

HK VOCABULARIES

Rooms in a House

word	meaning	bahasa
attic	storage room at the very top of the house	
basement	the lowest level of the house	
bathroom, washroom	the room for bathing and using the toilet	
bedroom	the room where people sleep	
dining room	room with a table and chairs for eating; in some houses this room is only used on special occasions	
hallway	long narrow area that joins one room to another	
kitchen	place for preparing food; sometimes has a table and chairs for eating informal meals	
living room; family room	place where family spends leisure time; often has a TV, also used for entertaining	
lobby	area in the front entrance for hanging coats and placing shoes	
master bedroom	the largest bedroom in the house; used by parents	
nursery	room for baby or young child	
pantry	room off the kitchen for keeping dry foods and storage items	
patio	outdoor area in front or backyard; usually sits slightly off the ground; often made of wood	
playroom	room filled with toys; books and games; indoor area for kids to play	
rec room	often in basement; extra room for watching TV and playing games such as billiards or ping pong	
sunroom	enclosed room with large windows; often used for relaxation, visiting, or reading	

Furniture and Decor

word	meaning	bahasa
bed	long frame with a mattress on top for sleeping; has blankets and pillows for comfort	
bookshelf, bookcase	tall wooden piece used for holding books	
chair	various types of furniture used for sitting on	
change table	surface found in the nursery, used for changing a baby's diaper	
couch/sofa	long comfortable piece for sitting on; found in common rooms	
counter	surface in the kitchen; used for preparing food and holding small appliances	
cupboards	storage area with doors; used for holding food, dishes, cleaning supplies, etc.	
desk	piece used for doing work and holding papers, books, writing tools; usually found in an office	
dresser, bureau	piece of furniture for holding folded clothing	
entertainment centre	piece of furniture for holding television, stereo, and other electronic devices	
fireplace	square opening on a wall to hold a fire and warm up the home; may be electric, gas, or wood	
mirrors	special glass placed on a wall or counter, used for viewing one's self	
pictures, paintings	decorations hung on walls or placed on surfaces; often framed	
shelves	long surfaces for organizing and storing household items	
tub, bathtub	found in bathrooms, a large area where you lie down and wash your body	
window sills, ledges	long shelf-like surface beneath a window	

Household Appliances

word	meaning	bahasa
dishwasher	electric appliance that washes dishes; can be "built-in" (under a sink) or "portable" (moved and attached to the sink when in use)	
dryer	electric appliance used to dry laundry	
fridge	electric appliance used for keeping food cold	
freezer	electric appliance used for keeping food frozen (very cold)	
garbage disposal	located inside a drain; chops up bits of food into small pieces to fit down the pipes	
microwave	electric appliance for cooking food quickly	
oven	electric appliance for baking and heating food	
stove, range	elements on top of an oven for heating, frying, and boiling food	
washing machine	electric appliance for cleaning laundry	

Cleaning Supplies

word	meaning	
baking soda	white powder used for cleaning and removing odours	
bleach	liquid added in small amounts to water; has strong chemicals that remove stains on white clothing; also used to clean bathrooms	
broom	brush with a long handle on it for sweeping floors	
carpet cleaner	foam or liquid soap used on rugs and carpets	
deodorizer	product that removes bad smells from a room; often scented	
dishwashing detergent	liquid or powder soap that goes into a dishwasher	

dust pan	flat container used for collecting dirt and dust swept up with a broom	
duster	a cleaning tool with a handle and feathers (or a soft cloth) used for wiping dust off surfaces	
garbage or trash bag	large, heavy bag for collecting the household garbage	
garbage or trash bin	container with a lid that holds large garbage bags	
gloves	coverings for the hands, with separate holes for the fingers	
hose	a long tube that fills with water; often kept outside and used for outdoor cleaning	
laundry detergent	powder or liquid soap used for cleaning clothes and linen	
mop	long stick with a sponge at the bottom that is soaked in water and soap; used for cleaning floors	
recycling bin	a container that holds paper, tins, glass, and other garbage that can be reused	
scouring pads	tough cleaning pads used for scrubbing pots, pans, and ovens	
scrub brush	a brush with a handle on it; often used for cleaning toilets	
sponge	a soft cleaning product that absorbs water and is used for washing surfaces	
stain remover	laundry product used specifically on spots that regular laundry detergent cannot clean (stains include red wine or blood)	
vacuum cleaner	a machine that sucks up dust and dirt on the floor as you push it around	
vinegar	a clear sour tasting liquid mixed with water and used for cleaning; environmentally friendly alternative to store bought cleaners	

