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**Level 6 – 17th October, 2022**

## **Former Malaysia leader to run for office aged 97**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

They say age is just a number, and that you are as young as you feel. The former prime minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, is proving this to be true. Mr Mahathir is pushing back the years and running for office at the ripe old age of 97. He has been the country's leader twice before. The first time was for 22 years, between 1981 and 2003; the second time was a near-two-year term from May 2018. He has announced he will run for parliament in his country's upcoming general election. He was typically coy on whether or not he has his eyes set on the top job once again. He told journalists: "We have not decided who will be prime minister because the prime minister candidate is only relevant if we win."

Mahathir Mohamad has been an ever-present force in Malaysian politics. He first became a member of parliament in 1964. He is widely regarded as being a visionary for changing his country's economic fortunes. He spearheaded Malaysia's rapid economic transformation throughout the 1980s. Mahathir's decision to contest the parliamentary seat of Langkawi marks his 11th general election campaign. Many commentators in Malaysia are sceptical about Mr Mahathir's chances because of his recent ill health. He has a history of heart trouble and has had several heart attacks and bypass operations, including a quadruple bypass surgery. He was discharged from hospital last month after contracting Covid-19.

Sources: <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3195595/malysias-mahathir-mohamad-97-contest-election-save-country-umno>  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/10/12/asia/malaysia-mahathir-mohamad-runs-parliament-intl-hnk/index.html>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-63218662>

# WARM-UPS

**1. PRIME MINISTER:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about prime ministers. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

age / young / prime minister / true / office / old age / parliament / eyes / candidate / force / politics / visionary / transformation / election / campaign / ill health / surgery

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. AGE LIMIT:** Students A **strongly** believe there should be an age limit for presidents and prime ministers; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. AGE:** What is the best age to do these things? Why Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	The Best Age	Why?
National leader		
First-time parent		
Athlete		
Rock star		
English teacher		
Model		

**5. YOUNG:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "young". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. THE BEST AGE:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best age to be at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- 10
- 16
- 21
- 30
- 45
- 60
- 75
- 100

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1. ripe      | a. Put or focused.  |
| 2. term      | b. Closely connected to or appropriate to what is being done or considered.                   |
| 3. announced | c. Advanced (in age).   |
| 4. upcoming  | d. A fixed or limited period for something, for example government office, imprisonment, etc. |
| 5. set       | e. About to happen.   |
| 6. candidate | f. A person who applies for a job or is nominated for election.                               |
| 7. relevant  | g. Made a formal public statement about a fact, happening, or intention.                      |

## Paragraph 2

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 8. regarded     | h. Consisting of four parts or elements.                                       |
| 9. visionary    | i. Not easily convinced; having doubts or reservations.                        |
| 10. spearheaded | j. A place in a country that a politician can win to represent in an election. |
| 11. seat        | k. Considered or thought of in a specified way.                                |
| 12. sceptical   | l. Allowed a patient to leave hospital because they recovered.                 |
| 13. quadruple   | m. A person with original ideas about what the future will or could be like.   |
| 14. discharged  | n. Was the leader of a campaign and made it successful.                        |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The article says age is a big number. **T / F**
2. Mahathir Mohamad has been prime minister twice before. **T / F**
3. Mahathir Mohamad was once in power for 22 years. **T / F**
4. Mr Mahathir told reporters he wanted to be prime minister again. **T / F**
5. Mr Mahathir first became a politician in 1984. **T / F**
6. Mr Mahathir will be contesting his eleventh general election. **T / F**
7. Journalists think Mr Mahathir has a good chance of winning the election. **T / F**
8. Mr Mahathir has had several heart attacks. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. <b>just</b>           | a. characteristically |
| 2. <b>running</b>        | b. change             |
| 3. <b>announced</b>      | c. pertinent          |
| 4. <b>typically</b>      | d. thought of         |
| 5. <b>relevant</b>       | e. standing           |
| 6. <b>force</b>          | f. doubtful           |
| 7. <b>regarded</b>       | g. simply             |
| 8. <b>transformation</b> | h. released           |
| 9. <b>sceptical</b>      | i. made public        |
| 10. <b>discharged</b>    | j. influence          |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. They say age is                  | a. the top job once again      |
| 2. running for office at the        | b. Mr Mahathir's chances       |
| 3. in his country's upcoming        | c. force in Malaysian politics |
| 4. He was typically                 | d. being a visionary           |
| 5. he has his eyes set on           | e. ripe old age of 97          |
| 6. Mohamad has been an ever-present | f. economic transformation     |
| 7. He is widely regarded as         | g. just a number               |
| 8. He spearheaded Malaysia's rapid  | h. surgery                     |
| 9. sceptical about                  | i. coy                         |
| 10. a quadruple bypass              | j. general election            |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

They say age is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a number, and that you are as young as you feel. The former prime minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, is (2) \_\_\_\_\_ this to be true. Mr Mahathir is pushing back the years and running for office at the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ old age of 97. He has been the country's leader (4) \_\_\_\_\_ before. The first time was for 22 years, between 1981 and 2003; the second time was a near-two-year (5) \_\_\_\_\_ from May 2018. He has announced he will run for parliament in his country's upcoming general election. He was typically (6) \_\_\_\_\_ on whether or not he has his (7) \_\_\_\_\_ set on the top job once again. He told journalists: "We have not decided who will be prime minister because the prime minister candidate is only (8) \_\_\_\_\_ if we win."

*twice*  
*eyes*  
*term*  
*proving*  
*relevant*  
*ripe*  
*coy*  
*just*

Mahathir Mohamad has been an ever-present (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in Malaysian politics. He first became a member of parliament in 1964. He is widely regarded as being a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ for changing his country's economic (11) \_\_\_\_\_. He spearheaded Malaysia's rapid economic transformation throughout the 1980s. Mahathir's decision to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the parliamentary seat of Langkawi marks his 11th general election campaign. Many commentators in Malaysia are (13) \_\_\_\_\_ about Mr Mahathir's chances because of his recent ill health. He has a (14) \_\_\_\_\_ of heart trouble and has had several heart attacks and bypass operations, including a quadruple (15) \_\_\_\_\_ surgery. He was discharged from hospital last month after (16) \_\_\_\_\_ Covid-19.

*fortunes*  
*bypass*  
*force*  
*sceptical*  
*contracting*  
*visionary*  
*history*  
*contest*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

- 1) They say age is just a number, and that you are as young \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. as you feel
  - b. as you heel
  - c. as youth feel
  - d. as youth heel
- 2) prime minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, is proving this \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to be truth
  - b. to be through
  - c. to be true
  - d. to be thorough
- 3) Mr Mahathir is pushing back the years and running for office at the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. reap old age
  - b. wipe old age
  - c. rye poled age
  - d. ripe old age
- 4) He has announced he will run for parliament in his country's \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. incoming general election
  - b. oncoming general election
  - c. upcoming general election
  - d. sup coming general election
- 5) who will be prime minister because the prime minister candidate \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. is only relevance
  - b. is only relevant
  - c. is only relevantly
  - d. is only reverent
- 6) Mahathir Mohamad has been an ever-present force \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. in Malaysian policies
  - b. in Malaysian poll antics
  - c. in Malaysian Polly ticks
  - d. in Malaysian politics
- 7) a member of parliament in 1964. He is widely regarded as \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. been a visionary
  - b. being a visionary
  - c. boing a visionary
  - d. buying a visionary
- 8) throughout the 1980s. Mahathir's decision to contest \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the parliamentary sheet
  - b. the parliamentary seat
  - c. the parliamentary sleet
  - d. the parliamentary suite
- 9) sceptical about Mr Mahathir's chances because of his \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. recent till health
  - b. recent tall health
  - c. recent e-health
  - d. recent ill health
- 10) several heart attacks and bypass operations, including a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. quadruple bypass sugary
  - b. quadruple bypass surge airy
  - c. quadruple bypass surgery
  - d. quadruple bypass sir Jerry

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

They say age is (1) \_\_\_\_\_, and that you are as young as you feel. The former prime minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, is proving this to be true. Mr Mahathir (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the years and running for office at the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of 97. He has been the country's leader twice before. The first time was for 22 years, between 1981 and 2003; the second time was a near-two-year term from May 2018. He has announced he will run for parliament in his country's upcoming general election. He (4) \_\_\_\_\_ on whether or not he has his (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the top job once again. He told journalists: "We have not decided who will be prime minister because the prime minister candidate is (6) \_\_\_\_\_ we win."

