a Do most people have mobile phones these days? I haven't got round to buying one yet.
- b In some public places and when I need some peace and quiet.
- c Not as often as I should.
- d Only if I have to.

**5 What is your attitude to punctuality?**

- a I don't waste time worrying about it.
- b Being late is impolite and inefficient so I try to be punctual.
- c I like to be on time in theory but in practice I'm often late.
- d I'm always on time. I have no patience with people who are late.

**use your time?**

**6 How do you spend your leisure time?**

- a Doing a bit of this and that. I don't know where time goes.
- b I recharge my batteries with a few hobbies and being with friends.
- c I keep trying different things that people suggest, but nothing really grabs me.
- d I have few hobbies and little leisure time. I try to put the whole of my life to good use.

**7 How do you keep in touch with friends?**

- a I wait for them to get in touch with me.
- b In several ways - emails, texting, but also I like to phone them for a proper chat.
- c In any way I can - but it can be difficult. I think 'I must contact X' but time passes and I find I haven't.
- d Most of the time by email. It's quick and efficient.

**8 Which of these is closest to your philosophy on life?**

- a Whatever will be will be.
- b Life is not a dress rehearsal.
- c There is a season for everything.
- d Grasp every moment.

**4 What is the difference between these pairs of sentences?**

- I have a few hobbies.                      I have a little leisure time.
- I have few hobbies.                        I have little leisure time.

**5 Is there a difference in meaning between these sentences?**

- I completed **each** project.    I completed **every** project.

Which can mean you had only two projects? Which *can't* mean you had only two projects? Which can mean you had lots of projects?

**LANGUAGE FOCUS**

**Determiners**

Determiners help identify nouns and express quantity.

1 Look at the examples. Which determiners go with which nouns? Which group expresses quantity?

the other another many other his only such a what a	book books good book	both neither each/every little all the whole no	book books time
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2 Determiners can join a noun using *of + the/my/our/this/that*, etc. Which expressions can you make from these examples?

both neither each all some the whole none	of	the my those	book books time
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▶▶ Grammar Reference p152

**PRACTICE**

**Talking about you**

1 Complete the sentences with determiners which make them true for you.

- 1 I have \_\_\_\_\_ time to relax.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ my friends think I work too hard.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ my teachers think I work hard.
- 4 I spent \_\_\_\_\_ weekend relaxing.
- 5 I have \_\_\_\_\_ interests and hobbies.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ my hobbies are sports.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ my parents look like me.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ my family have fair hair.
- 9 My aunt gives \_\_\_\_\_ us birthday presents.
- 10 My grandparents watch TV \_\_\_\_\_ time.

## Discussing grammar

2 Work with a partner. What is the difference in meaning between these pairs of sentences?

- I spoke to all the students in the class.  
I spoke to each student in the class.
- None of them knew the answer.  
Neither of them knew the answer.
- The doctor's here.  
A doctor's here.
- There's a man at the door.  
There's some man at the door.
- There's a pair of socks missing.  
There's a couple of socks missing.
- Whole families were evacuated from their homes.  
All the families were evacuated from their homes.

3 Match a line in A with a line in B.

A	B
Would you like Do all birds lay Where did I put	eggs? the egg? an egg?
I have two cars. Borrow It was great to see I have five nieces. I gave £10 to	each one. everyone. either one.

A	B
Love A love The love	I have for you is forever. is everything. of animals is vital for a vet.
Both All Every	my friends like dancing. person in my class is friendly. my parents are Scottish.

4 **T 12.2** Listen and respond to the lines with a sentence from exercise 3.

I don't like cereal for breakfast.

Well, would you like an egg?  
A boiled egg and some toast?

**T 12.3** Listen and check. Pay particular attention to stress and intonation. Look at the tapescript on p138 and practise the conversations with a partner.

## SPOKEN ENGLISH Using demonstratives and determiners

Demonstratives and determiners are often found in idiomatic language. Look at these examples of the demonstratives *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those* from the quiz on p102.

