

READING AND SPEAKING

Meet the *Kippers*

- 1 When do young people usually leave home in your country? Why do they leave? Work in two groups. List reasons for and against leaving home when you grow up.

Group A Make a list from the children's point of view.

Group B Make a list from the parents' point of view.

Share ideas with the class.

- 2 Read the introduction to the article and answer the questions.

- 1 Who are the *Kippers*? What do they refuse to do?
- 2 What do the letters stand for?
- 3 What exactly does 'eroding retirement savings' mean?
- 4 What does 'fly the nest' mean?

- 3 Read about two *Kipper* children and answer the questions in your groups.

Group A Read about **Vicki**. **Group B** Read about **Martin**.

- 1 Who does she/he live with? How do they get on together?
- 2 Why does she/he still live at home?
- 3 Has she/he ever lived away from home?
- 4 What advantages and disadvantages are mentioned?
- 5 What do her/his friends say?

Work with someone from the other group and compare the two children. Who do you think is the most spoilt?

- 4 Read about two parents of *Kippers*, Bill and Sandra. Compare their views.

- 1 Who is happy with the arrangement? Why? Who is not? Why not?
- 2 Who is at their 'wits' end'?
- 3 What do they say about foreign travel?
- 4 What do they say about money?

Vocabulary work

Complete the sentences with words to do with money from the text. Who does each sentence refer to?

- 1 She isn't able to **r** _____ a flat.
- 2 He couldn't **a** _____ to pay **o** _____ his **d** _____.
- 3 Her friends are always **s** _____ for **c** _____ because they have to pay **h** _____ rents.
- 4 She **c** _____ to the phone **b** _____.
- 5 She doesn't **c** _____ him **r** _____ because he wouldn't pay it.
- 6 He **a** _____ debts of £4,000.
- 7 He sponges **o** _____ his mother in many ways.
- 8 He can **s** _____ all his **s** _____ on enjoying himself.
- 9 He believes that **m** _____ isn't **e** _____.

What do you think?

- Check your list of reasons from exercise 1. Which were mentioned?
- What's your opinion of Vicki and Martin?
- Do you sympathize more with Bill's views or Sandra's? Why?
- Is it possible to 'grow up' while still living at home?
- Do you know any *Kippers*?

MEET

Who are they?

They're the children who just **WON'T** leave home.

Kippers is an acronym for 'Kids In Parents' Pockets Eroding Retirement Savings'. Or, to put it another way, it refers to all those grown up children who stay at home into their 20s and 30s, unwilling or unable to fly the nest.

THE CHILDREN

VICKI SARGENT, 30, lives with her father, Norbert, 65.



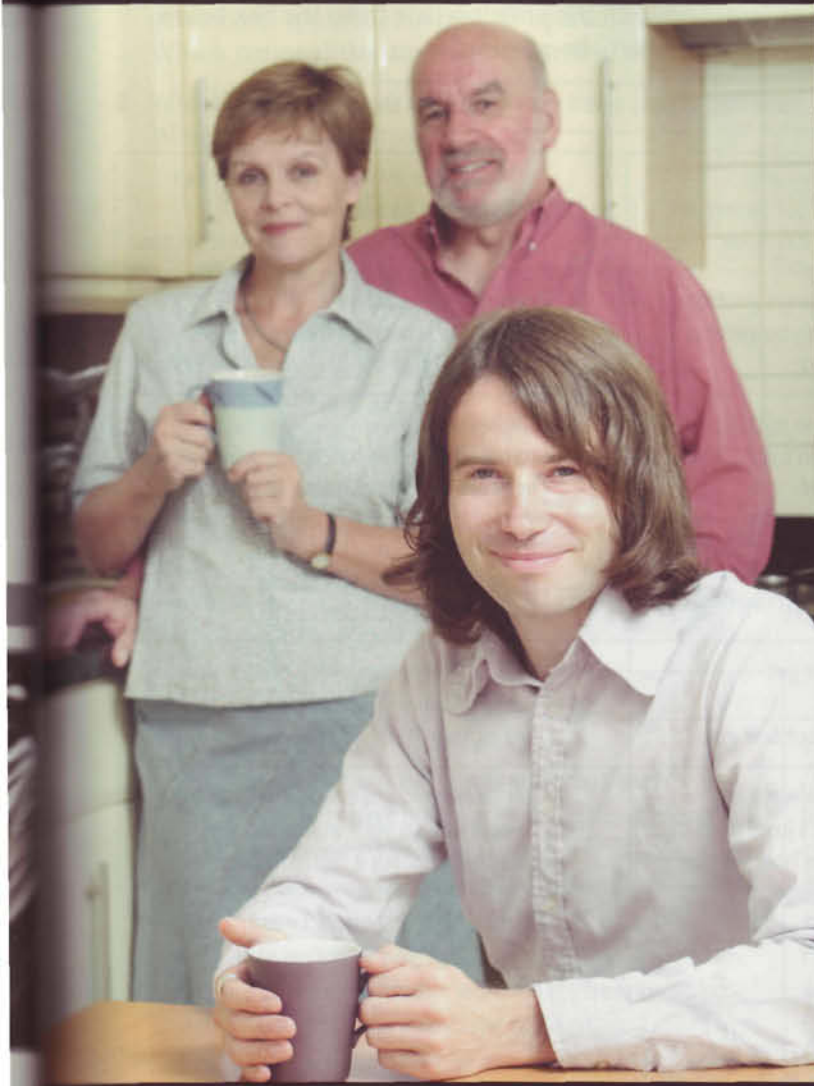
IF I WASN'T living at home, I wouldn't be able to afford to live in such a beautiful house. I would only be able to rent a room in a flat. This way I have my father for company and money for a social life. It's just too comfortable to move out.

My dad and I get on so well. We usually have dinner together and if I'm not out, I'll spend the evening with him watching TV. He spoils me a lot and treats me at least once a week to a meal at a nearby restaurant.

My friends don't get it. They say I'm living in a bubble away from the real world, and I suppose they're right, but they also admit they're jealous – they are always so strapped for cash because of their high rents. I don't pay my father any rent but I buy the food and contribute to the phone bill.

Apart from three months when I went travelling in my early 20s, I have never lived away from home.

THE K.I.P.P.E.R.S



MARTIN GIBBS, 28, lives with his parents Kathy, 52, and Robert, 54.

I HAVE TO admit that I'm spoiled at home, so it's hard to imagine moving out. My mum always has my tea on the table when I return from work. We all get on really well together – although my parents can get on my nerves when they tell me what to do. I'm sure I get on their nerves as well sometimes.

At 23, I moved out for two years. I lived with a friend for a short time, then went travelling in Australia. It was a brilliant experience but I got into debt, about £2,000, and I had to come back and live at home again so that I could afford to pay it off. My parents don't charge me rent, so I can spend all of my salary on enjoying myself. Sometimes girls call me a 'mummy's boy', but I think they like it. It's a lovely, cosy place to bring girls back to because there is always an open fire and something cooking in the oven.

THE PARENTS

BILL KENNEDY tells why his children, Anna, Simon, and Andrew can stay as long as they like!

NO ONE TOLD ME, but it seems I was the father of Kippers for years, without knowing it. My three children all lived at home well into their late 20s. I know there'll be some parents at their wits' ends with their 'lazy kids sponging off them'. Actually, we don't want an empty nest.

What puzzles me is why parents should ever want their children to leave home at 18. My wife, Judy, and I made it very easy for them to stay with us. It allowed them to postpone growing up. And it helped us postpone getting old. Honestly, I would happily forfeit any number of retirement perks – golfing, snorkelling holidays in Portugal, Paris, Peru or wherever, for just a few more years with our children at home. And why? Because money isn't everything. Family is.



SANDRA LANE, 49, says it's domestic hell with her son, Alan, 27.

THE FRIDGE IS the main issue, he's always helping himself to some titbit that I've been saving for dinner and he puts empty milk cartons back. The phone is another cause for complaint – he's always getting in touch with his mates, but when I get angry he just says I should get a mobile phone. And he borrows the car without asking and so I suddenly find myself unable to go out. He's been living at home since he graduated from university five years ago. By the time he finished his studies he had accumulated £4,000 in debt. I can't charge him rent, there's no point. He couldn't and wouldn't pay it. But he's always got money for clothes and nights out. I'm at my wits' end with it all. I had been planning to go on a dream cruise as soon as Alan left home. Now that's all it can be – a dream.



VOCABULARY AND SPEAKING

Hot verb *get*

1 The verb *get* is very common in English. It has many different uses. Here are some examples from the texts on pp66–67.

- 1 My dad and I **get on so well**.
- 2 My friends don't **get it**.
- 3 ... my parents can **get on my nerves** ...
- 4 ... it helped us postpone **getting** old.
- 5 ... when I **get** angry ...
- 6 He's always **getting in touch with** his mates.
- 7 He said I should **get** a mobile phone.
- 8 He's always **got** money for clothes.

Replace the words in **bold** with one of the expressions from the box.

annoy/irritate me buy become contacting growing have a good relationship has understand
--

Talking about you

2 Ask and answer these questions with a partner.

- 1 How do you get on with your parents?
- 2 What have you got to do when you get home tonight?
- 3 How do you get to school?
- 4 What time do you usually get to school?
- 5 When did you last get angry? Why?
- 6 Have you got a pet/a PC?
- 7 If you have a problem with your computer, who do you get to help you?
- 8 How often do you get your hair cut?
- 9 In what ways is your English getting better?
- 10 What are two things that always get on your nerves?

Work together to rewrite the questions without using *get*. Is *get* generally more formal or informal?

Phrasal verbs with *get*

3 *Get* can combine with many particles to make phrasal verbs. Complete each group of sentences with the same particle from the box below. (Careful, only six of the particles are used.)

at away into off on out over round through up

1 You always get How did our secret get I got a great book	_____	of doing the washing up. It's not fair. ? Everyone knows now! of the library. You can borrow it after me.
2 You're always getting What are you getting I can't get	_____	me! Leave me alone! ? Just say what you mean! the sugar. It's at the back of the cupboard.
3 It took me ages to get He couldn't get his point I can't get	_____	the operation. to me at first. He had to explain it again. how much your children have grown!
4 That boy is always getting We got I had to get	_____	to something naughty! to page 56 in the last lesson. at 5 a.m. to catch the plane.
5 I couldn't get We got I failed, but Sue got	_____	to Joe. I don't think his phone's working. loads of money whilst we were in Paris. the exam with flying colours.
6 She can always get I'm sorry. I just haven't got I can't see how we can get	_____	her father and get exactly what she wants. to replying to your invitation yet. this problem. It's a difficult one.



'How is the cat getting on with your new pet snake?'



'It's the only way I can get the kids to take notice.'