

the programme. What's interesting is how more and more people are staying at home longer in the UK. There's even a word for it – it's called the **boomerang** generation.

Rob: A **boomerang** as in the Australian tool that comes back to you when you throw it?

Alice: Exactly! You should be able to see a photo of one on our website. The **boomerang** generation are young people who leave home to go to University but then return to live with their parents when they've finished their studies.

Rob: So they leave home but come back to their parents again after studying. And how long do they stay with their parents after they've finished University?

Alice: It varies – but the latest official figures show that the number of graduates returning home after University has increased by a third in the last 20 years. Here's the BBC's Tim Muffett:

Extract 1

The boomerang generation is booming. According to the Office for National Statistics, around 15% of female graduates move back home. For male graduates the figure is 22%, that's an increase of almost a third in twenty years, and with a lack of jobs for the class of 2010 the numbers are expected to rise.

Alice: The **boomerang** generation is **booming**!

Rob: Do we know why so many more students are returning to live at home?

Alice: Most of the reasons are economic – students are finding it difficult to get jobs after they finish their studies so they can't afford to pay for their own place to live.

Rob: I imagine it depends on where you choose to live – some students do a **house or flat-share** where they can split the rent with other young people.

Alice: But some students have such big **debts** after paying for University they can't afford to do a **house or flat-share** with other people. It's easier to go home to their parents and try and save some money! The BBC's Tim Muffett went to meet recent graduate Kate and her mother Janice. Kate's had to **move back in** with her parents after leaving University.

Extract 2

KATE: I lost my independence because at University you get to do what you want to do – and not be regimented by what you watch on the television.

MUM: we lost our privacy, because suddenly there is somebody else in the house. We wouldn't sling her out, much as we'd like to sometimes.

TIM: Are your relieved to hear that?

KATE: yeah!

Alice: Kate's complaining that she's lost her independence. At University she got to do what she wanted.

Rob: She says she could watch what she wanted on TV – it wasn't **regimented**

Alice: **regimented** – that's a military term meaning there are strict rules that have to be followed – like a regiment.

Rob: What about her parents?

Alice: Let's listen again to what Kate's mum Janice said:

MUM: we lost our privacy, because suddenly there is somebody else in the house. We wouldn't sling her out, much as we'd like to sometimes.

Alice: Kate's mum Janice says she has lost her privacy because suddenly there's someone else in the house.

Rob: I hope she's joking when she says 'we wouldn't sling her out'!

Alice: I hope she is joking – she wouldn't really ask her daughter Kate to leave the family home! Let's hear from one more person today. This is Professor of Sociology, Gill Jones, who's been speaking to lots of young people about returning home after University. She thinks life for the **boomerang** generation is very difficult:

Extract 3

If young people can't become independent when they are technically adult then it creates all sorts of problems, about what does it mean to be adult – are young people willing to defer adulthood and what are parents taking on when they have children? How long are they going to be responsible for them?

Alice: Young people are **technically** adult – they're officially adults because they can vote, get married and live on their own but because they're having to return home there can be problems.

Rob: Professor Gill Jones says they have to defer **adulthood**

Alice: That means they have to wait til they leave home again before they can really feel like adults.

Rob: And parents are having to be responsible for children for many more

years than they expected.

Alice: Which brings me to the question I asked earlier. What is the legal age for children to be allowed to leave home in the UK? Was it:

a. 18

b. 17

c. 16

Rob: I'm guessing 16?

Alice: You're right. You can also get married at age 16 if you have your parents' permission in the UK. Shall we have a quick re-cap of the vocabulary we've come across today:

Rob: **leave home**
 independent
 legal limit
 boomerang
 booming
 house or flat-share
 debts
 regimented
 technically
 adulthood

Well that's all we've got time for today. Thanks for joining us and see you next time. Bye!