

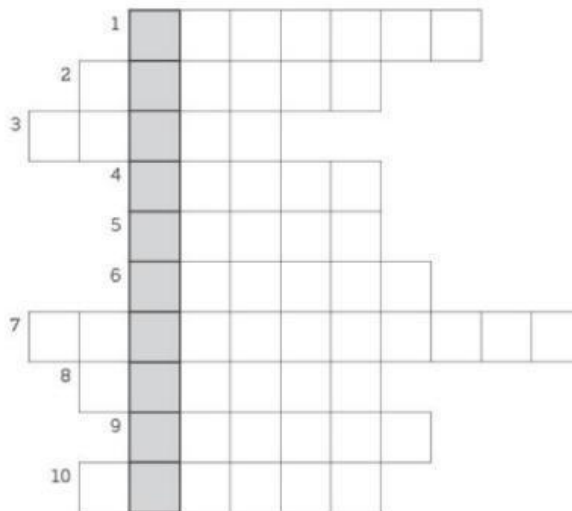


If you want a thing done well, do it yourself.  
Napoleon Bonaparte, 18th century Emperor of the French

## 6A Do it yourself

### 1 VOCABULARY DIY and repairs; paraphrasing

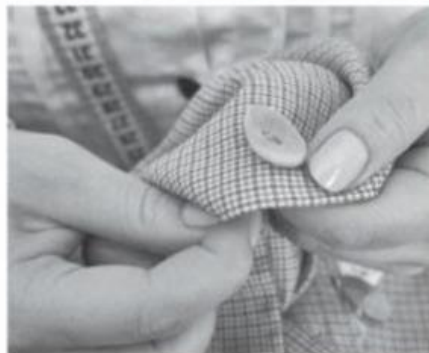
- a Read the clues. Complete the puzzle to find the hidden object in a shed.
- 1 It's a thing you use to stop people from opening a gate.
  - 2 It's a thing you use to climb up, e.g. to paint a ceiling.
  - 3 It's a thing you use for making holes.
  - 4 They're things made of metal that you can use to attach one piece of wood to another or to put in a wall to hang pictures on.
  - 5 They're things you can use to cover the bathroom wall.
  - 6 They're things that you use for building walls.
  - 7 It's a thing you use for tightening screws.
  - 8 It's a thing you use for carrying water.
  - 9 It's like a rope but much thinner.
  - 10 It's the thing that you put through a needle when you want to mend your clothes.



**b** Complete the dialogues.

- 1 A The light isn't working.  
B Don't worry. I'll change the light bulb.
- 2 A It's dark outside.  
B Take a t\_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 A How do you lock this door?  
B You have to pull the h\_\_\_\_\_ up.
- 4 A I need to light the candles.  
B There are some m\_\_\_\_\_ in the drawer.
- 5 A I've bought some wrapping paper for Mary's present.  
B Great! Have we got any s\_\_\_\_\_?
- 6 A I need to stick this photo on this application form.  
B OK. Here's the gl\_\_\_\_\_.

- c Look at the pictures. What are they doing?  
Complete the sentences.



- 1 She's *tying her shoelaces* .
- 2 They \_\_\_\_\_ some shelves.
- 3 She \_\_\_\_\_ a hole in the wall.
- 4 He \_\_\_\_\_ the handle on.
- 5 She \_\_\_\_\_ a button on a shirt.
- 6 They \_\_\_\_\_ a tyre.

### 3 READING

- a Read the article. Do most people have a natural ability for DIY?

## DIY: WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

How good are you at doing DIY? <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_ Recent research has shown that DIY ability lies in our genes – which provides the perfect excuse for those of us who **struggle** to assemble flat-pack furniture or change a tap.

The research was in the form of a study, which was conducted for Halifax Home Insurance last year. Two thousand UK adults of both sexes took part. <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_ To be able to do the **tasks**, the participants needed to know something about shapes and mechanics. While they were putting the **puzzles** together, the scientists measured their natural DIY ability. Those who tried to do the tasks by **trial and error** were unable to finish the puzzles.

After analyzing the results, the researchers revealed that only a third of the participants had completed the tasks properly. <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_ Men scored higher in the experiment, which suggests that they really are better 'programmed' to do essential repairs in the home. Psychologist Dr Glenn Wilson, who **led** the experiment, explained that people who are good at doing DIY have a high level of spatial awareness. This is the ability to judge the position and size of objects. 'Although there is not one specific DIY gene,' he said, 'Some people simply do not have the necessary brain skills to manipulate shapes.' People with little or no spatial awareness will always struggle to complete DIY tasks successfully, he said.

