

# RETIREMENT PLANS THAT “CLEARLY” WORK FOR YOU.



Prizant Group

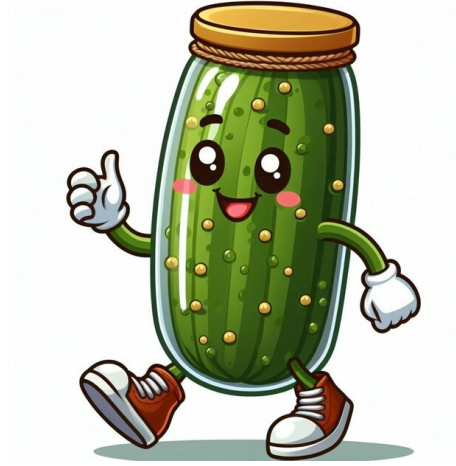
“

The whole problem with the  
world is that fools and  
fanatics are always so certain  
of themselves, and wiser  
people so full of doubts.

—  
BERTRAND RUSSELL

[GRACIOUSIDOTES.COM](http://GRACIOUSIDOTES.COM)

**IN A PICKLE:** Suddenly finding  
yourself in a difficult or sticky  
situation.



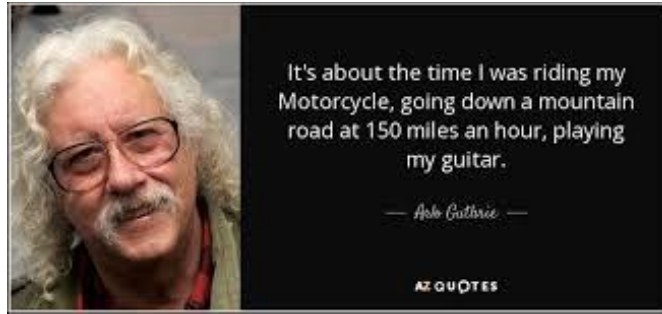
Originating from the literal pickling process, which involves preserving something in a fermenting solution, the idiom has come to describe finding yourself in a situation that's far from sweet and can be applied to so many situations.

To be in a pickle means that you're basically caught in a challenging or troublesome circumstance, and it's hard to get out. It might refer to having to choose between two equally bad options or navigating the complexities of a group project gone wrong. Whatever the context, it's not where you want to be.

An idiom is a phrase or expression whose meaning cannot be understood from the ordinary meanings of its individual words. Idioms like this help infuse your speech with character and zing, but only if you use them correctly.

The phrase "in a pickle" dates back to the mid-16th century and originally alluded to the idea of being immersed in a challenging or uncomfortable situation, much like vegetables soaked in brine. Shakespeare made reference to this phrase in his play, "The Tempest," with the line, "How cam'st thou in a pickle?"

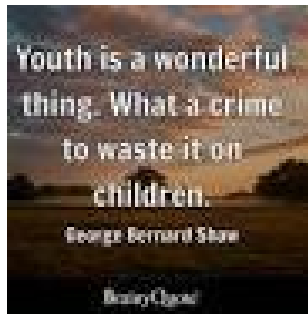
During this period, it was also colloquially linked to the idea of being heavily intoxicated. However, its modern idiomatic meaning, which suggests being in a tricky or problematic situation, became widely recognized in the early 17th century, securing its place in common parlance.



### **The Motorcycle Song**

I don't want a pickle  
Just want to ride on my motorcycle  
And I don't want a tickle  
'Cause I'd rather ride on my motorcycle  
And I don't want to die  
I just want to ride on my motorcycle  
It was late last night the other day  
I thought I'd go up and see Ray  
So I went up and I saw Ray  
There was only one thing Ray could say, was:  
I don't want a pickle  
Just want to ride on my motorcycle  
And I don't want a tickle  
'Cause I'd rather ride on my motorcycle  
And I don't want to die  
I just want to ride on my motorcycle  
Just last week I was on my bike  
I run into a friend named Mike  
Run into my friend named Mike  
Mike no longer has a bike. He cries:  
I don't want a pickle  
Just want to ride on my motorcycle  
And I don't want a tickle  
'Cause I'd rather ride on my motorcycle  
And I don't want to die  
I just want to ride on my motorcycle  
Source: LyricFind  
Songwriters: Arlo Guthrie

[Motorcycle](#)



As I celebrate my 71st birthday on March 23rd, I issue a warning for those of us who straddle the "Aries- Pisces Cusp."