(I like) doing a bit of *this and that*.  
Most people have mobile phones *these days*.  
I do *those things* I feel like doing.

Find examples of the determiners *each*, *every*, and *all* in the quiz.

5 Demonstratives – *this/that/these/those*

Complete the sentences with the correct demonstrative.

- What's \_\_\_\_\_ song you're singing?
- Look at \_\_\_\_\_ ladybird on my hand!
- Did you hear \_\_\_\_\_ storm in the middle of the night?
- Mmm! \_\_\_\_\_ strawberries are delicious!
- Take \_\_\_\_\_ dirty shoes off! I've just cleaned in here.
- I can't stand \_\_\_\_\_ weather. It's really getting me down.
- Who was \_\_\_\_\_ man you were talking to \_\_\_\_\_ morning?
- Do you remember when we were young? \_\_\_\_\_ were the days!
- Children have no respect for authority \_\_\_\_\_ days, do they?

**T 12.4** Listen and check.

these that this those

6 Determiners – *each*, *every*, or *all*

**T 12.5** Listen to some short conversations. What is each about? Complete the replies. They all contain expressions with *each*, *every* or *all*. Practise the conversations with a partner.

- A What was the meal like?  
B ...
- A Did you apologize to all the guests?  
B ...
- A They didn't all pass, did they?  
B ...
- A Sorry, I only have 50p on me.  
B ...
- A When do you think you'll get there?  
B ...
- A Do you fancy a quick pint?  
B ...

all each every

# LISTENING AND SPEAKING

## Happy days

1 Work in small groups. What is the average life expectancy in your country? Suggest ages for these stages of life. What is typical behaviour for each stage? Give examples and discuss with the whole class.

0 -	<input type="checkbox"/>	infancy	
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>	childhood
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>	teenage years
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>	adulthood
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>	middle age
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>	old age



2 You are going to listen to Bernie, Hayley, Tony, and Tommy talking about themselves. Here are some of the things they said (two for each person). Which stage of life do you think they are at?

- 1 I want to see the world, meet lots of people, get a good career before I settle down.
- 2 This time though, after the operation I knew immediately it would be OK.
- 3 We have buckets and spades.
- 4 Lizzie and I are quite content just to potter in the vegetable patch, or cut the grass, or weed the flower beds.
- 5 Most of us just get off on dancing.
- 6 I think the world has gone to pot.
- 7 It's got big, big wheels, hugest wheels ever.
- 8 These days the only thing that makes me unhappy is meeting people who don't realize what a gift life is.

3 **T 12.6** Listen to the four people. After each one discuss these questions.

- 1 At which stage of life is the person?
- 2 Which lines in exercise 2 did he or she say?
- 3 What does the person do or say that is typical or not typical for their age?
- 4 What makes the person happy or unhappy?

### What do you think?

- Which stage of life do you think is best? Which worst? Why?
- Are there advantages and disadvantages for each stage? Discuss.
- Do you know people who you think are typical or not typical for their age? Are you?



## READING AND SPEAKING

### You're never too old

- 1 What age do you consider to be old? Think of some 'old' people you know.

How old are they?

What are they like?

What do they do every day?

Which of these activities are typical for old people?

- finding it difficult to sleep
- liking routine
- going to university
- studying foreign languages
- going to church
- talking about the past
- losing your memory
- using the Internet
- living in the centre of a city
- watching TV

- 2 Read the text quickly. Which of the activities in exercise 1 are part of Mary Hobson's life? Explain the title: 'A life in the day'.
- 3 Read the text again. Find the highlighted lines and answer the questions about them.
- 1 1.04 What is 'it'? Why does 'it' do this?
- 2 1.10 What is 'it'? How did Marcus Aurelius help Mary?
- 3 1.22 What does she work at for nothing? What does this imply about Mary's lifestyle?
- 4 1.24 Who is 'he'? Who is 'some old bat'?
- 5 1.30 What was hell for who? What did Mary do about it?
- 6 1.35 What was the session? What did Mary do in it?
- 7 1.47 Is 'the time of your life' a good or bad time? What was the time of Mary's life?
- 8 1.55 Why do they think this?
- 9 1.65 What is 'it'? What does Mary mean by this?
- 10 1.67 What is 'it'? Why does she sleep so badly?

