



B2 A Domestic Tasks App

Guided Reading



EXERCISE 1 LOOK AT SOME OLD ADVERTISEMENTS FOR CLEANING PRODUCTS. DISCUSS WHAT THEY ALL HAVE IN COMMON.



The Family Handyman



Period Paper Historic Art



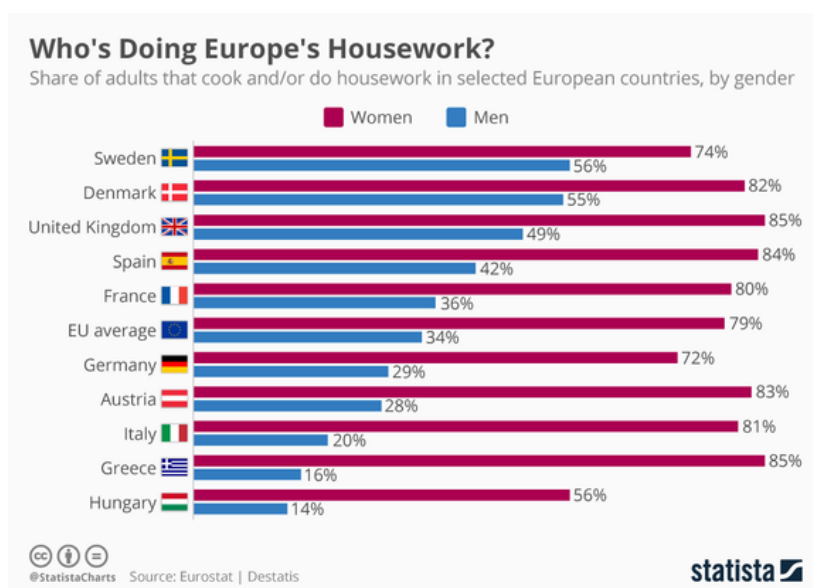
Pinterest



Pinterest

HAVE THE ADVERTISEMENTS FOR CLEANING PRODUCTS CHANGED SINCE THEN?

EXERCISE 2 ANALYSE THE GRAPH AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.



1. Which three countries have the highest percentage of women doing the housework?
2. Which three countries have the lowest percentage of men doing the housework?
3. Are you surprised by this data?
4. What percentage of men and women do housework in your country?

EXERCISE 3 DISCUSS WHAT COULD BE DONE TO ENSURE EQUAL DIVISION OF HOUSE CHORES BETWEEN HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS. READ THE BEGINNING OF THE ARTICLE ABOUT THE HOUSE CHORES DIVISION AND SEE IF YOUR IDEAS ARE MENTIONED.

Free app designed to shed light on 'mental load' overwhelmingly carried by women when it comes to chores.

Adapted from [The Guardian](#)



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1. What do you think is meant by 'mental load'?
2. Do you think that an application can help with the house chores division?
3. Would you consider using this application to split your house chores equally? Why (not)?

EXERCISE 4 READ QUICKLY THE TEXT AND GIVE IT AN APPROPRIATE TITLE.

The Spanish government is hoping to encourage men to do more at home by developing a free app that will log how much time each household or family member spends on (0) _____ chores.

Announcing the measure in Geneva earlier this week, Spain's secretary of state for equality, Ángela Rodríguez, said the aim was to (1) _____ light on the invisible "mental load" overwhelmingly carried by women when it comes to domestic tasks.

Rodríguez added: "We'll soon be (2) _____ an app that will allow people to log the household chores that different members of the family perform so we can see how many hours of work we each spend on housework and thus reorder the time we spend doing that housework."

She said the new app, whose development (3) _____ is reported to be €211,750, was designed to ensure that every family member pulled their (4) _____. "This is an exercise that could be used at home to share the chores out between children, parents, or between flatmates or life partners, because the (5) _____ of those tasks is sometimes unequal," she said.

Rodríguez said the app would also (6) _____ to highlight all the invisible jobs necessary for the smooth (7) _____ of a house. Although tidying up the kitchen might take 20 minutes, it depended on someone having remembered to buy washing-up liquid or having planned the shopping list.

The app is part of the equality ministry's shared responsibilities plan, a series of public policies intended to (8) _____ equality between men and women.

Adapted from [The Guardian](#)



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EXERCISE 5 COMPLETE THE TEXT WITH THE CORRECT OPTIONS (A-D). THE FIRST IS DONE FOR YOU.

