

## *Baby Boomers*

The word “boom” means a sudden, fast increase in something. (1) \_\_\_\_\_, we’re talking about an increase in the birthrate, (2) \_\_\_\_\_, the number of babies born each year. From the end of World War II until the early 1960s, (3) \_\_\_\_\_, in the 1940s and the 1950s, there was a huge increase in the U.S. birthrate. So this period of 15 years (4) \_\_\_\_\_ is called the “baby boom,” and any person born during those years is called a “baby boomer.” They are the largest age group in the U.S. population. (5) \_\_\_\_\_, there are about 76 million of them. (6) \_\_\_\_\_, they are between 40 and 60 years old now. The baby boomers are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the largest age group in the United States, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ they (9) \_\_\_\_\_ spend the most money. (10) \_\_\_\_\_ these two things, they have enormous economic power in this country, more than any other group.

How are baby boomers (11) \_\_\_\_\_ their parents? I mean, do they spend their money differently from the way their parents did?

Very differently. You have to remember that the parents of the boomers (12) \_\_\_\_\_ in the 1920s and 1930s. The years between World War I and World War II were very difficult, especially after the stock market crashed in 1929. Then came the Great Depression when most people were poor. But (13) \_\_\_\_\_, the baby boomers were born after World War II, when the U.S. economy was very strong. (14) \_\_\_\_\_, baby boomers like to spend their money instead of putting it in the bank. I (15) \_\_\_\_\_, they save very little compared to their parents. Second, boomers use a lot of credit; (16) \_\_\_\_\_, they use credit cards instead of (17) \_\_\_\_\_ cash for things. And third, baby boomers have much more free time time than their parents did.

Baby boomers have a very different lifestyles from their parents. They have a lot more money to spend than their parents did. People in this age group spend between 25 and 40 percent of their income on housing, as well as a lot of money on (18) \_\_\_\_\_ and (19) \_\_\_\_\_.