Linen and Laundry

word	meaning	bahasa
bath towel	large towel used for drying the body after a shower or bath	
face cloth or wash cloth	small, square shaped towel or cloth used for washing the face and hands	
fitted sheet	sheet with elastic that goes on top of the mattress and stays in place	
fold verb	make articles of clothing small and neat for storage	
hand towel	a towel hung in the bathroom; used for drying hands	
hanger noun	a wire or plastic hook used for hanging clothes in a closet	
iron noun and verb	an electric appliance used for making clothes flat; to remove wrinkles	
king size	the largest size bed or bed covering	
laundry noun do the laundry	the washing of clothing	
pillow case	a covering similar to a sheet that protects the head cushion	
queen size	large size bed and bed covering (smaller than king, larger than double)	
sheet noun	a light cover on the bed	
single	smallest bed or bed covering size; made for one person	

stain <i>noun</i>	a spot that is difficult to clean	
top sheet	the sheet that goes on top of the fitted sheet and under a heavier blanket	
twin size	bed or bed covering size that is larger than a single and smaller than a double; used for one person	

Describing Words for Housekeepers

word	meaning	example sentence	bahasa
allergic	when a person must stay away from a certain food or cleaning product because it can cause them to get very sick	Our daughter is allergic to that laundry detergent.	
clean	remove dirt and stains	When the kitchen is clean I will start on the laundry.	
clogged, plugged	when something is blocking the hole of a tube or pipe	The kitchen drain is clogged with potato skins.	
damp	a little bit wet	I hung up your suit, but it is still a little damp .	
dirty	opposite of clean	The floors are dirty because the kids walked through with their boots on.	
dusty	when furniture and surfaces are covered with a small layer of matter	The office furniture upstairs is very dusty .	
filthy	very dirty	The bathroom is filthy because we went away for the weekend and left the kids at home.	

messy	out of order, opposite of neat and tidy	The children's rooms are messy , but it's their job to clean them.	
neat, tidy (often expressed as "neat and tidy")	in good order, opposite of messy	Thank you for leaving the house so neat and tidy .	
slippery	surface that is wet or polished and is easy to fall on	I just mopped, so the floors are a bit slippery .	
soapy	covered with lots of soap bubbles	Can you rinse the dishes again? They are still soapy .	
wet	filled or covered with water, opposite of dry	I put the dryer on twice but the clothes are still wet .	
environmentally friendly	good for the world, doesn't contain strong chemicals	We only use cleaning products that are environmentally friendly .	

Action Words for Housekeepers

word	meaning	example sentence	bahasa
clean; clean up	remove dirt, dust, and other messes	After you clean up the kitchen you can take your break.	
dry	take the water out of something	Please dry the dishes fully before you put them away in the cupboards.	
dust	remove the dust from surfaces such as furniture	I'm sorry I forgot to dust the entertainment stand last week.	
finish; complete	have no more work to do	I'm finished everything on the list, so I guess I'll be going home now.	

freshen up	make a room smell and look more inviting	The master bedroom is relatively clean, but you could freshen it up a little.	
hang; hang up	organize and store items (often clothes) by putting them on hooks and hangers	After you have folded the laundry, please hang the guest towels in the washroom.	
mop; mop up	clean the floors with soap and water	The dishwasher flooded, so I mopped up the water.	
organize	sort or put away in a neat and tidy manner	I organized the indoor and outdoor shoes.	
polish	wipe with a special cleaner that makes something (such as floors) shine; remove smudges or prints	Make sure to polish the silverware before you put it away.	
rinse	pour water over something for a long time to remove soap	You'll have to rinse the dishes a little better. My coffee tasted soapy today.	
sanitize; sterilize	remove any bacteria or other harmful substances that could cause illness, often by using boiling water or a special cleaner	You have to sterilize the baby bottles in boiling water.	
scrub	use a lot of physical energy and a heavy cleaning tool to remove dirt or stains	You'll have to scrub the upstairs tub because it's pretty dirty.	
tidy; tidy up	make a room or area look neat by organizing and putting things away	You don't need to vacuum the family room, but you could tidy up the books and toys.	
vacuum	use a special hose that sucks up dust and dirt from the floors and furniture	Please pick up large items like coins before you vacuum the basement.	

wash	make clean with water and soap	Please wash the windows with water and vinegar.	
water	pour water onto plants or grass	You forgot to water the indoor and outdoor plants.	
wipe; wipe up	clean up a mess or spill	Don't use bleach to wipe the counters.	