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Level 5 – 26th May 2025

Denmark to have world's highest retirement age

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250526-rising-retirement-ages-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250526-rising-retirement-ages-5.html>

Increased longevity is pushing up ages of retirement. Denmark's government has announced it will raise the retirement age for its citizens to 70 by the year 2040. Denmark's workers will have the world's longest wait before they can retire. Denmark said the new law was because of increasing life expectancy. However, a trade union leader in Denmark expressed his consternation at this. He said: "Denmark has a healthy economy and yet the EU's highest retirement age". He added: "A higher retirement age means that [workers will] lose their right to a dignified senior life."

The world's first retirement age was set at 70 in Germany in 1881. It reduced this to 65 in 1916. Many countries followed and introduced their own ages for workers to retire. The USA first adopted a retirement age in 1935. The USA Today website said the retirement age in America was creeping up. It 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." China has also announced an increase. This will take effect over the next 15 years.

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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. raise the retirement age for | a. at this |
| 2. because of increasing life | b. lose their right |
| 3. a trade union | c. expectancy |
| 4. expressed his consternation | d. life |
| 5. Denmark has a healthy | e. leader |
| 6. the EU's | f. economy |
| 7. workers will | g. its citizens |
| 8. a dignified senior | h. highest retirement age |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The world's first retirement age | a. an increase |
| 2. It reduced | b. over the next 15 years |
| 3. The USA first adopted a | c. trend is slow |
| 4. the retirement age in America was | d. this to 65 in 1916 |
| 5. The upward | e. creeping up |
| 6. the typical woman clocked | f. was set at 70 |
| 7. China has also announced | g. retirement age |
| 8. This will take effect | h. out at 59 |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250526-rising-retirement-ages-5.html>

Increased (1) _____ up ages of retirement. Denmark's government has announced it will raise the retirement age for (2) _____ 70 by the year 2040. Denmark's workers will have the world's longest wait before (3) _____. Denmark said the new law was because of increasing life expectancy. However, a (4) _____ in Denmark expressed his consternation at this. He said: "Denmark has (5) _____ and yet the EU's highest retirement age". He added: "A higher retirement age means that [workers will] lose their right to a (6) _____."

The world's first retirement age (7) _____ 70 in Germany in 1881. It reduced this to 65 in 1916. Many countries followed and introduced (8) _____ for workers to retire. The USA (9) _____ retirement age in 1935. The USA Today website said the retirement age in America was creeping up. It wrote: "(10) _____ is slow, but striking. In 1994, the average man worked to age 61, while the typical woman (11) _____ 59. Americans are living longer, and working longer." China has also announced an increase. This will (12) _____ the next 15 years.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2505/250526-rising-retirement-ages-5.html>

Increased longevity is pushing up ages of retirement. Denmark's government has announced it will raise the retirement age for its citizens to 70 by the year 2040. Denmark's workers will have the world's longest wait before they can retire. Denmark said the new law was because of increasing life expectancy. However, a trade union leader in Denmark expressed his consternation at this. He said: "Denmark has a healthy economy and yet the EU's highest retirement age". He added: "A higher retirement age means that [workers will] lose their right to a dignified senior life." The world's first retirement age was set at 70 in Germany in 1881. It reduced this to 65 in 1916. Many countries followed and introduced their own ages for workers to retire. The USA first adopted a retirement age in 1935. The USA Today website said the retirement age in America was creeping up. It 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." China has also announced an increase. This will take effect over the next 15 years.

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-5.html>

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

[illegible]