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## CONCEPTS

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'Problems based on Ages' – is a very popular question in Clerical Exams; it can come in either Reasoning or in Quantitative Aptitude. But it will come.

I know some people leave this one out because its way too confusing to 'em – well, let us try to see how to not get confused.

The important thing in any kind of Age Problem, is to decide which age – present or past or future – to be taken as 'x'!

Let us make a simple rule for ourselves – the 'x' should be the present age always.

In most cases, taking the present age as 'x', i.e., the base year works just fine. Past will become, say  $(x-5)$  years, and future can be denoted as  $(x+5)$ .

But sometimes, 'present age' is not directly given in words. Then, take 'x' to be the age you are supposed to find.

You can also try putting yourself in someone's place and try to calculate the age!

Also, sometimes – when nothing works and you're stuck on an age question in the last 4 minutes of the exam – just look at the options and solve it through back calculations! Works just fine!

