

Fill in the Blank Exercise: "Household Roles and Chores"

Instructions: Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words or phrases from the given options.

Alice

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute English. I'm Alice...

Neil

And I'm Neil.

Alice

Neil, how often do you do the washing up at home?

Neil

Oh, you know, on special occasions – like after a Christmas lunch!

Alice

That's terrible, Neil!

Neil

Well, _____ chores are the subject of today's show. And you know what? I'm not very good at them.

Alice

Domestic means to do with the family or home and a chore is a boring job that needs doing. Not being good at chores sounds like a bad excuse for avoiding housework, Neil.

Neil

I suppose you're right. But I wasn't surprised to learn that on average women spend several more hours a day doing chores at home than men. Maybe men have a higher _____ for dirt and untidiness.

Alice

Do you have a high _____, Neil?

Neil

Yes. And threshold means the point at which you begin to feel something. It takes a lot of dirt and untidiness to make me feel I need to start clearing up.

Alice

OK, so my question for you today, Neil, is: What _____ of men take responsibility for giving the house a weekly clean, according to a recent online survey by the UK organization, Mumsnet? Is it...

a) 1%?

b) 5%?

Or c) 10%?

Neil

Hmm. Those figures all sound low. But I'll assume that not all men are like me, and say c) 10%.

Alice

Well, we'll see if you're being optimistic with your answer later on in the show. So now let's listen to a conversation between BBC reporter Geoff Byrd and his wife Sarah. In an interview to a BBC presenter they discuss Sarah's _____ to – or strong dislike of domestic chores.

INSERT

BBC reporter Geoff Byrd and his wife Sarah

SB: The thing is, it's a boring thing. You should just do the minimum amount you need to do to get by. That is my policy. I would say I definitely work harder than you do, and therefore have less time. Have we just switched round in terms of our roles?

GB: Probably. Yeah. And that's no _____. Go the revolution!

Neil

Sarah and Geoff there. In their household, Geoff does more chores because Sarah finds them boring and she also does more paid work. She thinks people should do the minimum amount of housework – or least amount needed – to get by.

Alice

And to get by means to achieve something with difficulty.

Neil

So Geoff does most of the cooking and cleaning in their house – which as we discussed earlier on, isn't usually the case for men. He doesn't seem to mind, though, does he?

Alice

That's right. He says switching roles is no _____. In other words, it's a good thing!

Neil

Yey. Go the revolution! Just don't include me, because I'm with Sarah. I hate housework.

Alice

OK, well let's assume that Sarah and Geoff aren't typical of most families, and consider the serious implications of women doing more of the household chores. Some domestic tasks can be strongly _____ – or specific to one sex. For example, doing the laundry, organizing your children's school and social lives are often jobs that women do.

Neil

But putting the rubbish out or fixing a leaky tap – those are work many people still see as men's jobs.

Alice

Well, I put the rubbish bins out in my household, Neil. Anyway, this means women often spend significantly more time doing chores at home, juggling this with paid work.

Neil

Yes, that sounds like a lot. I can see I'm going to have to get my _____ on a bit more at home, Alice.

Alice

I hope you do, Neil, because a bit more _____ at home could help improve a working mum's prospects of getting promoted at work and earning more. And for those of you unfamiliar with the word, pinny – or pinafore – means apron.

Neil

And give and take means _____.

Alice

Let's hear now from Professor Jonathan Gershuny, co-director at the Centre for Time Use Research at Oxford University, talking about why it's important to protect your _____ – or ability to earn money.

INSERT

Professor Jonathan Gershuny, co-director at the Centre for Time Use Research at Oxford University