# A life in the day

**Mary Hobson, 77, gained a degree in Russian in her sixties and a PhD at 74. A mother of four, she lives in south London.**

6 I've started to learn ancient Greek. It doesn't urge you to communicate, only to learn, and I find the early hours of the morning the perfect time for that. I love ritual and routine. I wait until 6am to have tea; at 7am I phone my youngest daughter and we start the day with a chat. At 7.30 I make breakfast – All-Bran, wholemeal toast, and a pot of black coffee – and I take it back to bed along with the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius.

15 I am a dedicated atheist. I regard religion as complete lunacy. You've got only one opportunity to be alive: for goodness' sake don't waste it waiting for an afterlife. I read Marcus Aurelius every day; it was his philosophy that got me through my son Matthew's death, four years ago in a motorcycle accident. Aurelius said: 'What we cannot bear removes us from life.' Matthew's death was such a waste. At first I would rather have been dead too, but then I thought: 'No. I mustn't do less. I must do more!'

20 After a bath I spend the morning translating. A special committee was convened to organize the translation of the works of Pushkin for his centenary. Unpaid, of course. I'm an expert at working for nothing. Poor old Pushkin: some of his letters were scandalous. Really very rude indeed. How was he to know that, 200 years later, some old bat would be poring over every line?

30 I am what you might call a late developer. I was 40 before I wrote my first novel, 62 when I went to university. My husband, Neil, was a talented jazz musician, but at 25 he developed a cerebral abscess, losing his speech and the use of the right side of his body. It was hell for him and a nightmare for us. We were so broke, we lived on national assistance for ages. When things got really bad, I'd collect up old china and give it to the children to smash out their frustrations on the wall outside.

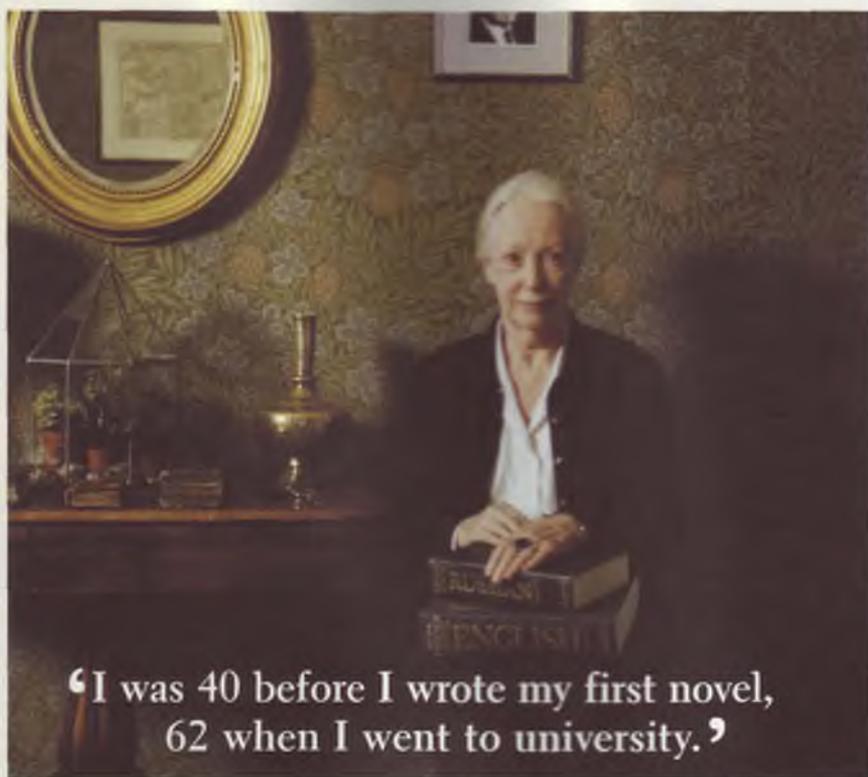
35 I wrote my first novel while Neil had his weekly music therapy. That 50-minute session was all I had. I used to sit in the ABC café in Earls Court and write and write while couples had life-and-death quarrels around me. Neil was terribly difficult. None of it was his fault, of course, but after 28 years I thought: 'It's not my fault either.' I was going down with him. I left and Matthew stayed with him to stop me going back – I was very grateful for that.

