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# You're never too old

WORKSHEET A

Below are four descriptions of impressive achievements by older people: three are true, and one has been made up. Can you identify which is not true?

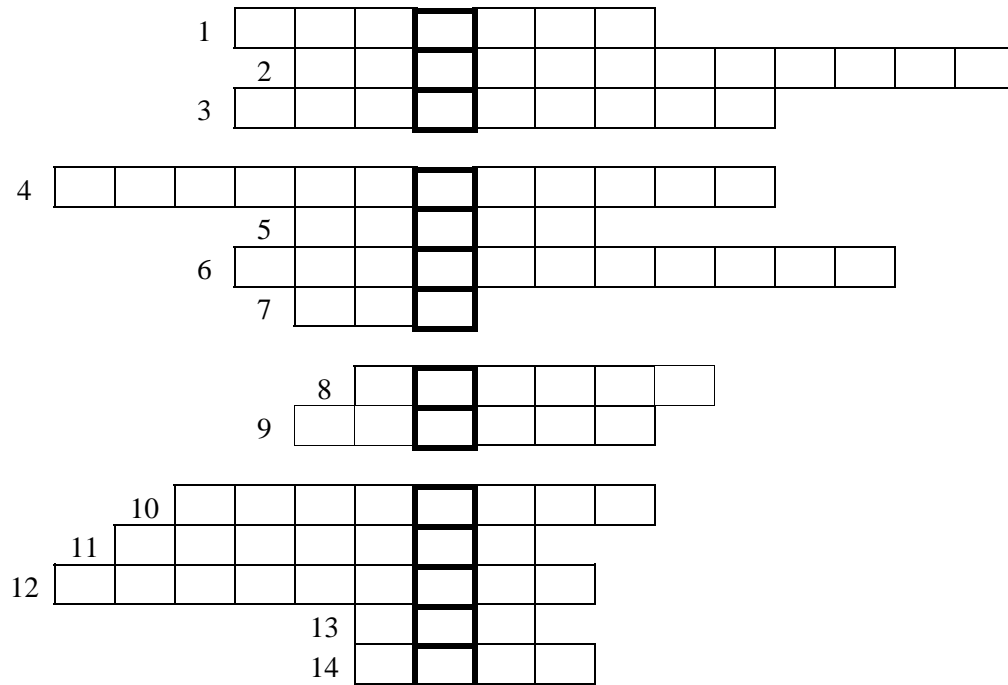
1. Dorothy de Low, from Australia, is still playing ping pong for her country at the age of 100. She was recently part of the Australian team in the 2010 World Veterans' Championships in China. She plays in the over-80s age group, which means she sometimes plays against people who are 20 years younger than her. When playing in the 2006 world championship in Germany, she was asked to appear on TV talk shows, but said no because she wanted to get back to Australia as quickly as possible to take care of her yard.
2. Ed Puma, who lives in Seattle in the United States, is probably the most athletic 95-year-old in the world. He jogs 10 kilometers most mornings, and swims for an hour in the ocean at least twice a week. He started running marathons in his late 60s and did his first triathlon (a mixture of running, swimming, and cycling) at the age of 78. In 2002, at the age of 87, he decided to try the "Ironman" long-distance triathlon in Hawaii, which consists of a 4-kilometer swim, an 180-kilometer cycle ride, and a marathon (42 kilometers). He came 130<sup>th</sup> out of 159 competitors, finishing the race in just under 10 hours.
3. The British escapologist Ron Cunningham, also known as "The Great Omani," was still performing in his 80s. Earlier in his life, one of his most popular performances was to go on to a pier, lock himself in chains, set his clothes on fire, jump into the ocean to put out the flames, and then escape from the chains before he drowned. He gave his very last show (again setting himself on fire and escaping from chains, but this time without jumping into the ocean) at the age of 90. Before he died in 2007, he wrote his own epitaph: "They have put The Great Omani in a box / They're using nails instead of locks / But at the funeral don't despair / There's still a chance Omani won't be there."
4. In 2007, an Australian woman named Olive Riley became the world's oldest blogger when she started writing a blog at the age of 107. She died about a year later, aged 108, but not before she had posted around 70 entries. Several short movies of her talking about various subjects, or singing songs, were also put on YouTube®. Although she needed help with typing because her eyesight was not good, Olive herself decided what went into the blog. Because of her age, her blog became quite popular, and, in the last year of her life, put her in touch with lots of different people around the world.

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WORKSHEET B

## Exercise 1

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, the name of the blog that Olive Riley started at the age of 107 will read from top to bottom.



1. Ron wrote a rhyming \_\_\_\_\_ to be read at his funeral.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Dorothy, Ron, and Olive are all impressive.
3. Olive wasn't very interested in \_\_\_\_\_ on TV talk shows.
4. Ron was an \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Dorothy recently played ping pong in \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Ron gave his last \_\_\_\_\_ when he was 90.
7. Like many older people, Olive could not \_\_\_\_\_ very well.
8. In many of his performances, Ron had to escape from \_\_\_\_\_ chains.
9. The "box" Ron was hoping to make his final escape from was his \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The ping pong championships that Dorothy plays in are for \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Ron told people not to \_\_\_\_\_ when he died.
12. Dorothy lives in \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Ron often \_\_\_\_\_ himself on fire.
14. Another person had to help Olive \_\_\_\_\_ her blog.

# You're never too old

WORKSHEET C

## Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks to complete the text.

Dorothy de Low, from Australia, is (1) **s** \_ \_ \_ **l** playing ping pong for her (2) \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ **y** at the age of 100. She was recently part of the Australian team in the 2010 World Veterans' (3) **Ch** \_ \_ \_ **ion** \_ \_ **ips** in China. She plays in the (4) **o** \_ \_ \_ -80s age group, which means she sometimes plays (5) **a** \_ \_ \_ \_ **s** \_ people who are 20 years younger than her. When playing in the 2006 world championship in Germany, she was asked to appear on TV (6) \_ **a** \_ **k** \_ \_ \_ **ws**, but said no because she wanted to get back to Australia as quickly as possible to (7) \_ **a** \_ **e** \_ **a** \_ **e** \_ **o** \_ her yard.

The British escapologist Ron Cunningham, also known as "The Great Omani," was still (8) **p** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ **ing** in his 80s. Earlier in his life, one of his most popular performances was to go on to a pier, (9) **l** \_ \_ \_ himself in chains, set his clothes on fire, jump into the ocean to put out the (10) **fl** \_ \_ \_ \_ , and then escape from the chains before he (11) \_ **r** \_ **wn** \_ \_ . He gave his very last show (again setting himself on fire and escaping from chains, but this time without jumping into the ocean) at the age of 90. Before he died in 2007, he wrote his own epitaph: "They have put The Great Omani in a (12) \_ \_ **x** / They're using (13) **n** \_ \_ **l** \_ instead of locks / But at the funeral don't despair / There's still a chance Omani won't be there."

In 2007, an Australian woman named Olive Riley became the world's oldest (14) **bl** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ when she started writing a blog at the age of 107. She died about a year later, (15) **a** \_ \_ **d** 108, but not before she had posted around 70 (16) **entr** \_ \_ \_ . Several short movies of her talking about various subjects, or singing songs, were also (17) \_ \_ **t** on YouTube. Although she needed help with typing because her (18) \_ **yes** \_ **g** \_ **t** was not good, Olive herself decided what went into the blog. Because of her age, her blog became quite (19) \_ \_ \_ \_ **lar**, and, in the last year of her life, put her (20) \_ **n** \_ **to** \_ \_ \_ \_ **i** \_ **h** lots of different people around the world.