

A domestic disagreement

WORKSHEET A

- Ella:** How come this carpet's covered in crumbs? Have you been eating those cookies again?
- Paul:** Yeah. They're so good.
- Ella:** Well, you know where the vacuum cleaner is.
- Paul:** I thought it was your turn.
- Ella:** No, Paul, we agreed about today's chores. We said I'd do the grocery shopping and you'd do the dishes, the dusting, and the vacuuming. And what about the bathroom? You said you'd clean it about three days ago. We've got people coming over for dinner tonight. Do you really want them using our bathroom the way it looks right now?
- Paul:** They won't notice. I haven't changed that light bulb yet, so it's pretty dark in there.
- Ella:** It's not funny, Paul. It's not fair to be lazy like this. Especially when I've just been doing the grocery shopping for an hour and a half. You know what the supermarket's like on Saturdays – totally packed. And I had to stand in line for twenty minutes. Twenty minutes! I'm exhausted, and you've just been sitting here watching TV.
- Paul:** That's not true. I made the bed.
- Ella:** Big deal.
- Paul:** Hey, don't start saying I don't do my share around the house, ok? Who does all the repairs? Who put these shelves up last weekend?
- Ella:** You did. All I'm saying is that we'll have guests here in about three hours and this house's a pigsty. So we need to get a move on. I can't start cooking until you've done the dishes – all the pans I need are dirty.
- Paul:** All right, all right. Just let me finish my coffee, ok? There's no rush.
- Ella:** That's easy for you to say. You don't have a three-course meal to make.
- Paul:** Well, cooking's easier than cleaning.
- Ella:** How do you know? When was the last time you cooked for guests?
- Paul:** Um ...
- Ella:** Exactly. Now come on, let's get started. If you run out of dishwashing liquid, there's a new bottle in my grocery bag.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Answer the questions below.

1. Where do you think the conversation takes place? (Give reasons for your answer.)
2. What was the chore Ella had agreed to do today?
3. Why is Ella worried about the bathroom?
4. What kind of work in the house does Paul say he always does?
5. Besides watching TV, what is the only thing Paul says he did before Ella arrived?
6. According to Ella, what are the four chores Paul said he would do?
7. Why does Paul say the bathroom is not a problem? (And do you think he is being serious? Give a reason for your answer.)
8. When are Paul and Ella's guests going to arrive?
9. Why does Ella say she needs Paul to do the dishes?
10. Why are there crumbs on the carpet?

Exercise 2

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't determine (D).

1. The conversation takes place at the weekend.
2. Paul has never cooked a nice meal for Ella.
3. Paul put some shelves up the previous weekend.
4. Paul and Ella don't have any dishwashing liquid.
5. Paul and Ella had already talked about who would do the chores today.
6. Ella thinks the house is very dirty.
7. Ella is not tired.
8. Paul has been eating something.
9. Paul is drinking something.
10. Paul and Ella disagree about how quickly they will have to work before their guests arrive.

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WORKSHEET

Exercise 3

The text from Worksheet A has been copied below, but contains some mistakes. Twenty-five of the words in bold are incorrect, and five are correct. Decide which are incorrect, and correct them.

Ella: How (1) **go** this carpet's covered (2) **on** (3) **crubs**? Have you been eating those (4) **cookies** again?

Paul: Yeah. They're so good.

Ella: Well, you know where the (5) **vaccum** cleaner is.

Paul: I thought it was your (6) **tour**.

Ella: No, Paul, we agreed about today's (7) **shores**. We said I'd do the grocery shopping and you'd (8) **make** the dishes, the (9) **dust**, and the vacuuming. And what (10) **out** the bathroom? You said you'd clean it about three days ago. We've got people coming (11) **over** for dinner tonight – do you really want them using our bathroom the way it looks right now?

Paul: They won't (12) **not**. I haven't changed that light (13) **bib** yet, so it's pretty dark in there.

Ella: It's not funny, Paul. It's not (14) **fair** to be lazy like this. Especially when I've just been doing the grocery shopping for an hour and a half. You know what the supermarket's like on Saturdays – (15) **totally** (16) **pact**. And I had to stand in line for twenty minutes. Twenty minutes! I'm (17) **exhaust**, and you've just been sitting here watching TV.

Paul: That's not true. I (18) **put** the bed.

Ella: Big (19) **dear**.

Paul: Hey, don't start saying I don't do my (20) **hair** around the house, ok? Who does all the (21) **repares**? Who put these (22) **shelvs** up last weekend?

Ella: You did. All I'm saying is that we'll have guests here in about three hours and this house's a (23) **pigsty**. So we need to get a move (24) **in**. I can't start cooking until you've done the dishes – all the pans I need are dirty.

Paul: All right, all right. Just let me finish my (25) **cofey**, ok? There's no (26) **hush**.

Ella: That's easy for you to say. You don't have a three-(27) **car** meal to make.

Paul: Well, cooking's easier than (28) **clean**.

Ella: How do you know? When was the last time you cooked for guests?

Paul: Um ...

Ella: Exactly. Now come on, let's get started. If you (29) **run out** dishwashing liquid, there's a (30) **new** in my grocery bag.

