



Live Lesson Notes

Housework

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Some Useful Links

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IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: Housework

Warm up!

Fill in the gap with one word

1. I don't like _____ the washing
2. However, I do enjoy washing the _____
3. Will you _____ out the rubbish?

Answers at bottom of PDF

IELTS Speaking: Housework Vocabulary

Housework or Homework?

Do the **housework** (cleaning the house)

Do your **homework** (studying)

Make or do?

Here is a simple 'rule of thumb' (= *guideline*)

We tend to use 'do' for work

- Do some work
- Do my homework (child at school)
- Do the housework (jobs to tidy the house)
- Do some tasks / chores (UK)
- Run different errands (US)
- Do some exercises

We tend to use 'make' for creating things

- Make a cake
- Make a plan
- Make friends

We sometimes use both:

Do the beds (tidy)

Make the beds (tidy)

Do dinner

Make dinner

*It's also good to try and **learn** these phrases **by heart** (=memorise)*

It's a real chore = something is hard work (often something you don't enjoy)

Studying for IELTS is a real chore!

Common household tasks

What are these common household tasks?

1



2



3



4



5



Answers at bottom of PDF

Other chores:

Do/clean the windows (clean)

Do the cooking

Do the shopping

Take out the rubbish / trash / garbage

To do the housekeeping = to do the housework

We often use this expression “**First, some housekeeping**” at the beginning of a meeting and it means the small issues related to the meeting (toilets, finishing time, etc...)

Giving Beautiful IELTS Speaking Answers

1) Part 1: Talking in the past

Did you do some housework when you were young?

What is the mistake in this answer?

- *Yes, I often cook and sweep the floor*

It should be in the past tense.

- *Yes, I often cooked and swept the floor*

We can also use the following to express the past tense

Yes, I _____

- *used to do....*
- *I would do... (habit)*
- *I did....*

Yes, when I was a child I used to cook and sweep the floor

Yes, when I was a child I would cook and sweep the floor

Here are some more interesting ways of saying '**Sometimes**'.

- *Once in a while*
- *Every now and then*
- *Now and again*
- *From time to time*

Yes, I used to help out my Mum with the washing once in a while

Yes, I cooked and swept the floor from time to time

2) Part 1: Synonyms

Cooking

Do you want to learn how to cook really well?

The use of one or two synonyms in Part 1 can help boost your vocabulary scores, but don't use too many.

To talk about skill, ability and learning, you can use the following as synonyms...

- To **pick up** the basics (learn informally)
- To **hone** my skills (improve / polish / sharpen my skills)
- To **get the hang of** (learn successfully a skill)
- To **master** higher level skills (to learn perfectly)

3) Part 1: Different tenses

Model Answer (from GOLD course)

Watch the model answer below and make a note of how many different tenses I use. ↓

<https://vimeo.com/786543723>

I actually use 4 different tenses

This is the 'Magic Sauce' for some Part 1 questions.

You can use this sequence of tenses to show off your grammar.

Present Simple

- I **do** cook

Past Simple

- I **picked** up the basics

Present Perfect

- I **have** **honed** my skills

Conditional

- **If I had** the chance, I **would** like to master

IELTS Speaking Topic: Housework and Homes

Which household chores do you like doing?

I **love tiding** up my room

I **love to tidy** up my room

I like to vacuum my room

I mop the floor as I like **to keep it as clean as possible**

I **have an aversion to** most tasks = *I hate*

I **am keen on** doing the laundry

I **am fond of** cleaning my room, **I can't get enough of it**

I don't like any household tasks

I am reluctant to do any chores

Should everyone in the house do the housework?

Everyone should pitch in

Everyone has a role to play

Teenagers should keep their rooms clean

We should share the workload

They can whole-heartedly help out at home

I should take the load/the burden off my partner

After work I can't be bothered to do any housework (= *I have no energy*)

IELTS Speaking: Idioms about Housework

To pitch in = to contribute

*Everyone at home should **pitch in** and help with the housework*

To be draining = to be very tiring

If I have to do all the cleaning at home, it is totally draining.

I find that mopping the floor is draining.

To be spic and span = to be very neat and tidy

*I clean on a daily basis because I like to keep my home **spic and span***

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: Housework ANSWERS

Warm up!

Fill in the gap with one word

1. I don't like **doing** the washing
2. However, I do enjoy washing the **pots, dishes, plates, car**
3. Will you **take, throw** out the rubbish

Common household tasks ANSWERS

What are these common household tasks?

1. Do the ironing
2. Do the dishes. Wash the dishes. Wash the pots (UK)
3. Walk the dog
4. Do the washing. Wash the clothes. Do the laundry
5. Set the table. Lay the table

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