Attempting DIY without the necessary skills can have disastrous consequences. It is estimated that £400 million worth of **damage** was caused last year by people who **lack** natural Do-It-Yourself ability.

<sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_ This was after 36-year-old Barry Witham had made a **sizeable** hole in the kitchen ceiling while he was trying to mend a light. Other incidents include cutting his leg with a penknife while trying to fit a carpet and hurting his hand badly while fixing some speakers. Barry is obviously one of those enthusiasts who do not have the spatial awareness necessary for home improvements.

The **findings** of the Halifax Home Insurance study come just a day after a report revealed that more and more of us are losing interest in DIY. <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_ Apparently, attitudes are changing and today home owners are more likely to pay someone else to do their repairs rather than do them themselves. This is good news for insurers, who often have to **foot the bill** for expensive DIY mistakes. However, it is bad news for DIY retailers, whose sales have fallen dramatically recently.

**b** Read the article again and complete it with the missing sentences.

- A The participants were asked to complete some specially designed multi-dimensional puzzles.
- B A Middlesbrough man was recently banned by his wife from doing any more repairs to their home.
- C An astonishing two million of us have stopped doing our own home improvements over the past couple of years, according to market analysts.
- D If you aren't an expert, it appears that you are not alone.
- E This means that approximately two in three Britons lack the natural ability to do DIY.

**4 GRAMMAR** obligation, necessity, prohibition, advice

a Circle the correct form. Tick (✓) if both are possible.

## HOME REPAIRS YOU SHOULD NEVER DO YOURSELF

Some home repairs are easy and you <sup>1</sup>*don't have to / needn't* ✓ consult an expert. But there are others that you <sup>2</sup>*must / ought not to* try yourself. The following will help you make the right decision when you're thinking of doing a job.

### PLUMBING REPAIRS

You <sup>3</sup>*don't have to / mustn't* call a plumber to do minor repairs, like changing a tap. You can probably do it yourself.

But you <sup>4</sup>*should / ought to* get in an expert for more complicated jobs. If not, you might flood your house.



## ELECTRICAL REPAIRS

You <sup>5</sup>*must / have to* switch off the power before doing any small electrical repairs.

You <sup>6</sup>*should / must* be a qualified electrician to make any changes to the electrical system, so don't even think of doing this yourself.

## ROOFING REPAIRS

You <sup>7</sup>*don't have to / ought not to* go up on the roof alone, because you might fall off and injure yourself.

However, if you simply want to check something, you <sup>8</sup>*should / ought to* always have a helper to hold the bottom of a ladder so that it doesn't suddenly move.

## GAS APPLIANCE REPAIRS

You probably <sup>9</sup>*don't need to / needn't* call an expert to move your gas oven.

But you <sup>10</sup>*mustn't / don't need to* install a new water heater yourself. Gas leaks kill hundreds of people every year.

**b** Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Contractions count as one word.

1 It isn't a good idea to drill a hole near a water pipe.  
You shouldn't drill a hole near a water pipe.

2 In some countries, it's prohibited to make a noise after 10.00 p.m.  
In some countries, you \_\_\_\_\_ after 10.00 p.m.

3 Builders are obliged to wear a helmet on a building site.  
Builders \_\_\_\_\_ on a building site.

- 4 It isn't necessary for me to decorate my room because I did it last year.  
I \_\_\_\_\_ my room because I did it last year.
- 5 It's a good idea to keep a torch in your car.  
You \_\_\_\_\_ a torch in your car.
- 6 We aren't obliged to pay any bills because everything is included in the rent.  
We \_\_\_\_\_ any bills because everything is included in the rent.
- 7 In my country, it's compulsory to take used batteries to a recycling point.  
In my country, you \_\_\_\_\_ to a recycling point.
- 8 It's dangerous to let children play with matches.  
You \_\_\_\_\_ with matches.

## 5 LISTENING

- a **Checker** Listen to five people talking about DIY disasters. Answer the questions.

When the disaster happened, which speakers...

- 1 hadn't started doing any DIY? \_\_\_\_
- 2 were in the process of doing DIY? \_\_\_\_
- 3 had just finished doing some DIY? \_\_\_\_

- b Listen again and match speakers 1–5 to sentences A–F. There is one extra sentence that you do not need to use.

- |                                                          |                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A He/She changed their mind about doing some DIY.        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B He/She hasn't done any DIY since the disaster.         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C He/She had to put the DIY off to another day.          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D He/She was injured while they were doing DIY.          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| E He/She managed to find a solution to the DIY disaster. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| F He/She was secretly pleased that the DIY had failed.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |