


Title	Independence in old age	Level: higher
Text:	<p>Kenichi talked about an acquaintance's domestic situation, and the issue of how much to help elderly parents.</p> <p>Too much help risks them losing independence and physical skills that they could otherwise maintain through use, hopefully prolonging their active and independent life.</p> <p>It's a similar situation to that which confronts parents when bringing up children; how much to let them experience for themselves, and how much to fill the gaps in their growing knowledge for safety reasons and to help them maintain progress at a rate comparable to their peers.</p>	
Question for discussion:	<p>When you were growing up, did your parents give you the right amount of guidance and support? Did they influence you too much, or too little?</p> <p>If you have children yourself, do you think you have or had the right balance?</p>	
Words and usage:	<p>'How much to...'</p> <p>Question words are used with 'to' where you need to find out information but can't find the source. For example, if you need to know where to look, or who to ask.</p> <p>If you need information connected to a time commitment, you need to know when or where to go, and perhaps who to see.</p> <p>If you need advice about a purchase, you may need to ask which to buy.</p>	
Resources:	<p><u>Oxford Dictionaries.</u> <a href="http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com">http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com</a></p> <p><u>The British Council website.</u> <a href="https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org">https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org</a></p>	
Listening link:	<p><a href="#">Independence in old age - audio</a></p> 	
Practice idea:	<p>Write and say out loud 5-10 situations you had recently where you needed more information.</p> <p>Make sentences to describe them, such as 'I asked the bus driver where to get off for the sports park.'</p>	
Quiz Me! Conversation card:	<p>Card number F4 below is from General Level 1, pack 1, available at <a href="http://englishbooks.jp">englishbooks.jp</a></p>	

4

**What was  
the last thing  
you asked for  
advice about?**

quizme.jp