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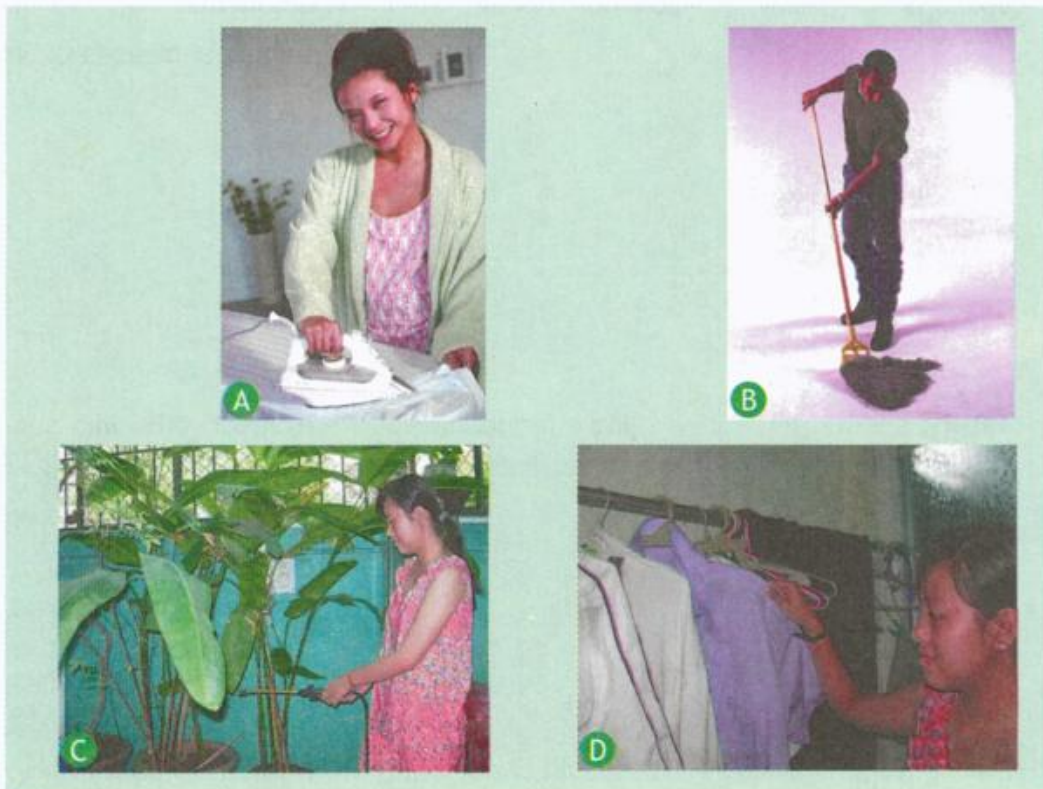
HOME LIFE



READING

Before You Read

a) *Work in pairs. Discuss with your partner what the person is doing in each picture.*



b) *Check (✓) the household chores which are part of your daily routine.*

1. Making your bed
2. Washing dishes
3. Putting dirty clothes in the laundry
4. Cleaning rooms
5. Watering flowers and plants

6. Buying food for the family
7. Collecting and disposing of garbage
8. Folding laundry

Reading Text



Read the text and do the tasks that follow.

"Clean that pigsty of a room. Right now!" Virginia shouted to her teenage daughter as she peered through the bedroom door after a long day of work. The daughter, sitting cross-legged on the floor, looked up from her math homework with a shocked but otherwise disgusted glare.

The nightly conflict had begun at its usual time, precisely 6:05 p.m. The scenario is all too common for anyone who has repeatedly battled with their children over household chores.

What is the "magic formula" to get children to clean their rooms, help with the laundry, cook, wash dishes, or do any number of the daily tasks that keep homes up and running? Dismayed parents often wonder where they went wrong.

