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Level 4 – 26th May 2025

Denmark to have world's highest retirement age

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250526-rising-retirement-ages-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250526-rising-retirement-ages-4.html>

Denmark has announced it will raise the retirement age for its citizens to 70 by the year 2040. Workers will have the world's longest wait to retire. Denmark said this was because of increasing life expectancy. However, Danish people are unhappy. A trade union leader said: "Denmark has a healthy economy and yet the EU's highest retirement age." He said workers would "lose their right to a dignified senior life".

The world's first retirement age was set at 70 in Germany in 1881. Many countries followed and introduced their own ages. The USA first adopted a retirement age in 1935. The retirement age in America is creeping up. "USA Today" wrote: "The upward trend is slow, but striking. In 1994, the average man worked to age 61, while the typical woman clocked out at 59. Americans are living longer, and working longer."

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cvg71v533q6o>
<https://www.barrons.com/news/denmark-raises-retirement-age-to-70-by-2040-1ce887c0>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Retirement_age
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2025/05/22/retirement-age-rising-social-security-medicare/83767525007/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250526-rising-retirement-ages-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. raise the retirement age | a. retirement age |
| 2. the world's longest | b. leader |
| 3. increasing life | c. wait to retire |
| 4. A trade union | d. life |
| 5. Denmark has | e. for its citizens |
| 6. the EU's highest | f. lose their right |
| 7. He said workers would | g. expectancy |
| 8. a dignified senior | h. a healthy economy |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. The world's first retirement age | a. creeping up |
| 2. Many countries | b. in 1935 |
| 3. introduced their own | c. out at 59 |
| 4. first adopted a retirement age | d. ages |
| 5. The retirement age in America is | e. to age 61 |
| 6. The upward trend | f. was set at 70 |
| 7. the average man worked | g. is slow |
| 8. the typical woman clocked | h. followed |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250526-rising-retirement-ages-4.html>

Denmark (1) _____ will raise the retirement age for (2) _____ 70 by the year 2040. Workers will have the world's longest (3) _____. Denmark said this was because of (4) _____. However, Danish people are unhappy. A (5) _____ said: "Denmark has a healthy economy and yet the EU's highest retirement age." He said workers would "lose their right (6) _____ senior life".

The world's first retirement (7) _____ at 70 in Germany in 1881. Many countries (8) _____ their own ages. The USA first adopted (9) _____ in 1935. The retirement age in America (10) _____. "USA Today" wrote: "The upward trend is slow, but striking. In 1994, the average man worked to age 61, while the (11) _____ out at 59. Americans are living (12) _____ longer."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250526-rising-retirement-ages-4.html>

Denmark has announced it will raise the retirement age for its citizens to 70 by the year 2040. Workers will have the world's longest wait to retire. Denmark said this was because of increasing life expectancy. However, Danish people are unhappy. A trade union leader said: "Denmark has a healthy economy and yet the EU's highest retirement age." He said workers would "lose their right to a dignified senior life". The world's first retirement age was set at 70 in Germany in 1881. Many countries followed and introduced their own ages. The USA first adopted a retirement age in 1935. The retirement age in America is creeping up. "USA Today" wrote: "The upward trend is slow, but striking. In 1994, the average man worked to age 61, while the typical woman clocked out at 59. Americans are living longer, and working longer."

RETIREMENT AGES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250526-rising-retirement-ages-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about retirement ages in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250526-rising-retirement-ages-4.html>

Write about **retirement ages** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]