1. **1. Read the following passage and fill in the blanks with suitable forms of verbs in brackets:**

Average life expectancy \_\_has increased\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (increase) rapidly in the past decades. In 1900, the average world life expectancy \_\_was\_\_\_\_\_ (be) 30 years. Since then, life expectancy \_\_has increased\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (increase) by about three years every 10 years, so that the world average is now 67 years. The maximum human life span – that is, the longest number of years a person \_has lived\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (live) – has also increased. In 1997, Jeanne Calment of France died at the age of 122. So far, she is the oldest known person ever to \_\_have lived\_\_\_\_\_\_ (live).

 During the twentieth century, increases in world life expectancy \_\_were\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) due to better sanitation, nutrition, medical practices, and healthcare. Today scientists \_\_are trying\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (try) to help people live longer by studying genes. As they learn how genes relate to health and aging, scientists may find ways to prevent cancer, heart disease, and other common diseases. They may even be able to slow the aging process. If genetic research \_\_\_is\_\_\_\_\_ (be) successful, everyone may someday live to be 120 years old.