**Those born on the Pisces-Aries Cusp, which falls between about March 17 to March 23, are an intriguing mix of fiery impulsiveness and imaginative daydreamer, which is actually pretty excellent because it means you're both a doer AND a dreamer.**

Yes, I am older, but still very coherent per my neurological testing results (scored a perfect 30 out of 30 though my wife "raises an eyebrow" at the score!). It's not that I don't understand the underlying factors of "Ageism" in America, but why has its' myopic thinking continued into the 21st Century? [Ageism](#) Age discrimination is rampant in all corners of American life (though aging athletic stars have become more prominent than in the past). Apparently, once one reaches the "Ancient Age of 65," they should be put out to pasture or (better yet) shot on sight. Our "Advanced Society" has decided that older people can't learn new tricks or remember their old tricks. All they do is: **"Take Up Space/Oxygen, Are Set In Their Ways, Cost Too Much In Healthcare" and Do Little Work For Too Much Pay.** Baby Boomers reason for living is to populate the retirement communities, be targets of scam artists, fill spots on cruise ships, wear Sketcher Slip-Ons, subscribe to Life-A-Alert, contact A Place for Mom, catch the early bird dining special, velour tracksuits, use expensive drugs from Big Pharma, keep the hearing aid vendors busy, and provide a way for AARP to market all their affiliated services/products. As the Queen of Hearts said in "Alice Through The Looking Glass" **"OFF WITH THEIR HEADS"** [Alice](#)

Whether the Fortune 1000, Healthcare Institutions, Colleges/Universities, Not-For-Profits, Governmental Agencies, Airlines, Privately-held entities et. al., the total disregard for mature individuals with years of experience, years of institutional knowledge, wonderful expertise in their given field, accountability, and trustworthiness, **THEY ACTUALLY SHOW UP FOR INTERVIEWS, WORK, AND ARE HAPPY TO HAVE THE JOB)** is not only appalling, but downright **STUPID**. All I hear, day-in and day-out, is "We can't find responsible, task-oriented, post-adolescent people to hire." Really? What size violin would you like be to start my bow on? Might I suggest someone over the age of 55?

Or as my son, Ethan, would say **"Cry Me A River"** Meanwhile, back at the ranch, U.S. is "Still" operating under the 65 retirement age instituted by German Chancellor Otto Von Bismarck in 1889. [65](#)

**In spite of all the layoffs in the headlines, there's still a shortage of workers — 3.3 million to be exact. Fed Chair Jerome Powell said the unprecedented number of workers who retired early during the pandemic is one reason behind the phenomena. "These excess retirements might now account for more than 2 million of the 3.5 million shortfall in the labor force," he said during a November 30 speech at the Brookings Institution.**

**What Powell failed to mention was many of them did not leave of their own accord.**

#### **'Pushed Out of the Labor Force'**

**"During the pandemic, many older workers did not leave their jobs voluntarily but got pushed out of the labor force. Since March 2020, the size of the retired population between ages 55 and 74 expanded beyond its normal trend by an additional 1.1 million people," wrote Barbara Schuster, Siavash Radpour, Eva Conway and Teresa Ghilarducci in a paper published by the New School's Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis.**

**Neil Charness, director of the Institute of Longevity at Florida State University referred to the phenomena as the "Great Retirement." He's not sure it should or will last. "It's a question of how many of these people will want to work, need to work or will be hired," he said during a recent conversation, noting that many of these individuals are likely to be employable and will want to return to work for social and/or financial reasons. But it may not be that easy.**

**Powell postulated something different, namely that these workers are choosing not to return primarily due to fears of catching COVID-19 (a belief that's likely exaggerated as documented in The New York Times) or because they are well-situated financially and therefore don't need to work. He did not acknowledge the disproportionate number of older workers who were laid off during the first half of the pandemic (fourth quarter 2019 to second quarter 2020) when unemployment rose to 13%. "Older workers" in this context refers to workers over 54, not 65. These workers were laid off at a 17% higher rate than their younger peers.**

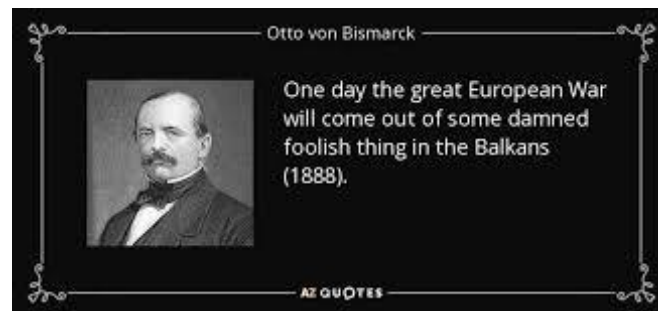
**"That difference in unemployment rates translates into a staggering toll on the livelihoods of older adults. Nearly 1 million older adults would still have jobs right now if their unemployment rate matched that of mid-career**

workers between the ages of 35 and 54," according to an AARP report.