"I remember when I was her age," says a bewildered Virginia, referring to Terri, her 15-year-old daughter. "I had twice as much work to do around the house. I wouldn't have dreamed of blowing off the responsibility. Kids today have it too easy."

According to the results of a recent survey conducted for the Soap and Detergent Association, 25 percent of responding parents admitted that they constantly nag their children about cleaning their rooms. Other tasks, such as picking up dirty clothes, returning soiled dishes to the sink, or hanging up wet towels, were causes for concern among parents.

The truth is, today's kids may be contributing more than parents are giving them credit for, says Sampson Lee Blair, a family sociologist at Arizona State University (ASU). His research found that children ages 6 to 18 contribute 12 percent of all household labor. He found that nine out of 10 American kids contribute to the household chores at some level.

"The amount of work that children contribute to the family is essential," says Blair. "As an employer, could you imagine losing 12 percent of your work force? It would be devastating."

Blair has studied family dynamics for a decade. He looks at specific roles within family structure and at how families divvy up household chores. His findings are interesting. He thinks that most contemporary parents are not necessarily as concerned with teaching these developmental skills as they are with the pragmatic aspect.

(Lynette Summerill – *The Chore of Chores*)

a) Answer the following questions.

1. What problems do parents usually have with their children over household chores?
2. What did Virginia complain about her daughter over domestic chores?
3. What did Sampson Lee Blair's research find out about the contribution of American children to their family?

b) Match each item in column A with its corresponding meaning in column B.

A	B
1. conflict	a. divide
2. glare	b. puzzled
3. dismayed	c. quarrel
4. bewildered	d. upset
5. nag	e. stare angrily
6. divvy up	f. annoy someone by constant scolding

c) Work in pairs. Prepare with your partner a two-minute oral presentation of what problems you often have with your parents over household chores.




LISTENING

a) Work in pairs. Match each picture with the corresponding description.




A



B



C



D

1. cleaning
2. a walking toddler
3. vacuuming
4. feeding

b) Listen to a woman's suggestions of summer domestic chores for kids. Number the ideas in order. The first one has been done for you.

- Vacuuming
- Spraying window cleaner
- Cleaning spots on carpets
- 1 Feeding and watering pets
- Cleaning floors and carpets
- Sweeping and mopping floors
- Watering lawns and plants
- Cleaning windows and sliding glass doors
- Wiping windows

c) Work in groups. Prepare a list of domestic chores you can help your family with.



SPEAKING

Apologizing and Expressing Regret

- a) Read and match each complaint with the corresponding apology and regret. The first one has been done for you.

It's six thirty. Clean that pigsty of a room. Right now!



I'm so sorry, Mom. I got very difficult homework and I forgot about the time.



1. It's six thirty. Clean that pigsty of a room. Right now!
 2. You're late today!
 3. Why didn't you come to class yesterday?
 4. You made a lot of noise last night.
 5. You clumsy boy!
 6. I thought you air-dried the laundry!
- a. I want to apologize for disturbing you, Mrs. Brown. We had a sudden gathering among old friends.
 - b. I hope you'll forgive my absence because I had to take care of my baby sister. My parents were out to the countryside.
 - c. I'm so sorry, Mom. An old friend of mine came and I forgot about it.
 - d. I'm very sorry, Dad. I didn't intend to break your new pot plant.
 - e. I'm so sorry, Mom. I got very difficult homework and I forgot about the time.
 - f. I'm really sorry, sir. I had an urgent phone call when I was going out of the door.

b) Work in pairs. Prepare a short dialogue for one of the situations. Then practice with a partner.

1. You forgot to water the pot plants. Your mom is getting upset with you now.
2. You forgot to clear the table after dinner. Your mom is complaining about that.
3. A neighbor is visiting your house. You have just spilled a cup of tea on her lap when serving her.

