

Are you ever too young for greatness?

T Send a link to an article eslbrains.com/crc064 to your students so that they can read it before the class.

1. Think about an advantage and a disadvantage of being each age.

EXAMPLE: 7 – *Disadvantage: There are many things you are not allowed to do because your parents create the rules for you. Advantage: You can play a lot with your friends and have a lot of free time.*



2. Read the definition in the box and say which statements (A–E) you think might be true about a prodigy. Give reasons.

Before students start discussing the statements, ask them to choose the correct collocation.

T Sometimes both are possible: *tackle a problem* or *tackle a person* (both); *miss out on a bus* or *miss out on social life*; *conventional medicine* or *conventional approach* (both); *land an internship* or *land a plane* (both); *act with maturity* or *grow up maturity*.

- They miss out on their childhood.
- They never follow a conventional path.
- They can land any job they want.
- They can tackle challenging tasks much better than some adults.
- They always show maturity and behave wisely.

prodigy:

a person, typically a child, with exceptional abilities or talents that are considered beyond their age or experience

3. Think about the time when you were 14 and compare your life to Kairan's (the boy from the article) life.

In case students don't remember the article well, remind them these things about Kairan:

T He was a machine-learning intern at the cyber-intelligence firm. He's almost finished university. He has landed a job at SpaceX.

4. Discuss the questions.

- Why do you think some companies, like SpaceX in this case, are willing to hire young individuals? Do you think it's the right thing to do or do you believe in a more conventional approach?
- Are there legal restrictions or regulations in place regarding the employment of young individuals in your country?

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- Do you think high intelligence equals maturity? What is more important if one wants to land a job?
- What are the challenges of being exceptionally talented or achieving fame at a young age?

5. Read about three people who got famous when they were children. Use the prompts in the boxes to talk about different aspects of their lives and how they were/might be affected.

- A. Greta Thunberg, a Swedish environmental activist, gained international recognition for her efforts to fight climate change. She began her climate strike at the age of 15 and has since become a well-known advocate for climate action.
- B. Millie Bobby Brown is a British actress known for her role as Eleven in the popular Netflix series *Stranger Things*. She achieved fame as a child actor and has continued to build a successful career in the entertainment industry.
- C. Mo'Nique, also known as Mo'Nique, is a young entrepreneur who started her own bow tie business, Mo's Bows, at the age of nine. Her business has grown and gained attention for its unique and stylish bow ties.

social life

financial responsibilities

mental health

privacy

work-life balance

education