

FILM ENGLISH

The Notebook

Language level: Pre-intermediate (A2)-
Intermediate (B1)

Learner type: Teens and adults

Time: 60 minutes

Activity: watching a short film,
speaking and writing

Topic: Household chores

Language: Household chores

Materials: Short film



Overview

This EFL lesson is designed around a beautiful short film by [Greg Gray](#) and the theme of household chores. Students learn and practise vocabulary related to household chores, talk about household chores and watch a short film.

Step 1

Write "household chores" on the board. Elicit or explain that they are tasks or duties that have to be done regularly at home such as cleaning and cooking.

Step 2

Pair your students and ask them to think of as many household chores as they can. Ask them to use the gerund form, for example, washing up.

Step 3

Write the chores the students mention on the board.

Step 4

Write the following verbs on the board:

Do

Make

Take

Step 5

Ask your students to connect as many of the chores they mentioned as they can with one of the verbs.

Step 6

Go through typical collocation such as:

Do the cooking, the cleaning, the washing, the washing up, the dusting.

Make the bed, breakfast / lunch / dinner, a snack, a cup of tea / coffee.

Take the thrash / rubbish out, take the dog for a walk.

Step 7

Put your students into small groups. If your students are children or teenagers ask them to discuss the following questions:

What household chores do you do?

Do you think you should do more?

If your students are adults ask them to discuss the following questions:

What household chores did you use to do when you were a child?

Do you think you should have done more?

Step 8

Get feedback from the whole class on what chores they do or used to do.

Step 9

Tell your students they are going to watch a short film. As they watch their task is to notice the different household chores they see. Show the film until 01:39.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/116523608>

Step 10

Get feedback from the students and try to elicit the following chores:

mopping, doing the washing, doing the cooking, looking after a toddler, doing the cooking, doing the washing up, making a bed, taking out the thrash, doing the washing, hanging out the washing, doing the ironing, watering the plants, sweeping, feeding the dog, tidying a room, putting away toys, doing the vacuuming, and taking the dog for a walk.

Step 11

Pair the students and ask them to discuss the following questions:

Why is the boy doing the household chores?

What is he writing in his notebook?

After the students have discussed the questions get feedback from the whole class.

Step 12

Tell the students they are going to watch the film again and while they watch think about the two questions. Show until 01:39.

Step 13

Ask the students to answer the two questions.

Step 14

Tell the students they are going to watch the film again, but this time they are going to see a little more of it. Show the film and pause at 01:45.

Step 15

Ask the students what the boy has written in his notebook. Elicit or explain that he has written the chores he has done, the time it has taken and the total time of 120 minutes. Ask your students why they think he has written this.

Step 16

Now show the film until 02:06 and ask the students if they were correct. Ask them what the boy says. Elicit or explain that he says "I've been saving

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you time so you can come to my play", and that he did the tasks so that his busy mother would have time to come to see him act in his school play.

Step 17

Pair the students and ask them to discuss the following questions:

How does the film make you feel?

How does the mother feel?

How would you describe the boy?

Step 18

Hold a plenary session based on the three questions.

Step 19

Tell the students that the film is actual an advert for an insurance company. Ask them if this changes the way they feel about the film.

Homework

Ask the students to write a composition from the perspective of the mother or the boy on what happened in the story and their emotions.

I hope you enjoy the lesson.

Film English is a labour of love, it takes hundreds of hours and thousands of euros a year to

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