

READ THE TEXT AND COMPLETE THE ACTIVITIES:

Tidying Up with Marie Kondo

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Marie Kondo is a tidying expert and best-selling author who developed her own KonMari method to help people organize their homes. Here we review her TV series.



- 1 I read Marie Kondo's best-selling book, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, last year, so I was interested to watch her TV series *Tidying Up*. In the show she visits people with untidy homes to help them throw things out and find a place for the things they love. The people in the show are all unhappy about things being messy, but Marie believes that by tidying your home you can take control of your life.
- 2 Marie Kondo encourages people to throw away things that don't "spark joy"; if it doesn't make you feel happy, don't keep it! I watched people hugging items and trying to decide whether to keep them. I understood their pain—so many items had good memories, were gifts, or "might be useful" in the future.
- 3 Marie recommends tidying up in a special order, starting with clothes, then books, papers, mixed stuff (those things in your closets, shelves, and boxes that you probably don't need, use, or love!), and, finally, things that are important to you for emotional reasons. Marie helped a couple with too many clothes. First they emptied everything from their closet into a pile, then they decided what "sparked joy." Finally, they hung items back in their closets or folded them and put them away in their drawers so they could see exactly what they had. After watching, I folded all my clothes using the KonMari method. It's so much quicker to find things now!
- 4 If something doesn't spark joy, she tells people to put it in the trash, recycle it, or give it to charity, so that someone else can enjoy it. One of Marie's tips is to have a picture in your mind of how you want your house to be. It's hard to imagine a tidy home with three kids, but it helped me make decisions about what I wanted to take to my new place.
- 5 Many of the people in the show said that they felt Marie made their lives calmer and more organized. I loved this show. Watch it! It will change your life!

READING SKILL : Finding meaning (1): using context

When you see a new word, look at the text around it to help you understand the meaning before you use a dictionary. There may be examples, words with similar or opposite meanings, or even an explanation in the sentence before or after. It can be helpful to decide if the word is a verb, a noun, or an adjective before you look.

A.- What is the recommended approach when you come across a new word in a text?

- a) Immediately consult a dictionary
- b) Skip the word and continue reading
- c) Analyze the context for understanding
- d) Write the word down and ask a friend

B.- According to the text, what types of information can you find around a new word to aid in understanding its meaning?

- a) Only synonyms of the word
- b) Only antonyms of the word
- c) Examples, synonyms, antonyms, or explanations
- d) Only translations of the word

C.- What is the advantage of determining whether a new word is a verb, noun, or adjective before using a dictionary, as suggested in the text?

- a) It helps you impress others with your grammatical knowledge
- b) It speeds up the process of looking up words
- c) It allows you to decide whether to skip the word
- d) It helps you find similar words more easily

D.- Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a potential source of information to understand the meaning of a new word in the text?

- a) Examples
- b) Synonyms
- c) Etymology
- d) Antonyms

1.- Read the text again then match these words with the definitions. One definition has two answers.

a charity b messy c pile d stuff e throw away / out f tidy up g untidy

- 1.- an organization that helps people
- 2.- with things in the wrong place
- 3.- put things in the right place
- 4.- different things
- 5.- put something in the trash
- 6.- a number of things on top of each other

2.- Check (✓) the ways Marie Kondo helps people tidy up.

- 1.- She helps people decide what things they love and want to keep.
- 2.- She tells people what to throw away.
- 3.- She starts by tidying the most untidy place.
- 4.- She tidies up one type of thing at a time.

3.- Look at the Critical Thinking Skill box and read questions 1–3. Then underline the information in the review that tells you the answer.

CRITICAL THINKING SKILL : Identifying a writer's opinion

When you read reviews, it is important to notice what the writer's opinion is.

Expressions like *For me, I feel, In my view*, can show that something is an opinion. But often you have to read carefully to decide if something is a fact or an opinion. Look for adjectives describing the writer's feelings, or for reasons and examples that show they agree or disagree with the thing they are reviewing.

A) Why is it important to pay attention to the writer's opinion when reading reviews?

- a) Because opinions are always more reliable than facts
- b) Because facts are often hidden in reviews
- c) Because opinions provide a better understanding of the topic
- d) Because facts and opinions are the same thing in reviews

B) How can you identify that something in a review is the writer's opinion?

- a) If the writer uses adjectives
- b) If the writer avoids using "For me" or "I feel"
- c) If the writer uses a lot of facts
- d) If the writer doesn't provide any reasons

C) What are some expressions that can indicate the presence of an opinion in a review?

- a) "According to experts"
- b) "In my view" and "For me"
- c) "Only the facts"
- d) "No feelings involved"

D) Besides expressions, what other clues can you look for to determine if something in a review is an opinion?

- a) The writer's address and contact information
- b) Adverbs describing the writer's feelings
- c) The publication date of the review
- d) The length of the review