Mahathir Mohamad has been an (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in Malaysian politics. He first became a member of parliament in 1964. He is widely regarded as (8) \_\_\_\_\_ for changing his country's economic fortunes. He spearheaded Malaysia's rapid economic transformation throughout the 1980s. Mahathir's (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the parliamentary seat of Langkawi marks his 11th general election campaign. Many commentators in Malaysia (10) \_\_\_\_\_ Mr Mahathir's chances because of his recent ill health. He has a history of heart trouble and has had several heart (11) \_\_\_\_\_ operations, including a quadruple bypass surgery. He was discharged from hospital last (12) \_\_\_\_\_ Covid-19.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

1. What does the article say age is?
2. What does the article say Mahathir Mohamad is pushing back?
3. What's the longest time Mahathir Mohamad has spent as prime minister?
4. How was Mahathir Mohamad being with journalists?
5. Who did Mr Mahathir say would be prime minister?
6. When did Mr Mahathir first become a politician?
7. What does the article say Mr Mahathir changed in Malaysia?
8. How many elections has Mr Mahathir already contested?
9. What are commentators sceptical about?
10. What kind of surgery did Mr Mahathir have?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

- 1) What does the article say age is?
  - a) old
  - b) just a number
  - c) young
  - d) a great numeral
- 2) What does the article say Mahathir Mohamad is pushing back?
  - a) doubts
  - b) voters
  - c) elections
  - d) the years
- 3) What's the longest time Mahathir Mohamad has spent as prime minister?
  - a) nearly two years
  - b) 18 months
  - c) 22 years
  - d) 12 years
- 4) How was Mahathir Mohamad being with journalists?
  - a) coy
  - b) angry
  - c) informative
  - d) jovial
- 5) Who did Mr Mahathir say would be prime minister?
  - a) himself
  - b) he doesn't know
  - c) he said it was a two-horse race
  - d) anybody
- 6) When did Mr Mahathir first become a politician?
  - a) 1964
  - b) 1965
  - c) 1962
  - d) 1968
- 7) What does the article say Mr Mahathir changed in Malaysia?
  - a) the voting system
  - b) laws
  - c) its economic fortunes
  - d) people's incomes
- 8) How many elections has Mr Mahathir already contested?
  - a) 10
  - b) 11
  - c) 12
  - d) 13
- 9) What are commentators sceptical about?
  - a) Malaysia's future
  - b) elections
  - c) democracy
  - d) Mahathir's chances of winning
- 10) What kind of surgery did Mr Mahathir have?
  - a) a hernia operation
  - b) one for COVID-19
  - c) quadruple bypass surgery
  - d) cosmetic surgery

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

## **Role A – Ten**

You think 10 is the best age to be. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ages. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): 20, 50 or 100.

## **Role B – Twenty**

You think 20 is is the best age to be. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ages. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): 10, 50 or 100.

## **Role C – Fifty**

You think 50 is is the best age to be. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ages. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): 20, 10 or 100.

## **Role D – One Hundred**

You think 100 is is the best age to be. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ages. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): 20, 50 or 10.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'office' and 'leader'.

<b>office</b>	<b>leader</b>
---------------	---------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• number</li><li>• feel</li><li>• ripe</li><li>• term</li><li>• eyes</li><li>• win</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• force</li><li>• widely</li><li>• seat</li><li>• recent</li><li>• several</li><li>• month</li></ul>
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# AGE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

Write five GOOD questions about age 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.

# AGE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'leader'?
3. Do you think age is just a number?
4. Are you just as young as you feel?
5. What do you think of having a 97-year-old leader?
6. What do you think of your country's leader?
7. What do you hope to be doing at the age of 97?
8. Should Mr Mahathir become Malaysia's next prime minister?
9. When was the last time you were coy about something?
10. What advice do you have for Mr Mahathir?

*Former Malaysia leader to run for office aged 97 – 17th October, 2022*  
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# AGE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'office'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of politicians?
15. Are young or old leaders best?
16. Should there be a limit on the age of national leaders?
17. What should the retirement age be?
18. What are the benefits of being in your nineties?
19. What do you know about Malaysia?
20. What questions would you like to ask Mr Mahathir?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

They say (1) \_\_\_\_\_ is just a number, and that you are as young as you feel. The former prime minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, is (2) \_\_\_\_\_ this to be true. Mr Mahathir is pushing back the years and running for office at the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ old age of 97. He has been the country's leader twice before. The first time was for 22 years, between 1981 and 2003; the second time was a near-two-year (4) \_\_\_\_\_ from May 2018. He has announced he will run for parliament in his country's upcoming general election. He was typically (5) \_\_\_\_\_ on whether or not he has his eyes set on the top job once again. He told journalists: "We have not decided who will be prime minister because the prime minister candidate is only (6) \_\_\_\_\_ if we win."

