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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**

Many under 35s in the UK can't do basic DIY skills – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016

### 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.

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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.

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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 – *30<sup>th</sup> October 2016*