

ISSUE 7

Household Chores

It's amazing how much work has to be done every day just to maintain a place to live in. The dishes have to be washed, dried, and put away. Clothes not only need to be washed, dried, and put away, but ironed as well! The floors need to be swept, the furniture dusted. There's garbage that has to be taken out. Toilets and bathroom tiles need to be cleaned. And, then, we need to shop for groceries and make sure all the bills are paid. Periodically, we need to replace the wallpaper or repaint the rooms. Sometimes, we have to repair the furnace or the air conditioner or some appliance. The work never ends!

What chore do you hate the most?

- (1) Doing the dishes
- (2) Cooking
- (3) Washing clothes
- (4) Ironing
- (5) Taking out the garbage
- (6) Cleaning the bathroom
- (7) Shopping for groceries
- (8) Cleaning the floor
- (9) Washing the car



-sweep : clean the floor or ground with a broom

-groceries : food -furnace : large heater for a building

-appliance : piece of equipment in the home such as washing machine or refrigerator

Sample Answers

(A) I hate doing the dishes the most. It always needs to be done at the worst possible time, right after I have eaten a nice, filling meal, when all I really want to do is relax and let some of the food digest in peace. But, no! Instead of watching TV or reading a magazine for a half hour, I have to collect all the dishes, *utensils*, pots, and pans, take them to the sink, turn on the hot water, and *scrub*, scrub, scrub until they are all clean. By then, the television and magazine have lost their appeal, and it's time to start getting the kids ready for bed.

(B) There's no chore like cleaning the floor. It is, quite *literally*, *back-breaking* labor to crawl around on my hands and knees with a rag and scrub the floor down to a bright *polish*. The worst thing is, it seems like as soon as I finish, it needs to be done all over again! I hate it!

Speak Your Mind

1. Who does the cooking in your family?
2. Who does the grocery shopping at your home?
3. Who does the dishes in your house?
4. What chores do the kids in your family help with?
5. What is the chore that men hate to do the most? Why, do you think?
6. What is the chore women hate the most? Why?
7. Women are said to be more *adept* at doing household chores. Do you agree? Why or why not?

7. Women are said to be more adept at doing household chores. Do you agree? Why or why not?

F : There might have been a time when women had nothing else to do except take care of the home. It *made* a certain amount of *sense* that if the husband was away from home earning money for the family, then the wife should make sure everything at home was taken care of.

M : Do I sense that you don't think that is the case any more?

F : It might be, for some families. If the wife does not have a job, then she should be expected to work at home. That seems *fair*.

M : But?

F : But, that isn't the case for most families anymore. A lot of women work outside the home, and many have full-time jobs. They put in just as much time at work as their husbands do, but still they are expected to take care of the house too. Most husbands don't help at all, or they only help a *tiny* bit.

M : Well, why don't women *go on strike*, then? "Don't iron while the strike is hot!" Eventually, men will be forced to help out, since they want to live in a clean house and wear nice clothes, too.

F : I don't know about most men, but I don't think my husband cares much one way or another if the house is *messy*. He just seems *oblivious* to the whole situation. Eventually, I just can't *take* it anymore and clean up the mess by myself.

M : Do you suppose it's genetic?

F : What? Do I think there's a house-cleaning gene that women have and men don't? Of course not! Men are just lazy *slobs*, that's all!

M : I take exception to that! I don't think I'm lazy at all, and I'm certainly not a slob. I always take great care to look good and to live in a neat, clean environment.

F : Then what's the difference between you and the rest of the Male Race?

M : I guess it was the way I was raised. I was always expected to help with the household chores, so when I got married I was used to it. Sure, when I get home I'm tired and want to relax, but I know my wife feels the same way. So I always try to do about half the housework, and we take turns doing the things we both hate.



+ **make sense** : be practical and sensible

+ **tiny** : extremely small

+ **oblivious** : unaware of what is happening

+ **slob** : dirty, lazy, or messy person

+ **fair** : without favoritism; just

+ **go on strike** : refuse to work

+ **take** : accept or endure

+ **messy** : disorderly