Mahathir Mohamad has been an ever-present (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in Malaysian politics. He first became a member of parliament in 1964. He is widely regarded as (8) \_\_\_\_\_ a visionary for changing his country's economic fortunes. He spearheaded Malaysia's rapid economic transformation throughout the 1980s. Mahathir's decision to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the parliamentary seat of Langkawi marks his 11th general election campaign. Many commentators in Malaysia are (10) \_\_\_\_\_ about Mr Mahathir's chances because of his recent ill health. He has a history of heart trouble and has had several heart attacks and (11) \_\_\_\_\_ operations, including a quadruple bypass surgery. He was discharged from hospital last month (12) \_\_\_\_\_ contracting Covid-19.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                |                |               |               |
|-----|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) ageing     | (b) age        | (c) ageist    | (d) ageism    |
| 2.  | (a) proves     | (b) proving    | (c) proven    | (d) proof     |
| 3.  | (a) ramp       | (b) rope       | (c) reap      | (d) ripe      |
| 4.  | (a) semester   | (b) term       | (c) trimester | (d) phrase    |
| 5.  | (a) queue      | (b) cue        | (c) quay      | (d) coy       |
| 6.  | (a) benevolent | (b) malevolent | (c) relevant  | (d) violent   |
| 7.  | (a) force      | (b) pressure   | (c) stamina   | (d) vigour    |
| 8.  | (a) been       | (b) was        | (c) being     | (d) be        |
| 9.  | (a) compete    | (b) victor     | (c) battle    | (d) contest   |
| 10. | (a) sceptical  | (b) scoped     | (c) scampered | (d) scarpered |
| 11. | (a) bypass     | (b) passerby   | (c) passing   | (d) passed    |
| 12. | (a) after      | (b) post       | (c) afore     | (d) result    |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. gpnior this to be true
2. at the rpei old age of 97
3. He was typically cyo
4. He has enanudonc he will
5. run for erplamnita
6. only nlertaev if we win

## Paragraph 2

7. widely regarded as being a siynviaro
8. Malaysia's rapid economic ioaftonnsrmtar
9. spliacect about Mr Mahathir's chances
10. erevsla heart attacks
11. quarudlep bypass surgery
12. He was resdcdigah from hospital

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) discharged from hospital last month after contracting Covid-19.
- ( **1** ) They say age is just a number, and that you are as young as you feel. The former prime minister
- ( ) for office at the ripe old age of 97. He has been the country's leader twice before. The first
- ( ) coy on whether or not he has his eyes set on the top job once again. He told
- ( ) economic transformation throughout the 1980s. Mahathir's decision to contest the parliamentary seat
- ( ) of Langkawi marks his 11th general election campaign. Many commentators in Malaysia are sceptical about Mr Mahathir's
- ( ) of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, is proving this to be true. Mr Mahathir is pushing back the years and running
- ( ) journalists: "We have not decided who will be prime minister because the prime minister candidate is only relevant if we win."
- ( ) time was for 22 years, between 1981 and 2003; the second time was a near-two-year term from May 2018. He has
- ( ) heart attacks and bypass operations, including a quadruple bypass surgery. He was
- ( ) chances because of his recent ill health. He has a history of heart trouble and has had several
- ( ) announced he will run for parliament in his country's upcoming general election. He was typically
- ( ) regarded as being a visionary for changing his country's economic fortunes. He spearheaded Malaysia's rapid
- ( ) Mahathir Mohamad has been an ever-present force in Malaysian politics. He first became a member of parliament in 1964. He is widely

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

1. They is that age number . just a say
2. be true . is Mohamad to proving this
3. running and office . back the for years Pushing
4. the leader been country's before . He has twice
5. his the eyes He job . has top on
6. member 1964 . a He of parliament became in
7. widely being a regarded as is visionary . He
8. Mr commentators sceptical about Mahathir's are chances . Many
9. bypass had He's and attacks operations . heart several
10. Covid-19 . discharged hospital was after He from contracting

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

They say age is *just / justly* a number, and that you are as young as you feel. The former prime minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, is *proof / proving* this to be true. Mr Mahathir is *pushing / pulling* back the years and running for office at the *reap / ripe* old age of 97. He has been the country's leader *double / twice* before. The first time was for 22 years, between 1981 and 2003; the second time was a near-two-year *stern / term* from May 2018. He has announced he will *run / sprint* for parliament in his country's upcoming general election. He was typically coy *on / at* whether or not he has his eyes set *on / in* the top job once again. He told journalists: "We have not decided who will be prime minister because the prime minister candidate *be / is* only relevant if we win."

