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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 30/10/16

Many under 35s in the UK can't do basic DIY skills

Recently, a survey conducted by UK store Poundland, uncovered the fact that many young people, under 35, don't have key life skills. For example, a third of young adults, don't know how to change a lightbulb.

A quarter, admitted that they would have to ask, to know how to boil an egg. They said it's tricky to get it right, as 'you can't see if it's cooked, or not, inside the shell'. Some, even tried cooking a boiled egg in a microwave, with explosive consequences. Another 13%, tried to boil an egg, in a kettle.

Many young people, among the 25-34 age group, still live with their parents. This is because of the high price of property, in the UK. This could be one reason for their lack of knowledge, of knowing the basic skills of life.

Surprisingly, 23% of young adults can't use a washing machine, with 41% not knowing how to connect a blu-ray player to a TV. An unbelievable 77% said, they didn't know how to fix a bike puncture, and 68% couldn't wire a plug.

Many young adults couldn't hang a picture, or put up shelves. Many, couldn't even iron a shirt, or blouse. (Tip: my mother once said three minutes a shirt!) Nor, could they put a washer in a dripping tap, or decorate a room.

A lot of young people had difficulty mowing a lawn, or topping up the windscreen wash. Sad!

It does beg the question, as to whether home economics is still taught in schools, these days. Do young people know how to cook a Sunday roast? Or is it a three minute microwave dinner, from the local store. All this, is food for thought.

Finally, do schools teach students how to do these basic skills, in life, and if not, why not?

SPEAKING – WARM UP

What does DIY mean? Think of three basic DIY skills you know. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What was the age group?
- 2) What was the tip?
- 3) What is a microwave dinner?
- 4) Name the UK store.
- 5) What was tricky?

Student B questions

- 1) An unbelievable 77% said what?
- 2) How many young people can't use a washing machine?
- 3) What do we mean by 'key life skills'?
- 4) What begs the question?
- 5) Why do many young people in the UK still live at home?

Note: DIY = Do it yourself

Category: UK / Survey / Basic DIY Skills

Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words about '**DIY**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – List three skills in the article you can do. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three skills in the article you cannot do. Why not? Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

SPEAKING - GAME

As a class – Form a circle. Go round in a clockwise direction...

"My parents taught me how to..."

Think of an idea, add it to the previous ones said. Forget one and you are eliminated.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) When did you last wire a plug?
- 3) When did you last boil an egg?
- 4) Was your egg hard boiled (hard) or soft boiled? (runny)
- 5) When did you last decorate a room?
- 6) When did you last hang a picture?
- 7) When did you last mend a puncture on a bike?
- 8) When did you last change a lightbulb?
- 9) When did you last wire a plug?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Many under 35 in the UK can't do basic DIY skills.*

- 1) Someone who is at High School.
- 2) Someone who is 25-34
- 3) Someone who is 50 plus
- 4) A DIY skills expert.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs - Student A is a DIY person. Student B is useless at DIY. Student A gives a few tips to student B. 3 mins.

SPEAKING - PRESENTATION

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class.

Prepare a 3 minute presentation on

How to boil an egg

or

How to make a pot of tea and serve it

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) When did you last top up the windscreen wash in your car?
- 3) When did you last mow the lawn?
- 4) When did you last connect a DVD or blu-ray player to your TV?
- 5) When did you iron a shirt/blouse?
- 6) When did you last put up a shelf?
- 7) When did you last cook a roast dinner?
- 8) When did you last have a three minute microwave dinner?
- 9) When did you last wire a desktop computer system together?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Many under 35s in the UK can't do basic DIY skills

Recently, a survey conducted by UK store Poundland, uncovered the fact that many young people, under 35, don't have key life skills. For example, a third of young (1)___, don't know how to change a (2)___.

A quarter, admitted that they would have to ask, to know how to (3)___ an egg. They said it's tricky to get it right, as 'you can't see if it's cooked, or not, inside the (4)___'. Some, even tried cooking a boiled egg in a microwave, with (5)___ (6)___ . Another 13%, tried to boil an egg, in a kettle.

Many young people, among the 25-34 age group, still live with their parents. This is because of the high price of property, in the UK. This could be one reason for their (7)___ of knowledge, of knowing the (8)___ skills of life.

basic / explosive / lack / consequences / shell / boil / lightbulb / adults

Surprisingly, 23% of young adults can't use a washing machine, with 41% not knowing how to connect a blu-ray player to a TV. An unbelievable 77% said, they didn't know how to fix a bike (1)___, and 68% couldn't wire a (2)___.

