

elder

I

1. ['eldə] *n*
 1. *pl* старшие
I know my duty to my elders - я знаю свой долг перед старшими
 2. старец
 3. старейшина
the village elders - старейшины деревни
 4. *церк.*
 - 1) пресвитер
 - 2) церковный староста
2. ['eldə] *a*
 1. *арх. сравн от old*
 2. старший (*по возрасту или положению*)
the elder brother - старший брат (*из двух*)
he is my elder by two years - он старше меня на два года
 3. предшествующий, более ранний
elder title - ранее возникшее право
 4. старинный, древний, ранний
elder times - стародавние времена
◇ the elder hand - *карт.* игрок, ходящий первым

II

['eldə] *n бот.*
бузина, самбук (*Sambucus spp.*)

elder

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

elder [elder elders] adjective, noun BrE ['eldə(r)]¹ NAmE ['eldəɹ]¹

adjective

1. **only before noun** (*of people, especially two members of the same family*) older
 - my elder brother
 - his elder sister
2. **the elder** used without a noun immediately after it to show who is the older of two people
 - the elder of their two sons
3. **the elder** (*formal*) used before or after sb's name to show that they are the older of two people who have the same name
 - the elder Pitt
 - Pitt the elder

compare younger at ↑young *adj.* (6)

Word Origin:

adj. and *n.* senses 1 to 3 Old English ieldra eldra Germanic German älter ↑old
n. sense 4 Old English ellærn Middle Low German ellern elderne

Synonyms:

old
elderly • aged • long-lived • mature
These words all describe sb/sth that has lived for a long time or that usually lives for a long time.
old • having lived for a long time; no longer young: ▫ She's getting old— she's 75 next year.
elderly • (*rather formal*) used as a polite word for 'old': ▫ She is very busy caring for two elderly relatives.
aged • (*formal*) very old: ▫ Having aged relatives to stay in your house can be quite stressful.
long-lived • having a long life; lasting for a long time: ▫ Everyone in my family is exceptionally long-lived
mature • used as a polite or humorous way of saying that sb is no longer young: ▫ clothes for the mature woman
a(n) old/elderly/aged/long-lived/mature **man/woman**
a(n) old/elderly/aged/mature **gentleman /lady/couple**

Idiom: ↑your elders and betters

noun

1. **elders plural** people of greater age, experience and authority
 - Children have no respect for their elders nowadays.
 - the village elders (= the old and respected people of the village)
 - Traditions were passed on by the elders of the tribe.
2. **my, etc. elder singular (formal)** a person older than me, etc
 - He is her elder by several years.
3. **countable** an official in some Christian churches
4. **countable** a small tree with white flowers with a sweet smell (elderflowers) and bunches of small black berries (elderberries)

Word Origin:

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n. sense 4 Old English ellærn Middle Low German ellern elderne

elder

I. **elder**¹ /'eldə \$ -ər/ *BrE* ^u *AmE* ^u *adjective especially British English*

[*Language*: Old English; *Origin*: ieldra, from eald 'old']

the elder of two people, especially brothers and sisters, is the one who was born first **OPP younger**

elder brother/son/sister/daughter etc

" His elder son Liam became a lawyer.

" Sarah is the elder of the two.

▶ Do not say 'elder than someone'. Say **older than someone**: *She was two years older than me.*

II. **elder**² *BrE* ^u *AmE* ^u *noun [countable]*

[*Sense 1-5*: *Origin*: ⇒ †elder¹]

[*Sense 6*: *Language*: Old English; *Origin*: ellærn]

1. **be sb's elder** *formal* to be older than someone else

be two/ten etc years sb's elder

" Janet's sister was eight years her elder.

2. **sb's elders (and betters)** people who are older than you and who you should respect

3. a member of a tribe or other social group who is important and respected because they are old:

" a meeting of the village elders

4. someone who has an official position of responsibility in some Christian churches

5. **elder abuse** the crime of harming an old person

6. a small wild tree that has white flowers and black **BERRIES**

elder

Freakuency Pack

12500 **6401**^{MCW}

15000 **1829**^{COCA}

RANGE: **2k ELDER** 20742

elder 4488

elderly 11347

elders 4907

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

1721 **11391**²⁵⁷¹ *nn1*

1286 **13981**¹⁹⁰³ *jjr*

10 **217627**¹⁴ *np1*