Mahathir Mohamad has been an ever-present force in Malaysian politics. He first became a member *of / by* parliament in 1964. He is *widely / widened* regarded as *being / been* a visionary for changing his country's economic fortunes. He spearheaded Malaysia's *rapid / rapidly* economic transformation throughout the 1980s. Mahathir's decision to *compete / contest* the parliamentary seat of Langkawi marks / markings his 11th general election campaign. Many commentators in Malaysia are sceptical about Mr Mahathir's chances because of his recent *illness / ill* health. He has a history *on / of* heart trouble and has had several heart attacks *end / and* bypass operations, including a quadruple bypass surgery. He was discharged from hospital last month *after / and* contracting Covid-19.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

Th\_y s\_y \_g\_ \_s j\_st \_ n\_mb\_r, \_nd th\_t y\_\_ \_r\_ \_s  
y\_\_ng \_s y\_\_ f\_\_l. Th\_ f\_rm\_r pr\_m\_ m\_n\_st\_r \_f  
M\_l\_ys\_\_, M\_h\_th\_r M\_h\_m\_d, \_s pr\_v\_ng th\_s t\_ b\_  
tr\_\_. Mr M\_h\_th\_r \_s p\_sh\_ng b\_ck th\_ y\_\_rs \_nd  
r\_nn\_ng f\_r \_ff\_c\_ \_t th\_ r\_p\_ \_ld \_g\_ \_f 97. H\_ h\_s  
b\_\_n th\_ c\_\_ntry's l\_\_d\_r tw\_c\_ b\_f\_r\_. Th\_ f\_rst t\_m\_  
w\_s f\_r 22 y\_\_rs, b\_tw\_\_n 1981 \_nd 2003; th\_ s\_c\_nd  
t\_m\_ w\_s \_ n\_\_r-tw\_-y\_\_r t\_rm fr\_m M\_y 2018. H\_  
h\_s \_nn\_\_nc\_d h\_ w\_ll r\_n f\_r p\_rl\_\_m\_nt \_n h\_s  
c\_\_ntry's \_pc\_m\_ng g\_n\_r\_l \_l\_ct\_\_n. H\_ w\_s typ\_c\_lly  
c\_y \_n wh\_th\_r \_r n\_t h\_ h\_s h\_s \_y\_s s\_t \_n th\_  
t\_p j\_b \_nc\_ \_g\_\_n. H\_ t\_ld j\_\_rn\_l\_sts: "W\_ h\_v\_ n\_t  
d\_c\_d\_d wh\_ w\_ll b\_ pr\_m\_ m\_n\_st\_r b\_c\_\_s\_ th\_  
pr\_m\_ m\_n\_st\_r c\_nd\_d\_t\_ \_s \_nly r\_l\_v\_nt \_f w\_  
w\_n."

M\_h\_th\_r M\_h\_m\_d h\_s b\_\_n \_n \_v\_r-pr\_s\_nt f\_rc\_ \_n  
M\_l\_ys\_\_n p\_l\_t\_cs. H\_ f\_rst b\_c\_m\_ \_ m\_mb\_r \_f  
p\_rl\_\_m\_nt \_n 1964. H\_ \_s w\_d\_ly r\_g\_rd\_d \_s b\_\_ng  
\_ v\_s\_\_n\_ry f\_r ch\_ng\_ng h\_s c\_\_ntry's \_c\_n\_m\_c  
f\_rt\_n\_s. H\_ sp\_\_rh\_\_d\_d M\_l\_ys\_\_'s r\_p\_d \_c\_n\_m\_c  
tr\_nsf\_rm\_t\_\_n thr\_\_gh\_\_t th\_ 1980s. M\_h\_th\_r's  
d\_c\_s\_\_n t\_ c\_nt\_st th\_ p\_rl\_\_m\_nt\_ry s\_\_t \_f  
L\_ngk\_w\_ m\_rks h\_s 11th g\_n\_r\_l \_l\_ct\_\_n c\_m\_p\_\_gn.  
M\_ny c\_m\_m\_nt\_t\_rs \_n M\_l\_ys\_\_ \_r\_s\_c\_p\_t\_c\_l\_b\_\_t Mr  
M\_h\_th\_r's ch\_nc\_s b\_c\_\_s\_ \_f h\_s r\_c\_nt \_ll h\_\_lth.  
H\_ h\_s \_ h\_st\_ry \_f h\_\_rt tr\_\_bl\_ \_nd h\_s h\_d  
s\_v\_r\_l h\_\_rt \_tt\_cks \_nd byp\_ss \_p\_r\_t\_\_ns, \_ncl\_d\_ng  
\_ q\_\_dr\_pl\_ byp\_ss s\_rg\_ry. H\_ w\_s d\_sch\_rg\_d fr\_m  
h\_sp\_t\_l l\_st m\_nth \_ft\_r c\_ntr\_ct\_ng C\_v\_d-19.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

