

GETTING STARTED**Household chores****1 Listen and read.**

Nam: Hello?

Mr Long: Hello, Nam? This is Uncle Long. Is your dad there? I'd like to ask him out for a game of tennis.

Nam: Well, I'm afraid he can't go out with you now. He's preparing dinner.

Mr Long: Is he? Where's your mum? Doesn't she cook?

Nam: Oh, yes. My mum usually does the cooking, but she's working late today.

Mr Long: How about your sister and you? Do you help with the housework?

Nam: Yes, we do. In my family, everybody shares the household duties. Today my sister can't help with the cooking. She's studying for exams.

Mr Long: I see. So how do you divide household chores in your family?

Nam: Well, both my parents work, so we split the chores equally - my mother cooks and shops for groceries, my father cleans the house and does the heavy lifting, my sister does all the laundry, and I do the washing-up and take out the rubbish.

This unit includes:**LANGUAGE****Vocabulary**

Words and phrases related to household chores and duties

Pronunciation

/tr/, /kr/ and /br/

Grammar

The present simple vs. the present continuous

SKILLS

- Reading about the benefits of sharing housework
- Exchanging opinions about household chores
- Listening to a TV programme about the roles of family members
- Writing about doing household chores in the family

COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE

Family life in different cultures

Mr Long: Really? It's different in my family. My wife handles most of the chores around the house and I'm responsible for the household finances. She's the homemaker and I'm the breadwinner. Anyway, I have to go now. Tell your dad I called. Bye.

Nam: Oh yes, I will. Bye, Uncle Long.



LANGUAGE

Vocabulary

1 Match the words and phrases in the box with their meanings below.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. chore | 2. homemaker |
| 3. breadwinner | 4. groceries |
| 5. split | 6. laundry |
| 7. heavy lifting | 8. washing-up |

- the member of a family who earns the money that the family needs
- divide
- the act of washing the dishes after a meal
- an action that requires physical strength
- a person who manages the home and often raises children instead of earning money from a job
- a routine task, especially a household one
- clothes washing
- food and other goods sold at a shop or a supermarket

2 List all the household chores that are mentioned in the conversation. Then add more chores to the list.

2 Work in pairs. Decide whether the following statements are true (T), false (F), or not given (NG) and tick the correct box.

	T	F	NG
1. Nam's father is going out to play tennis with Mr Long.			
2. Nam's mother is a busy woman.			
3. Nam's sister is cooking dinner.			
4. Sometimes Nam's father cooks.			
5. Everybody in Nam's family does some of the housework.			
6. Mr Long never does any household chores.			

3 Listen and repeat the words or phrases.

rubbish washing-up laundry
 household finances groceries
 household chores heavy lifting

4 Write the verbs or verb phrases that are used with the words or phrases in the conversation.

	Verbs / Verb phrases	Words / Phrases
1		(household) chores
2		rubbish
3		laundry
4		groceries
5		heavy lifting
6		washing-up
7		household finances



3 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions below.

- What household chores do you usually do?
- How do you divide household duties in your family?

Pronunciation

1 Listen and repeat.

/tr/	/kr/	/br/
trash	create	breadwinner
tree	critical	breakfast
train	cream	brown
treat	crane	brother
true	crack	brush

2 Listen to the sentences and circle the word you hear.

- a. trashed b. crashed c. brushed
- a. train b. crane c. brain
- a. tread b. create c. bread
- a. true b. crew c. brew

Grammar

1 Read the text and choose the correct verb form.

Mrs Hang is a housewife. Every day, she (1) does / is doing most of the housework. She (2) cooks / is cooking, washes the clothes and (3) cleans / is cleaning the house. But today is Mother's Day and Mrs Hang isn't doing any housework. Her husband and children are doing it all for her. At the moment, she (4) watches / is watching her favourite programme on TV. Her daughter, Lan, (5) does / is doing the cooking; her son, Minh, (6) does / is doing the laundry; and her husband, Mr Long, (7) tidies up / is tidying up the house. Everybody in the family (8) tries / is trying hard to make it a special day for Mrs Hang.



Do you know ...?

- The present simple is used to talk about daily habits and routines.
- The present continuous is used to talk about something that is happening or not happening at the moment of speaking.

2 Use the verbs in brackets in their correct form to complete the sentences.

- Mrs Lan usually (do) the cooking for the family, but she (not cook) now. She (work) on an urgent report at the moment.
- I'm afraid you can't talk to him now. He (take out) the rubbish.
- He (clean) the house every day. He (clean) it now.
- My sister can't do any housework today. She (prepare) for her exams.
- They divide the duties in the family. She (look after) the children, and her husband (work) to earn money.
- It's 7.30 p.m. now and my father (watch) the *Evening News* on TV. He (watch) it every evening.



Watch out!

What are some words that can give you clues about which tense to use?
now ..., *at the moment ...*, + *present continuous*
presently ... + *present continuous*
usually, always, every day, ... + *present simple*



SKILLS

Reading

Sharing housework

1 Look at the picture and answer the questions.

1. What are the people in the picture doing?
2. Do you think they are happy? Why / Why not?



2 Read the text below and decide which of the following is the best title for it.

- a. Doing Housework is Good for Children
- b. Husbands Who Share Housework Make Their Wives Happy
- c. Sharing Housework Makes the Family Happier

In many cultures, doing housework is considered a woman's duty. The mother is usually the homemaker, who has to do most of the household chores, while the father is the breadwinner, who is responsible for the family finances. However, it is not good for the mother when the rest of the family does not help out. When families share household chores, it is good for them as individuals and good for all the relationships within the family.

