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LearnEnglish Teens

Reading skills practice: Can you cook? – exercises

Read the article about Tom and do the exercises to practise and improve your reading skills.

Preparation

Fill the gaps with the correct word from the box.

cook	teenager	skill	homework	difficult	recipe

1. A _____ is someone who is between thirteen and nineteen years old.
2. Teachers give you _____ to do at home before the next lesson.
3. When you _____ a meal, you make hot food.
4. A _____ is something you learn how to do, like using a computer.
5. The instructions you follow to make a meal are called a _____.
6. Some subjects are easy but others are _____.

CAN YOU COOK?

This teenager can — and his mum's very happy with him



Tom in the kitchen

Tom is like any other teenager. He goes to school, does his homework, meets his friends and enjoys doing sport.

But between 5.30 and 6.30 from Monday to Friday, Tom does something different. He cooks dinner for all the family: mum, dad, younger brother Joe and older sister Emma.

"I think it's important for teenagers to learn how to cook. Maths and English are important, of course, but they need other skills too to help them in today's world.

First I taught Tom how to cook easy meals like pizza or egg and chips. Then he started using recipes in my cookery books. Yesterday he made vegetable soup. It was very good!

Tom's mum

"I love cooking and I think I'm really good at it. None of my friends cook. I don't know why, it isn't difficult and it's great fun!

Tom

In the past, Tom didn't help out at home and his mum wasn't very happy with him. Today, things are different and she is very happy.

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1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

1.	Tom does one thing that teenagers don't normally do.	*True*	*False*
2.	Tom is the only person who eats the food he cooks.	*True*	*False*
3.	Tom's mum was happier when he didn't cook.	*True*	*False*
4.	Tom's mum thinks learning to cook is good for teenagers.	*True*	*False*
5.	Tom learned some recipes from his grandmother.	*True*	*False*
6.	Tom's vegetable soup was not good.	*True*	*False*
7.	Tom says he is a good cook.	*True*	*False*
8.	Tom's friends like cooking too now.	*True*	*False*

2. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the meaning of the word in CAPITALS in these sentences from the reading text above.

1.	Today things are different and SHE is very happy.	a. Tom's mum b. Tom's sister
2.	Maths and English are important, of course, but THEY need other skills too to help THEM in today's world.	a. Maths and English b. teenagers
3.	Yesterday he made vegetable soup. IT was very good!	a. Tom b. the soup
4.	He started using recipes in MY cookery books.	a. Tom's mum's b. Tom's
5.	I love cooking and I think I'm really good at IT.	a. cooking b. being a teenager
6.	IT isn't difficult and IT's great fun!	a. cooking b. doing homework

Discussion
What can you cook?

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