Useful Expressions

Apologies and Regrets

- Pardon me, please, for ...
- I hope you'll forgive my ...
- Please accept my apologies for ...
- I apologize for ...
- Excuse me for ...
- I'm sorry. I didn't mean to ...
- I'm very / really / awfully sorry ...
- Sorry about ...
- Oh! Sorry!
- Sorry about that.

c) Work in groups. Tell your partners about a situation in which you had to apologize to one of your parents over domestic chores. Your talk can begin with **Last week I had to make an apology to my mom / dad because I ...**



WRITING

Writing About Family Rules

a) Read and complete the following text with words and phrase from the box.

truth	taped	arguing
behave	family rules	respect

Every home should have its own set of (1)_____. Family rules simplify explanations, clarify expectations, and create a safe environment

for family, children and their friends. My mom has her own list of family rules (2)_____ to the refrigerator. These rules have served our family well over the years. My mom has also made it clear to us that the family rules follow us wherever we go. These are not just rules for us to follow at our house. They are family rules. We represent our family wherever we go, and my parents expect us to (3)_____ accordingly.

Here is my mom's list.

1. Tell the (4)_____.
2. Treat each other with (5)_____, without yelling, hitting, kicking, or name-calling.
3. No (6)_____ with parents. We want and value your input and ideas, but arguing means you have made your points more than once.

b) *Work in groups. Discuss what you think about the above list of family rules. Add some more. How has having such a list been helpful to you (or not)?*

c) *Write a letter to tell your home rules to a friend. You can begin your letter with Every home should have its own family rules. In my family, my parents ...*



LANGUAGE FOCUS

Word Study

Combinations with *Home* and *House*

Complete the following sentences with words and phrases from the box.

household appliances	homecoming
housekeeper	housewarming
home economics	make yourself at home
guesthouse	hometown


1. My _____ was developed much faster than I'd expected.
2. Many Vietnamese families now own _____ such as refrigerators, microwaves, and cookers.
3. She spent the day preparing for her son's _____ trip. He'd been away for a long time.

4. Have a cup of tea and _____.
5. Are you taking _____ this semester?
6. These non-resident students are staying in a nearby _____.
7. I'm going to a _____ party.
8. She's been working as a _____ for many years.

Grammar

Present Simple Expressing Routine

Make questions to ask and answer about today's routine and chores of Nina. The first one has been done for you.

Routine & Chores	Time
 Example Preparing breakfast and feeding the dog <i>What time does she prepare breakfast and feed the dog?</i>	6:00 a.m.
1. Putting dirty dishes in the sink and washing them	6:30 a.m.
2. Doing the laundry and hanging up wet clothes	7:00 a.m.
3. Taking the baby to kindergarten	7:30 a.m.
4. Mailing letters	8:00 a.m.
5. Shopping	8:30 a.m.
6. Preparing lunch	11:30 a.m.
7. Taking a nap	1:00 p.m.
8. Picking up the baby	4:30 p.m.
9. Preparing dinner	5:00 p.m.

Reported Speech: Statements and Questions

- a) Read part of the interview between an interviewer and Mrs. Green. Report their interview. The first two sentences have been done for you.

Interviewer: Mrs. Green, how many children do you have?

Mrs. Green: Well, I have two, a daughter and a son.

Interviewer: Do you have any problems with your two children over household chores?

Mrs. Green: Well, it's a long story. They are always neglecting their domestic responsibilities and arguing when being reminded.

Interviewer: For example?

Mrs. Green: Um ... I often battle with my daughter against her messy room, or her irresponsibility for collecting and disposing of the garbage can.

Interviewer: How about your son?

Mrs. Green: Well, worse than his sister. He never helps me with household chores. He is always taking out things and never returning them to their places.

Reporting

First, the interviewer wanted to know how many children Mrs. Green had. She said that she had two, a daughter and a son.

...

b) *Read and report what Virginia talked about her 15-year-old daughter.*

"I remember when I was her age," says a bewildered Virginia, referring to Terri, her 15-year-old daughter. "I had twice as much work to do around the house. I wouldn't have dreamed of blowing off the responsibility. Kids today have it too easy."