"This is the first time in 50 years that older adults are experiencing higher unemployment than mid-career workers," continued the report. To make matters worse, older workers are reemployed more slowly than their younger peers. More than 36% of job seekers over the age of 55 were "long-term unemployed" — meaning they'd been looking for a job for 27 weeks or longer — as compared to around 23% among those between the ages of 16 and 54. (Around a quarter of the workforce is older than 55.)

You don't see this in the monthly employment figures. When the White House released the Oct. 22, 2022 employment report, it didn't consider older workers. "Growth in overall labor force participation faces headwinds from the aging of the population which is why many economists prefer to focus on the prime-age participation rate," stated the report.

### Older Workers



I sincerely hope at this juncture of the Missive, that you **FINALLY UNDERSTAND** what a "**Pickle**" this august country of ours is in. My wife's grandfather, Rabbi Harry Epstein, lived to the century mark, and used to tell his granddaughter that "**Getting Old Isn't For Sissies**" A sidebar is that Rabbi Epstein, after celebrating his 100th birthday with family and friends, sat down the last night of his life, wrote out checks to his desired recipients, made sure his paperwork was in order, and went to sleep for the final time. We should all exit the world in this graceful and controlled manner. Can I hear an AMEN?

[Amen](#)

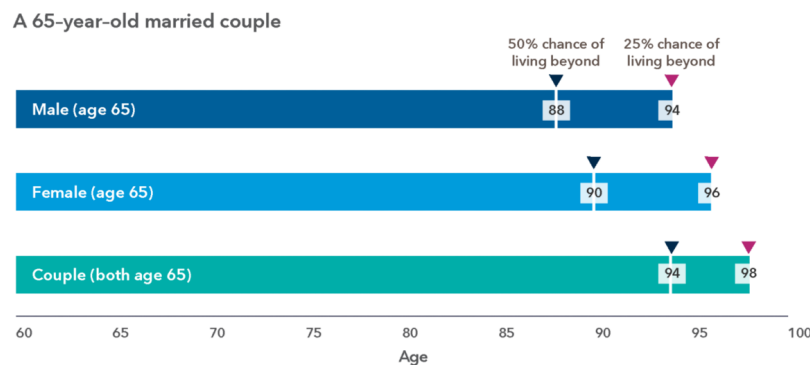
Thanks to advanced medicine, better diets, active lifestyles, and genetics; 65 is not old anymore, and life is **NOT** getting less expensive. Medicare B/Medicare Advantage/MediGap/Prescription are **NOT FREE** and premiums increase each year based on your age (of course, you could "Dirt Dive" and needn't worry about such mundane issues). We, at [The Prizant Group](#), promise to continue

our mission of informing the participants in our retirement plans **"What Is and What Is Not."** There is **NO SUGAR COATING** (or whatever coating you subscribe to) about the pitfalls and biases of aging in America. Other cultures honor and look to the wisdom of their elders. Western culture would prefer old people to be **"OUT OF SIGHT AND OUT OF MIND."** The sooner my retirement plan minions accept this fact, the better off they will be in the long run.

**LIVING LONGER** - While the average American retires in their early sixties, some workers will need to plan for a much longer retirement. From 1990 to 2024, the number of centenarians in the US has nearly tripled from 37K to 101.5K. Over the next thirty years, the number Americans living to 100 is expected to triple again rising from 101.5K up to 421.7K. (Source: Pew Research)

Life Expectancy

**IN EXTRA 20 YEARS** - In response to the reintroduction of the "You Earned It, You Keep It Act" which would eliminate the taxation of Social Security benefits at the Federal level and raise the cap on income subject to FICA taxes from \$168.8K to \$250K, the chief actuary of the Social Security Administration noted that the measure would extend the ability to fully pay scheduled benefits for an additional 20 years. (Source: InvestmentNews)



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Live Long



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