

PREPARE FOR IELTS. AN INTERESTING OLD PERSON. TRANSCRIPT

Describe an interesting old person

You should say:

Who this person is

How you know this person What you do or did together

And why you think this person is interesting

I've decided to talk about a friend of the family - I call her Auntie Jo, but she's not my real aunt - she's an honorary aunt. I can't recall when I first met her - as far as I'm aware, she has always been around. I think she was close friends with my grandparents and she became part of the family. She is in her late seventies now, but she's not your typical OAP - she is a spring chicken. I think because she is young at heart, this keeps her young, both mentally and physically.

When I was studying in primary school, my parents used to work long hours and so Auntie Jo would look after me until they got home. The main reason why I find her fascinating is that she used to live in Italy when she was younger and she would tell me stories about her time there. She's a good raconteur and her tales were hilarious. She may have told a few white lies to make the stories more entertaining, but I didn't care - she's such a great storyteller. Because she spent many years living in Italy, she prepares exciting and tasty dishes such as pizza and pasta. Most oldies in my country are not into Italian cuisine, but I love the fact that she has embraced another culture and, to this day, she makes homemade pizza when I pop round to see her.

Unlike many senior citizens who are stuck in their ways and do not like change, she embraces change and is always keen to try something new. She has an Instagram account and regularly posts selfies. She is computer-literate and knows more about computers than many people half her age. She is inspirational because, despite her age, she doesn't slow down, she just enjoys life. They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks, well that is nonsense because my Auntie Jo never stops learning and I think that is what keeps her young.

VOCABULARY

a good raconteur - someone who tells funny or interesting stories

a spring chicken - like a young person

an honorary aunt - someone who is not related to you biologically, but takes care of you like family

are not into Italian cuisine - do not like Italian food

as far as I'm aware - as far as I know, as far as I remember

computer literate - knowing how to use a computer

fascinating - very interesting

her tales were hilarious - her stories were very funny

I pop around/round - I visit

in her late seventies - 77-79

inspirational - feeling confident about yourself or eager to learn something

mentally - related to someone's mind

nonsense - an idea said or written that is silly or stupid

OAP = old age pensioner

oldies - old people

physically - related to someone's body

selfies - putting pictures of yourself that you have taken online

senior citizens - old people

stuck in their ways - to do the same things and never change

to embrace - to fully accept and welcome

to recall - to remember

to slow down - to be less active and relax more

to this day - until now

you can't teach an old dog new tricks - a person who is old or used to doing things in a certain way and cannot learn or will not learn a new way

young at heart - thinking and behaving as if you are younger than you really are