

xerox: photo copy
polio: a disease
shot: needle injection
split: cut in halves
disposable nappies: e.g. Pampers
word processor: computer
togetherness: feeling of being close
nut: a tool
bolt: cap screw

junk: waste
terminus: end of a line
fashionable: modern
mown: cut
coke: sort of coal
joint: meat
pot: containment
lullaby: song
gay: 1. happy, 2. homosexual

soul: spirit
treatment: cure
hardy: hard
bunch: group
adjustments: adaptment
generation gap: differences between kids and parents

Our grandfathers and grandmothers, those born before 1940, are wondering how they got along and they say:

We were born before *television*, before *penicillin*, *polio shots*, *frozen foods*, *Xerox*, *contact lenses*, *videos* and *DVD*, before *radar*, *credit cards*, *split atoms*, *laser beams*, *ballpoint pens* and *felt pens*, before *dish washers*, *tumble driers*, *air conditioners* ... and before man walked on the moon.

There was no *pill after* and we got married first and then lived together. We thought *Big Mac* was an oversized raincoat. We existed before *house husbands* and *computer dating*, we didn't use any *seat belts* for our safety.

We were before *day care centres*, *group homes* and *disposable nappies*. We never heard of *FM radio*, *tape decks*, *compact* or *floppy discs*, *word processors*, *SMS*, *international roaming* or young men wearing earrings. For us, *time sharing* meant togetherness, a *chip* was a piece of wood or fried potato, *hardware* meant nuts and bolts and *software* wasn't a word.

Before 1940 *made in Japan* meant junk, *going all the way* was staying on a double-decker bus to the terminus. In our days, cigarette smoking was fashionable, *grass* was mown, *coke* was kept in the coalhouse, a *joint* was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and *pot* was something you cooked in. *Rock Music* was a mother's

lullaby, *Eldorado* was an ice-cream, a *gay person* was the life and soul of the party, while *aids* just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.



We who were born before 1940, we *senior citizens*, we must be a *hardy bunch* when you think of the way in which the world has changed, has *globalized*. Imagine the thousands of adjustments we have had to make. No wonder there is a *generation gap* today, but we have survived!

PHOTO: "RETIRED PEOPLE", BY LDs

Did they know it?

Shakespeare (died 1616): glasses – **i-phone** – machine gun – chewing gum – books – cinema – money – gold – radio – camera – theatre – electric light – bananas – tinned food – beer – candles – paper – bicycle – America – sailing boat



Napoleon (died 1821): motorbike – hot air balloon – aeroplane – parachute – toothbrush – transistor radio – photography – submarine – umbrella – jazz music – compass – microscope – television – telephone – cigars – railway – tea – ski – plastic – wine - pencil – tomatoes – ice-cream

Queen Victoria (died 1901): bicycle – army tank – ballpoint pen – television – balloon – credit card – Coca Cola – whisky – radiator – tramway – Australia – antibiotic – Christmas – mobile phone – internet – sunglasses – deckchair – umbrella – cigarettes – toothbrush – microwave – oranges – pudding