According to psychologists, most people do not realise the enormous benefits that come to a family when husbands and children share the housework. Children who share the housework with their mums and dads do better at school, become more sociable, and have better relationships with their teachers and friends. They learn good skills, are more responsible, and tend to be overall good people. When men share the housework, they tend to have better relationships with their wives. Women often feel happy when they see their husbands doing housework because **it** says, 'He cares about me and he doesn't want to put all of the housework on me.' Women whose husbands do not contribute to the household chores are more vulnerable to illness and tend to think more about divorce.

When everyone works together on household chores, **it** creates a positive atmosphere for the family and sets a good example for the children. This is especially true if mum and dad can find a way to work well together and are not critical of each other.

3 Read the text again. Do you understand the words from the context? Tick the appropriate meaning for each word from the text.

1. sociable
 a. friendly
 b. unfriendly
2. vulnerable
 a. able to be well protected
 b. able to be easily physically, emotionally, or mentally hurt
3. critical
 a. saying that something is good
 b. saying that something is bad
4. enormous
 a. not very large
 b. very very large
5. tend
 a. likely to behave in a particular way
 b. unlikely to behave in a particular way

4 a What does 'it' in line 11 mean ...?

- A. women feeling happy
- B. women seeing their husbands doing housework
- C. the husbands doing housework

b What does 'it' in line 14 mean ...?

- A. a good example for children
- B. everyone working together in the house
- C. a positive family atmosphere

5 Answer the questions.

1. How do children benefit from sharing housework?
2. Why do men tend to have better relationships with their wives when they share housework?
3. What may happen to women whose husbands do not contribute to the household chores?
4. How does the family benefit when everyone works together on household chores?

6 Discuss with a partner.

1. Do you have any problems with sharing housework?
2. What benefits do you get when sharing housework?

Speaking

Chores I like!

1 Which household chores do you like doing and which do you dislike? Write your answers to the questions in the table below and add a reason.

Likes		Dislikes	
Name of chore	Reason	Name of chore	Reason
<i>cooking</i>	<i>I like eating.</i>	<i>cleaning the bathroom</i>	<i>It's dirty.</i>

2 Below is part of Anna's interview with Mai. They are talking about the household chores Mai likes and dislikes. Match Mai's answers with Anna's questions. Then practise the conversation.

Anna	Mai
1. What household chores do you do every day?	a. Well, I think I like sweeping the house.
2. Which of the chores do you like doing the most?	b. Washing the dishes, because I often break things when I do the washing-up.
3. What do you like about it?	c. I do the laundry, wash the dishes, and sweep the house. I sometimes do the cooking when my mum is busy.
4. Which of the chores do you dislike doing the most?	d. It's not too hard, and I like seeing the house clean after I sweep it.



3 Have a similar conversation with a partner. Find out which chores she / he likes or dislikes the most and why. Report your findings to the class.

Listening

Family life – Changing roles

1 Look at the chart and discuss the changes in weekly hours of basic housework by married men and married women in the USA between 1976 and 2012. Guess the reasons for the changes.



2 Listen to a family expert talking about how the roles of men and women in families have changed and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

	T	F
1. Men's and women's roles in the family have become similar.		
2. Both men and women now work to contribute to the family finances.		
3. According to 'equally shared parenting', both men and women have equal chances for recreation.		
4. According to 'equally shared parenting', the husband's career is less important than the wife's.		
5. Families following 'equally shared parenting' are happier.		

3 Work in pairs. Match the word / phrase with its appropriate meaning.

1. balance

2. nurture

3. equally shared parenting

4. traditional

5. solution

a. a way of solving a problem or dealing with a difficult situation

b. to care for and protect somebody / something while they are growing and developing

c. sharing housework and childcare evenly

d. existing for a long time

e. a state where things are of equal weight or force

4 Listen again and answer the questions.

- How has the role of men in the family changed?
- How have men's and women's roles become alike?
- What is the result of 'equally shared parenting'?



Writing

“Many hands make light work.”

1 Work in pairs. Discuss the meaning of the saying above. Do you agree with it? How does this saying apply to doing housework in the family?

2 Read the text about Lam’s family below and complete the chore chart.

I live in a family of four: my parents, my younger sister and I. We are all very busy people: both my parents work, my sister and I spend most of our time at school, so we split the household chores equally.

My dad is responsible for mending things around the house. He also cleans the bathroom twice a week. My mum does most of the cooking and grocery shopping.

Being the elder child in the family, I take up a large share of housework. I do the laundry, take out the rubbish, and clean the fridge once a week. My younger sister An’s responsibilities include helping mum to prepare meals and washing the dishes. My sister and I take turns laying the table for meals, sweeping the house, and feeding the cat.

We do our share of housework willingly as we know that if everyone contributes, the burden is less and everyone can have some time to relax.

HOUSEHOLD CHORE CHART

Dad	
Mum	
Lam	
An	

3 Read the text again and answer the questions.

1. How many people are there in Lam’s family?
2. Why are they very busy?
3. How do they split the housework in the family?
4. What household chores does each member of the family do?
5. Do the family members enjoy the housework?
6. What are the benefits of everyone in the family sharing the housework?

4 Make your family chore chart. Then, using the ideas in the chart, write a paragraph about how people in your family share housework. You can use the questions in 3 as cues for your writing.

Family Chore Chart

Name: Mum
Chore List

Name: Dad
Chore List

Name: _____
Chore List

Name: _____
Chore List