45 Having snatched a bit of life back, I had to do something with it. My daughter Emma gave me *War and Peace*, and I loved it so much. Then it hit me: I hadn't read it at all, I'd only read a translation, and I so longed to read the actual words. A marvellous elderly Russian lady taught me the basics and I enrolled on the Russian-

# Mary Hobson

by Caroline Scott

WINNER OF THE PUSHKIN GOLD MEDAL FOR TRANSLATION



‘I was 40 before I wrote my first novel,  
62 when I went to university.’

language degree course at the University of London. People talk about ‘the time of their lives’. Well, that was mine. Don’t let anyone tell you your memory goes with age. It’s there if you want it enough. Gradually I forced it into action – it was such an exhilarating experience. Oh, the joy of learning!

I have such good friends. After a late lunch, I might go and play Scrabble with a Russian lady. I write poetry en route, on buses and trains. I love London. Give me the town over the country any day. I try to go to Moscow every year in the coldest weather. My Russian friends think I’m mad; it hits minus 40 and they find it hellish. I adore lying in bed listening to snow being scraped from the pavements.

I have an overpowering feeling that I don’t want to waste any time. There’s so much out there. I won’t be able to get about forever, so when I can’t stagger down my front steps, I’ll perfect my Greek. I order my groceries on the Internet, so I have everything sent. As long as I have my books I’ll be happy.

If I’m not going out, I make supper and get into bed, simply because my feet are awful. Then I phone everyone I can think of. I can’t bear TV – it makes me feel as if everyone else is living and I’m only watching. I don’t have a newspaper; I get my news through Radio 4. I sleep rottenly, so I have it on all night. Dreams are horrendous. Mine are all about anxiety and loss. I much prefer the day – at least you know you’re in charge.

## Language work

There is *one* mistake in each of these sentences. Find it and discuss why it is wrong with a partner. Check your answers in the text.

- 1 I make breakfast and I take it back to the bed.
- 2 I am a dedicated atheist. My husband was talented jazz musician.
- 3 You’ve got only an opportunity to be alive.
- 4 I enrolled on the Russian-language degree course at University of London.
- 5 I try to go to Moscow every year in coldest weather.
- 6 Having snatched a bit of the life back, I had to do something with it.
- 7 Give me the town over a country.
- 8 I make supper and get into bed, simply because the feet are awful.

## What do you think?

- It’s easy to think of all the advantages of being young and the disadvantages of being old. But try it the other way round. Work in two groups.

**Group A** List all the disadvantages of being young.

**Group B** List all the advantages of being old.

- Find a partner from the other group and discuss your lists.
- Discuss as a class. What do you think is the best age to be in life?

## VOCABULARY AND LISTENING

### Hot words – *life* and *time*

- 1 Work with a partner. Complete the expressions below with either the word *life* or *time*. Use a dictionary to help.

Having the <b>time</b> of your <b>life</b> !	
not on your _____	you can bet your _____
take your _____	better luck next _____
get a _____	get a new lease of _____
kill _____	it's high _____
third _____ lucky	for the _____ being
no _____ to lose	stand the test of _____
that's _____	see _____
not before _____	in the nick of _____
any old _____	dead on _____
a cushy _____	anything for a quiet _____

- 2 Complete these lines with an expression from exercise 1.

