



# BROOKLYN\_BORN

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## What a surprise! I'm "elderly"!

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

When did that happen? I don't feel elderly.

When DH & I travel to Europe, we like to stay in hotels popular with local people rather than the US style chains.

When traveling with family and staying in one place 3 days or more, we rent an apartment. I expect to make adjustments especially close to the center of town (no elevator, no AC, unusual bathroom configurations etc.) That's not a problem.

I also expect the better "deals" to go quickly, so I start early and apply for many possibilities.

I did not expect to be turned down for an apartment because it was not appropriate for an "elderly couple."

What elderly couple? Oh, he means DH and ME!

I'm not upset. I was given that label in an email and English was not his first language.

I once wrote to my relatives using my elementary Slovak that I wanted to visit to learn about my "heritage."

Upon further study I learned that the word I used for heritage had another meaning – "inheritance." So I wanted to visit to learn about my inheritance. (Hi! I'm here to claim the house.)

The words we choose do matter.

Slender not skinny, overweight not fat, getting fit not out of shape.

Other choices for elderly? Maybe senior citizen or the European "pensioner"?

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## Member Comments About This Blog Post

**NUMD97**

My aunt, who is 97 and still "all there" prefers "elder statesman", rather than "senior citizen". I





guess in her mind, it reflects some degree of accomplishment.

I have been to "Shocksville", as you have, in the summer of 2013, learning of senior citizen discounts, and I am not yet Medicare eligible. My sister, three years behind me, was floored.

But, hey, if you can still run half marathons, you ain't elderly, nor ready for any wheelchair.

Thanks for the chuckle and for the inspiration. Please keep a seat warm for me wherever it is you "five percenters" hang out. I am nowhere near to goal, but have kept off 25-30 pounds for over six years now, and I have SP to thank for that.

Keep inspiring!



2334 days ago



#### EGRAMMY

My recognition of elderly came when people started holding doors for me and smiling sweetly . I am a tall strong elderly person, but they were being gracious to my agedness. made up word here

2336 days ago



#### LINDAKAY228

I learned that age is relative and that some are very active and healthy into their 70's, 80's and even 90's. Some people, like my mom, were old at 50. I worked for a number of years with senior citizens of all types, and also coordinated local Senior Olympics and went to the state games every year. Some people sure have the wrong idea about what "elderly" is??? I have had so much fun with a lot of them and actually prefer them sometimes because of the fun I've found with them. I will be 60 next month and not worried about it at all! Even in my 40's and 50's I found so many to be so awesome to be around!

2336 days ago



#### TRAVELGRRL

Funny~! You change the landscape of "elderly"!

2337 days ago



#### WATERMELLEN

Elderly????? WHO!!!!

I'm so tired of people asking when I'm "going to retire". Gaaahhh. Ageist! Rude!! and NO!! Not any time soon.

Oh well oh well oh well.

2337 days ago



#### GIVEUP30

I know my age but everyone tells me I look 45-50 at that age I could still be on softball team our church had playing other church....

2339 days ago



#### 1STBUCKETITEM

At my Mom's 91st birthday dinner she was lamenting that she wished she was still working (she was in a wheelchair for 10 years because of strokes and becoming totally blind). She never accepted becoming "old or elderly" and had a sharp wit all the way to the end. She never complained about her condition and always humored us out of ever feeling sorry for her or for that matter, ourselves.

She passed just 10 days after her 91st birthday, and one of the last things she wanted me to do was put her lipstick on before she went into surgery. We all miss her Irish charm... she was never "old."

2339 days ago



#### PHOENIX1949

Mom, at age 76, was in the hospital for triple-bypass surgery. The day after, during a nurse shift change, we listened to their information exchange. The incoming nurse was told the elderly lady in Mom's room had family with her all the time that they helped out a lot and were very agreeable. Mom's look on her face was priceless as she sweetly asked if she really was elderly.

2339 days ago



#### MARYJEANSL

I like to think that I don't look my age, and my sweet daughter happily encourages me in my self-deception. I realized the other day that I 'qualify' for the local senior apartments (the ones that just had a fire in which four residents were killed!). Agewise, at least. I doubt that they would want anyone with a 13-year old child in tow! As I recall, when I was pregnant with him, my doctors referred to my 'advanced maternal age.' Sigh.



To me, you look about fifty, hardly 'senior' material!  
2339 days ago



**CD13376265**

I can still remember the day when I was asked for my senior's card at 45! Ha! Maybe the apartment was in a place close to night clubs, noise and partying? How about post-adult?  
2339 days ago



**MOOSLADY**

Don't you wonder what it was about the apartment that made it inappropriate for the elderly?  
2339 days ago



**PHEBESS**

LOL - I had a dr tell me that at age 60, I was elderly and that was why I developed eczema! (I told him I'm not even a senior citizen yet, I don't qualify for Social Security!)



On the other hand, I happily take the discounts for seniors!  
2339 days ago



**DR1939**

In the field of gerontology the appropriate wording is "older adults." Neither senior citizens are elderly are used in the literature. I'm with you about staying in hotels that the locals use. It can be quite interesting at times and often often a little challenging.  
2339 days ago



**CD4114015**

I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE ONEKIDSMOM's comment! That is what I am using from now on. I laughed right out loud at the "Hi! I'm here to claim the house!" Lots of fun here...but it takes me a back too when I hear myself as "elder".....PRICELESS, as they say! I do think I like "pensioner" best of them!



It AIN'T so bad to me except when I HEAR it out loud!  
2339 days ago

Comment edited on: 1/14/2015 10:21:18 AM



**CD4199227**

I am with DEEVARUNS2



I asked my GYN if he thought menopause had an affect on my running (of course he was at LEAST my age) and he said maybe it's your age .....I found another Dr ....obviously this guy does not "get" me.

2339 days ago



**WILSONWR**

You're only as old as you feel. While I don't mind taking a "senior" discount, I would hate to be turned down for something because I was "elderly." Most of my friends in the local Adventure Club are in their 40s -- I enjoy their company because they do the things I like to do!  
2340 days ago



**MISCHAKEO**

I like Seniors. We are young in spirit!  
2340 days ago



**IFDEEVARUNS2**

I recall the first time a physician's assistant referred to me as an older patient. I changed PAs!  
2340 days ago



**GINIEMIE**

I prefer Senior citizen or pensioner, I reserve elderly for those 85 and above. My tante Pigette told me that your are old when you reach 85, I think she was in her late 70s at the time. LOL, Tell the person to send you a picture or give you the reasons and you'll decide for yourself! Ha, or



ignore it and go on to one that doesn't decide for others.



2340 days ago



**50YEARSWIFE**

Interesting thoughts about elderly. I prefer Senior.  
2340 days ago





**KRISZTA11**

Surely they don't expect your fitness level for the average woman if your age.  
Maybe the house was difficult to access?

Once we stayed at a beautiful villa, 240 steps down from the road, and 80 more steps down to the sea. All the other villas were gone, and nobody took this one because of the stairs.  
2340 days ago



**ONEKIDSMOM**

I hear there are classifications beyond "elderly" these days... we (you, I, your DH) would be the "young older"... you don't get to be "old older" until you're in your nineties.  
2340 days ago



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