Many young adults couldn't hang a picture, or put up shelves. Many, couldn't even iron a shirt, or blouse. ((3)___: my mother once said three minutes a shirt!) Nor, could they put a washer in a dripping (4)___, or (5)___ a room. A lot of young people had difficulty mowing a (6)___, or topping up the windscreen wash. Sad!

It does beg the question, as to whether home economics is still taught in schools, these days. Do young people know how to cook a Sunday (7)___? Or is it a three minute microwave (8)___, from the local store. All this, is food for thought. Finally, do schools teach students how to do these basic skills, in life, and if not, why not?

roast / tap / plug / decorate / lawn / tip / puncture / dinner

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Many under 35s in the UK can't do basic DIY skills

Recently, a survey conducted by UK store Poundland, uncovered the fact that (1)___ young people, under 35, don't have key life skills. For example, a third of young adults, don't know how to change a lightbulb.

A quarter, admitted that they (2)___ have to ask, to know how to boil an egg. They said it's tricky to get it right, as 'you can't see if it's cooked, or not, inside the shell'. (3)___, (4)___ tried cooking a boiled egg in a microwave, (5)___ explosive consequences. Another 13%, tried to boil an egg, in a kettle.

Many young people, among the 25-34 age group, (6)___ live with their parents. This is (7)___ of the high price of property, in the UK. This (8)___ be one reason for their lack of knowledge, of knowing the basic skills of life.

could / still / even / with / many / would / because / some /

Surprisingly, 23% of young adults can't use a washing machine, with 41% not knowing how to connect (1)___ blu-ray player to a TV. An unbelievable 77% said, they didn't know (2)___ to fix a bike puncture, and 68% couldn't wire a plug.

Many young adults couldn't hang a picture, or put up shelves. Many, couldn't even iron a shirt, or blouse. (Tip: (3)___ mother once said three minutes a shirt!) (4)___, could they put a washer (5)___ a dripping tap, (6)___ decorate a room. A lot of young people had difficulty mowing a lawn, or topping up the windscreen wash. Sad!

It does beg the question, as to whether home economics is still taught in schools, these days. Do young people know how to cook a Sunday roast? Or is it a three minute microwave dinner, from the local store. All this, is food (7)___ thought. Finally, do schools teach students how to do these basic skills, in life, and if not, (8)___ not?

why / how / nor / for / or / my / in / a



GAP FILL: LISTENING

WRITING/SPELLING

Many under 35s in the UK can't do basic DIY skills

Recently, _____ by UK store Poundland, uncovered the fact that many young people, under 35, don't have key life skills. For example, a third of young adults, don't know how _____.

A quarter, admitted that they would have to ask, to know how to boil an egg. They said it's tricky to get it right, as 'you can't see if it's cooked, or not, inside the shell'. Some, even tried _____ in a microwave, with explosive consequences. Another 13%, tried to boil an egg, in a kettle.

_____, among the 25-34 age group, still live with their parents. This is because of the high price of property, in the UK. This could be one reason for their lack of knowledge, of knowing the _____.

Surprisingly, 23% of young adults can't use a washing machine, with 41% not knowing how to connect a blu-ray player to a TV. An unbelievable 77% said, they didn't know how to _____, and 68% couldn't wire a plug.

Many young adults _____, or put up shelves. Many, couldn't even iron a shirt, or blouse. (Tip: my mother once said three minutes a shirt!) Nor, could they put a washer in a dripping tap, _____.

A lot of young people had difficulty mowing a lawn, or topping up _____. Sad!

It does beg the question, as to whether home economics is still taught in schools, these days. Do young people know how to cook a Sunday roast? Or is it a three minute _____, from the local store. All this, is food for thought.

Finally, do schools teach students how to do these basic skills, in life, and if not, why not?

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WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs/As a class*, list **20 basic DIY skills** – you can do. *One-two minutes. Talk about each of them.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Changing a lightbulb _____
- 2) Ironing a shirt/blouse _____
- 3) Mowing the lawn _____

3) Write down 50 words about: **Many under 35s in the UK can't do basic DIY skills.** Your words can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Many under 35s in the UK can't do basic DIY skills.** Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) survey
- 2) egg
- 3) because
- 4) microwave
- 5) knowledge
- 6) still
- 7) puncture
- 8) even
- 9) iron
- 10) whether

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) windscreen
- 12) thought
- 13) finally
- 14) basic
- 15) skills
- 16) lightbulb
- 17) quarter
- 18) tricky
- 19) explosive
- 20) consequently

Many under 35s in the UK can't do basic DIY skills – *30th October 2016*