- 1 No need to hurry. Take ...
- 2 For goodness sake hurry up. There's no ...
- 3 The operation was so successful that grandpa got a new ...
- 4 Shakespeare's writing is still relevant today. It's really stood ...
- 5 I got to the bank in the ... It was just about to close.
- 6 You can give them back any ... I'm not going skiing again until next year.
- 7 OK, OK stop crying. You can have another ice-cream. Anything ...

- 3 **T 12.7** Listen to the conversations. What are the people talking about? Which of the expressions from exercise 1 do you hear? Turn to p139 and practise the conversations with your partner.

#### A song

- 4 **T 12.8** Close your books and listen to a song called *That's life*, recorded by Frank Sinatra and Robbie Williams. Then read the words on this page. There are many differences. Listen again and note them all.
- 5 **T 12.8** Listen again and sing along!

# THAT'S LIFE

That's life, that's what they all say.  
You're full of life in April,  
Shot down in May.  
But you bet I'm gonna play that tune,  
When I've got a new lease of life in June.

That's life, strange as it seems.  
Some people get their kicks,  
Jumpin' on dreams;  
But I don't allow it to get me down,  
'Cause this ol' world continues turning around.

I've been a puppet, a pauper, a pilot,  
A policeman, a pawn and a king.  
I've been up and over and in and out  
And I know a few things:  
Every time I find myself down on my face,  
I pull myself up and get back in the race.

That's life, I can't deny it,  
I thought of giving up,  
But my head just won't buy it.  
If I didn't think it was worth a try,  
I'd roll up in a corner and cry.

## EVERYDAY ENGLISH

### Linking and commenting

- 1 Look at these lines from the first tapescript in T12.6. The expressions in **bold** link or comment on what has been said or what is going to be said. They are mainly adverbs.

**Personally**, I'm just happy to be alive.      **Anyway**, I had some tests ...  
You see, I'd recently married ...      **In fact** the transplant failed ...

Find other examples from the tapescripts on p138.

- 2 Read these conversations. Choose the correct linking or commenting expression.

- 1 A Did you see the match last night?  
B No, but *apparently / obviously* it was a good game. We won, didn't we?  
A *Probably / Actually*, it was a draw, but it was really exciting.
- 2 A What do you think of Claire's new boyfriend?  
B *Personally / Certainly*, I can't stand him. I think he'll dump her like all the rest. *Ideally / However*, that's her problem, not mine.  
A Poor old Claire! She always picks the wrong ones, doesn't she?  
*Anyway / Honestly*, we'll see soon enough.
- 3 A I don't know how you can afford to buy all those fabulous clothes!  
B *Still / Hopefully*, I'm going to get a bonus this month. My boss has promised. *After all / Presumably*, I did earn the company over £100,000 last year. *Basically / Absolutely*, I deserve it.
- 4 A She said some terrible things to me. I hate her!  
B *Generally speaking / All the same*, I think you should apologize to her. *If you ask me / Apparently* you lose your temper too easily. You're being very childish. It's time you both grew up!  
A What?! I never thought I'd hear you speak to me like that.  
B *Still / Honestly*, I'm not taking sides. I just think you should make up.
- 5 A So, Billy. You say that this is the last record you're ever going to make?  
B *Surely / Definitely*.  
A But *surely / actually* you realize how upset your fans are going to be?  
B *Obviously / Hopefully*, I don't want to hurt anyone, but *certainly / basically*, I'm fed up with pop music. I'd like to do something else. *After all / Ideally*, I'd like to get into films.

**T 12.9** Listen and check your answers. Practise some of the dialogues.

- 3 Complete these with a suitable line.

- 1 They had a dreadful holiday. **Apparently** ...  
2 It should have been a happy marriage. **After all**, ...  
3 I know you don't want to go to Harry's party. **All the same**, ...  
4 I had the interview yesterday. **Hopefully**, ...  
5 I'd rather you didn't let this go any further. **Obviously**, ...  
6 I couldn't believe it, he just walked out and left her. **Presumably**, ...  
7 I don't like flying very much. **As a matter of fact**, ...  
8 So that's that. All's well that ends well. **Anyway**, ...