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## **Most divorces due to household chores**

**23rd November, 2012**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

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# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

Most people believe that the biggest grounds for divorce are either infidelity or arguments over money. However, a new report from British law firm Gateley suggests otherwise. According to its analysis of 350 divorce cases, seven out of ten divorces occur because of disputes over who does what household chores. Twenty per cent of divorces are due to unfaithfulness. Gateley says gone are the days when the wife did all the cooking and cleaning. Dual income marriages now mean split responsibilities for vacuuming, doing the dishes and tidying. Gateley advised couples to discuss who does what before walking down the aisle. A spokeswoman said that, "going into a marriage blind could be a recipe for disaster".

Conversely, a study in Norway suggests that couples who share household chores are more likely to split up. Thomas Hansen, co-author of the report 'Equality in the Home,' said the divorce rate among couples who shared housework equally was 50 per cent higher than for those where women did all the work. Mr Hansen said that in Norway women did most of the housework in 70 per cent of marriages, and were "largely happy" to do so. An adverse side effect of marital discord is that many families are now "too poor to split up". The U.K. charity Relate said that in many middle-income families, couples stay together because they can't afford to divorce. Relate says this results in a "toxic" home environment.

Sources: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/retailandconsumer/9691280/Most-marriages-break-down-over-mundane-household-chores.html>  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2236237/Middle-income-families-creating-toxic-environment-children-afford-divorce.html#ixzz2Cwehv9Qn>

# WARM-UPS

**1. HOUSEHOLD CHORES:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about household chores. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*most people / grounds for divorce / infidelity / household chores / tidying / marriage / split up / equality in the home / side effect / middle income / toxic home environment*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. DIVORCE:** How do we stop it? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Grounds	Why this happens	How to tackle this problem
infidelity		
money		
children		
housework		
boredom		
violence		

**4. FOREVER:** Students A **strongly** believe marriage should be forever; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. HOUSEWORK:** What's your most hated chore? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most hated at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- cooking
- ironing
- vacuuming
- washing the dishes
- tidying
- food shopping
- dusting
- hanging the washing out

**6. INFIDELITY:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'infidelity'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. 350 UK marriages ended in divorce over who did what household tasks. T / F
- b. Around one in five UK divorces are because of infidelity. T / F
- c. A law firm says the age of women doing all the housework is over. T / F
- d. The firm said disaster could happen when cooking with bad recipes. T / F
- e. In Norway, couples who share housework are likelier to divorce. T / F
- f. The Norway study said most women weren't happy to do housework. T / F
- g. A UK charity said divorce was a side effect of family life. T / F
- h. In the UK, middle income families cannot afford to get divorced. T / F

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. grounds    | a. differently     |
| 2. infidelity | b. harmful         |
| 3. otherwise  | c. friction        |
| 4. chores     | d. fairness        |
| 5. recipe     | e. reasons         |
| 6. split up   | f. formula         |
| 7. equality   | g. poisonous       |
| 8. adverse    | h. adultery        |
| 9. discord    | i. separate (verb) |
| 10. toxic     | j. tasks           |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. the biggest grounds                 | a. to unfaithfulness           |
| 2. disputes over who does              | b. discord                     |
| 3. Twenty per cent of divorces are due | c. be a recipe for disaster    |
| 4. walking down                        | d. who shared housework        |
| 5. going into a marriage blind could   | e. the aisle                   |
| 6. couples who share household chores  | f. effect                      |
| 7. the divorce rate among couples      | g. what household chores       |
| 8. An adverse side                     | h. home environment            |
| 9. marital                             | i. for divorce                 |
| 10. this results in a "toxic"          | j. are more likely to split up |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Most people believe that the biggest (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for divorce are either infidelity or arguments over money. However, a new report from British law firm Gateley suggests (2) \_\_\_\_\_. According to its analysis of 350 divorce cases, seven out of ten divorces (3) \_\_\_\_\_ because of disputes over who does what household chores. Twenty per cent of divorces are (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to unfaithfulness. Gateley says gone are the days when the wife did all the cooking and cleaning. Dual income marriages now mean (5) \_\_\_\_\_ responsibilities for vacuuming, doing the dishes and (6) \_\_\_\_\_. Gateley advised couples to discuss who does what before walking down the (7) \_\_\_\_\_. A spokeswoman said that, "going into a marriage blind could be a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ for disaster".

*due*  
*aisle*  
*occur*  
*recipe*  
*grounds*  
*split*  
*otherwise*  
*tidying*

Conversely, a study in Norway suggests that couples who share household chores are more (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to split up. Thomas Hansen, co-author of the report 'Equality in the Home,' said the divorce (10) \_\_\_\_\_ among couples who shared housework (11) \_\_\_\_\_ was 50 per cent higher than for those where women did all the work. Mr Hansen said that in Norway women did most of the housework in 70 per cent of marriages, and were (12) "\_\_\_\_\_ happy" to do so. An adverse side effect of marital (13) \_\_\_\_\_ is that many families are now "too poor to split up". The U.K. charity Relate said that in many (14) \_\_\_\_\_-income families, couples stay together because they can't (15) \_\_\_\_\_ to divorce. Relate says this results in a (16) "\_\_\_\_\_ " home environment.