they say age is just a number and that you are as young as you feel the former prime minister of malaysia mahathir mohamad is proving this to be true mr mahathir is pushing back the years and running for office at the ripe old age of 97 he has been the countrys leader twice before the first time was for 22 years between 1981 and 2003 the second time was a neartwoyear term from may 2018 he has announced he will run for parliament in his countrys upcoming general election he was typically coy on whether or not he has his eyes set on the top job once again he told journalists we have not decided who will be prime minister because the prime minister candidate is only relevant if we win

mahathir mohamad has been an everpresent force in malaysian politics he first became a member of parliament in 1964 he is widely regarded as being a visionary for changing his countrys economic fortunes he spearheaded malaysias rapid economic transformation throughout the 1980s mahathirs decision to contest the parliamentary seat of langkawi marks his 11th general election campaign many commentators in malaysia are sceptical about mr mahathirs chances because of his recent ill health he has a history of heart trouble and has had several heart attacks and bypass operations including a quadruple bypass surgery he was discharged from hospital last month after contracting covid19

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

They say age is just a number, and that you are as young as you feel. The former prime minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, is proving this to be true. Mr Mahathir is pushing back the years and running for office at the ripe old age of 97. He has been the country's leader twice before. The first time was for 22 years, between 1981 and 2003; the second time was a near-two-year term from May 2018. He has announced he will run for parliament in his country's upcoming general election. He was typically coy on whether or not he has his eyes set on the top job once again. He told journalists: "We have not decided who will be prime minister because the prime minister candidate is only relevant if we win." Mahathir Mohamad has been a never-present force in Malaysian politics. He first became a member of parliament in 1964. He is widely regarded as being a visionary for changing his country's economic fortunes. He spearheaded Malaysia's rapid economic transformation throughout the 1980s. Mahathir's decision to contest the parliamentary seat of Langkawi marks his 11th general election campaign. Many commentators in Malaysia are sceptical about Mr Mahathir's chances because of his recent ill health. He has a history of heart trouble and has had several heart attacks and bypass operations, including a quadruple bypass surgery. He was discharged from hospital last month after contracting Covid-19.

# FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

Write about **age** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.

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# ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2210/221017-mahathir-mohamad.html>

A 97-year-old is perfectly capable of being a politician. Discuss.

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# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. AGE:** Make a poster about age. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. AGE LIMIT:** Write a magazine article about having no age limits for jobs. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on age. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on 90-year-old politicians. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c    2. d    3. g    4. e    5. a    6. f    7. b  
8. k    9. m    10. n    11. j    12. i    13. h    14. l

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 T    3 T    4 T    5 F    6 T    7 F    8 T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. a	5. c
6. j	7. d	8. b	9. f	10. h

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Just a number
2. The years
3. 22 years
4. Coy
5. He doesn't know
6. 1964
7. Its economic fortunes
8. Ten
9. Mahathir's chances of winning
10. Quadruple bypass surgery

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. They say that age is just a number.
2. Mohamad is proving this to be true.
3. Pushing back the years and running for office.
4. He has been the country's leader twice before.
5. He has his eyes on the top job.
6. He became a member of parliament in 1964.
7. He is widely regarded as being a visionary.
8. Many commentators are sceptical about Mr Mahathir's chances.
9. He's had several heart attacks and bypass operations.
10. He was discharged from hospital after contracting Covid-19.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b    2. d    3. c    4. a    5. b    6. a    7. c    8. a    9. d    10. c

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)