

## C2.3 UNIT 4

### I. Read the text and circle the eight subjunctive verb forms.

An American woman in her forties visits her elderly mother's doctor for advice about dealing with her mother's problems and demands. Here is their conversation:

Woman: I'm at my wits' end. Mom is driving me crazy. She insists I come over and help her at a moment's notice. She says she's not getting enough exercise, but when I suggest she go out with me and take a walk, she gets angry. She's been living in her own house since Dad died, and it's gotten to be too much for her. Actually, I think she should sell that house. Had I known how things were going to turn out, I would have recommended she sell it a long time ago. I don't know what to do. It almost seems as if she's become the child and I've become the parent. You've known her for a long time. What would you recommend?

Doctor: Well, what if she moved in with you and your husband? Would that work?

Woman: I don't think so. I love her dearly, but my husband and I have our life too. She's always said it's important for her to keep her independence. But what other options are there? What would be best for her? I'd rather she not go into a nursing home. I've heard some pretty bad things about them.

Doctor: Well, there are good nursing homes and bad ones, but she's still quite healthy and doesn't need to go into one. My impression is that she's pretty social. If so, I'd say she needs a situation where she can have contact with people her own age.

Woman: Yes. She's always complaining about how lonely she is. I know it's important that she have friends, but she can't get out and make them on her own, and I can't do it for her.

Doctor: Then I'd propose you find a retirement center or an assisted living center. Otherwise, the problem will just get worse.

Woman: What's the difference between the two?

Doctor: Retirement centers are for people who are still active and can basically take care of themselves. They provide a lot of social activities, along with meals and other benefits. Assisted living is for people who can still function to some degree but need assistance with movement, taking medications, and the like. Actually, some facilities are both retirement center and assisted living center. I know of several good ones. I'd recommend you look into them.

Woman: Aren't those places pretty expensive?

Doctor: Yes, they are. But sometimes they're the best alternative.

The conversation illustrates how remarkably things have changed in the United States and elsewhere in the world. There are far more people, and they are living much longer than they used to. Average life expectancy has been increasing steadily for decades and is now greater than 77 years in the United States. In some countries it is higher: 79+ in France, about 80 in Switzerland, and about 81 in Japan. In fact, the worldwide trend is toward longer and longer lives.

In the past, people lived much shorter lives. When they grew older, they depended on their children's support. Without it, they would have been in trouble. Increasingly, however, living with one's children is seen as an option less and less.

Another significant factor in the situation is the revolution of rising expectations, coupled with the rise in the overall standard of living. In today's world, people take for granted things that would have been unheard of 100 years ago. Older people go on European vacations. They take expensive ocean cruises. They participate in unusual and often costly hobbies. All of these things are expected. The question is how they will be paid for.

Today we're faced with a whole new set of challenges. We love our senior citizens and want the best for them. But expectations are higher, and there are more people living longer. *We* may run out of financial resources. Should that happen, we will need to come up with entirely new ways of caring for our seniors. Every one of us will one day be old, so it's essential that *we* understand the value of *the* elderly in society and how we can best provide for them

**II. Complete the sentences using the right form of the verb in brackets.**

1. They demanded that he \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) at once.
2. The school Principal suggested that he \_\_\_\_\_ (award) a scholarship.
3. God \_\_\_\_\_ (save) the Queen!
4. It is urgent (that) she \_\_\_\_\_ (get) to the hospital at once.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (Come) what \_\_\_\_\_ (may) ...
6. The doctor suggested (that) Frank \_\_\_\_\_ (switch) medications.
7. The fireman insisted (that) she \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) the burning building immediately.
8. It is advisable (that) he \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) one-half hour before the appointment.
9. It is mandatory (that) no one \_\_\_\_\_ (enter) the building without a permit.
10. It is essential that elderly people \_\_\_\_\_ (be) treated with dignity.

**III. Read the following sentences. Is the second sentence a correct rewriting of the first? Circle Y(yes) or N(no). If it isn't correct, please correct it.**

1. I would have recommended she sell it a long time ago.  
I would have recommended her selling it a long time ago.  
Y                      N
2. She's always said it's important for her to keep her independence.  
She's always said it's important that she keep her independence.  
Y                      N
3. I propose you find a retirement center or an assisted living center.  
I propose you to find a retirement center or an assisted living center.  
Y                      N
4. I'd recommend you look into them.  
I'd recommend you to look into them.  
Y                      N
5. So, it's essential that we understand the value of the elderly in society.  
So, it's essential for us to understand the value of the elderly in society.  
Y                      N