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 0. A private | B local | C home | D <u>domestic</u> |
| 1 A bring | B shine | C shed | D throw |
| 2. A unveiling | B revealing | C uncovering | D exposing |
| 3. A budget | B funds | C price | D money |
| 4. A weight | B height | C width | D length |
| 5. A split | B division | C separation | D partition |
| 6. A give | B provide | C serve | D used |
| 7. A managing | B organizing | C caring | D running |
| 8. A upgrade | B update | C increase | D improve |

EXERCISE 6 IMAGINE THAT YOU AND YOUR FLATMATE NEED TO DIVIDE THE HOUSE CHORES BETWEEN EACH OTHER EQUALLY. DISCUSS WHICH TASKS WOULD BE THE BEST FOR YOU AND YOUR FLATMATE AND HOW OFTEN YOU CAN DO THEM.



I don't mind washing the dishes twice a week. In return, you can sweep the floors every day.

I don't think it's fair. I think we should all wash our own dishes. I can take the trash out once a week. What do you think?



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EXERCISE 9 DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

1. What are some hidden jobs required for efficient house management? Do you think that the app can bring attention to these tasks?
2. Are there any potential challenges or limitations to the effectiveness of the app?
3. Do you think that this app will be successful? Why (not)?
4. In what ways can tracking the time spent on household tasks by each family member contribute to achieving general equality in domestic responsibilities?
5. Would this app be useful in your country? Why (not)?

Teacher's notes

Exercise 1. Lead-in

7 mins

Look at the pictures of some old advertisements for cleaning products. Students describe what they can see in each picture and whether these ads would convince them to buy the products. As a group speculate what all these ads may have in common and how they have changed since then.

Suggested answers:

All the advertisements feature women. Some of them even mention women, for example, mother-in-law and mother.

Exercise 2. Pre-reading discussion

7 mins

Look at the graph and discuss what it shows (the percentage of men and women doing the housework in Europe). Analyse the graph by answering questions about the countries with the highest percentage of women and the lowest percentage of men doing the housework.

Answers:

1. United Kingdom (85%), Greece (85%), Spain (84%)
2. Italy (20%), Greece (16%), Hungary (14%)

As a group, discuss if students are surprised by this data. Think about how this data may look in their countries.

Exercise 3. Reading introduction + discussion

6 mins

Students work in pairs and discuss what could be done to ensure equal division of house chores between household members. Elicit some ideas from different groups. Then read the beginning of the article [*Spain hopes domestic tasks app will ensure men pull their weight*](#) and check if any of their answers appeared in the text.

Discuss what the author meant by talking about the mental load of women. As a group, discuss if students believe that this application can help with the house chores division, and whether they would ever consider using this application to split the house chores equally between the members of their households.

Exercise 4. Reading for gist

5 mins

Students read the rest of the article quickly and in pairs discuss the best title for it. Elicit some of the ideas and vote for the best title of the article. At this point, don't reveal the real title as it may spoil the next part of the exercise.

FCE - Reading and Use of English Part 1 - Explanation (optional)

3 mins

If this is the first time doing this kind of task, explain each step of this exam task or refer the students to the [*B2 First Exam Format*](#) to find more information about it.

If you choose to do this explanation in class, there are a few things that need to be mentioned:

- a. A text with some multiple-choice questions (A-D).
- b. Decide which of the four answers is the correct one.
- c. Tests student's knowledge of vocabulary (idioms, collocations, phrasal verbs, fixed phrases, etc.)

Exercise 5. Reading for detail

6 mins

Students work individually and choose one of the four words that best fit in the gap. Check and discuss the answers, explaining why the other options are not appropriate.

Answers: 1C, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5B, 6C, 7D, 8D

Teacher's notes

Exercise 6. Pair speaking

8 mins

Present students with an imaginary scenario in which they live with their speaking partner. They need to divide between each other house chores, including the time each task would take. Once everyone finishes the task, share the answers with the rest of the group and decide if the tasks are split equally.

Exercise 7. Group discussion

5 mins

Together discuss the answers to the questions about the application and whether it is a good way to divide the house chores equally. Think about any potential disadvantages and limitations that may hinder the effectiveness of the app.

Error correction

3 mins

Provide speaking feedback.