*discord*  
*toxic*  
*largely*  
*rate*  
*middle*  
*likely*  
*afford*  
*equally*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

- 1) Most people believe that the biggest grounds for divorce are either ...
  - a. age differences or differing political views.
  - b. boredom or having nothing in common.
  - c. infidelity or arguments over money.
  - d. arguments over children or arguments over the future.
- 2) Twenty per cent of divorces are due to ....
  - a. adultery
  - b. infidelity
  - c. extramarital sex
  - d. unfaithfulness
- 3) Dual income marriages now mean split responsibilities for ...
  - a. vacuuming, doing the dishes and tidying.
  - b. vacuuming the dishes and tidying.
  - c. vacuums, dishes and tidying.
  - d. doing the vacuuming and dishes, and tidying.
- 4) ...discuss who does what ...
  - a. instead of walking down the aisle
  - b. as you walk down the aisle
  - c. after walking down the aisle
  - d. before walking down the aisle.
- 5) A spokeswoman said that, "going into \_\_\_\_\_ a recipe for disaster"
  - a. a blind marriage could be
  - b. a marriage blind could be
  - c. a blind could be marriage
  - d. marriage could be a blind
- 6) a study in Norway suggests that couples who share household chores ....
  - a. are less likely to split up
  - b. are so likely to split up
  - c. are more likely to split up
  - d. are unlikely to split up
- 7) ...the divorce rate among couples \_\_\_\_\_ was 50 per cent higher
  - a. equally who shared housework
  - b. shared housework who equally
  - c. shared who housework equally
  - d. who shared housework equally
- 8) An adverse \_\_\_\_\_ of marital discord
  - a. side affect
  - b. side effect
  - c. affected side
  - d. effect side
- 9) ... many middle-income families, couples stay together because they ...
  - a. can't afford to divorce.
  - b. want to give it one last go.
  - c. feel sorry for the kids.
  - d. follow their religion that says "marriage is forever".
- 10) Relate says this results in ...
  - a. toxic homes and environments.
  - b. a "toxic" environment in the home.
  - c. a "toxicity" home environment.
  - d. a "toxic" home environment.

Most divorces due to household chores – 23rd November, 2012

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# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

Most people believe that (1) \_\_\_\_\_ divorce are either infidelity or arguments over money. However, a new report from British law firm Gateley suggests otherwise. According (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 350 divorce cases, seven out of ten divorces occur (3) \_\_\_\_\_ who does what household chores. Twenty per cent of divorces are due to unfaithfulness. Gateley says (4) \_\_\_\_\_ when the wife did all the cooking and cleaning. Dual income marriages now mean split responsibilities for vacuuming, doing (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Gateley advised couples to discuss who does what before walking down the aisle. A spokeswoman said that, "going (6) \_\_\_\_\_ could be a recipe for disaster".

Conversely, a study in Norway suggests that couples who share household chores are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ up. Thomas Hansen, co-author of the report 'Equality in the Home,' said the divorce rate among couples who shared housework equally was 50 per cent higher (8) \_\_\_\_\_ women did all the work. Mr Hansen said that in Norway women did most of the housework in 70 per cent of marriages, (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to do so. An adverse side (10) \_\_\_\_\_ is that many families are now "(11) \_\_\_\_\_ ". The U.K. charity Relate said that in many middle-income families, couples stay together because they can't afford to divorce. Relate says this (12) \_\_\_\_\_ home environment.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

1. What do most people believe are the biggest reasons for divorce?

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2. What proportion of U.K. divorces are due to household chores?

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3. What are 20% of U.K. divorces due to?

---

4. What now means split responsibilities?

---

5. What could be "a recipe for disaster"?

---

6. What does a Norwegian study suggest?

---

7. What percentage of Norwegian marriages did women do most chores?

---

8. What is an adverse side effect of marital discord?

---

9. What kind of families stay together because of financial problems?

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10. What kind of home environment does Relate describe?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

1. Most people think the biggest reasons for divorce are money and...
  - a) boredom
  - b) children
  - c) infidelity
  - d) the future
2. How many divorce cases did a law firm look at?
  - a) 350
  - b) 315,000
  - c) 3,500
  - d) 315
3. How many divorces are because of household chores?
  - a) 70,000
  - b) seven out of ten
  - c) 17%
  - d) seventeen hundred
4. What does dual income marriage now mean?
  - a) extra burdens on children
  - b) joint bank accounts
  - c) extramarital affairs
  - d) split responsibilities
5. What kind of recipe does the article describe?
  - a) One for financial planning.
  - b) One for chicken curry.
  - c) One for disaster.
  - d) One for sharing household chores.
6. Which Norwegian couples are more likely to divorce?
  - a) Those who do no household chores.
  - b) Those who share household chores.
  - c) Those who hate household chores.
  - d) Those who do not share household chores.
7. What's the name of the report Thomas Hansen co-authored?
  - a) 'Housework – A Recipe For Success'
  - b) 'Home Equality'
  - c) 'Dividing Household Chores'
  - d) 'Equality in the Home'
8. What is "an adverse side effect of marital discord"?
  - a) Many families are now not talking.
  - b) Many families are now "too poor to split up".
  - c) Domestic violence is on the increase.
  - d) There has been a surge in adultery.
9. What kind of families stay together because of financial difficulties?
  - a) families with huge loans
  - b) middle-income families
  - c) poorer families
  - d) families where one partner is unemployed
10. What does a U.K. charity say is "toxic"?
  - a) a home environment
  - b) divorce
  - c) washing detergents
  - d) the words used in arguments

# ROLE PLAY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

## **Role A – Partner A**

You spend 40 hours a week at work and come home and do most of the housework. You think this is unfair. Tell your partner three reasons why. You have a bad back and find it difficult to bend down. You think you should do the cooking, washing and ironing only. You want a divorce.

## **Role B – Partner B**

You spend 50 hours at work and earn double the money your partner gets. You think you should do little housework. Tell your partner 3 reasons why. You have no time for housework, what with work, training for and running marathons and going out regularly with friends. You love cooking.

## **Role C – Counsellor**

You believe modern marriages are a 50-50 relationship. All household chores must be shared. Tell the others 3 reasons why. Anyone who does not do their share does not love their partner. Tell Partner B this. Solution – Partner B does the cooking, cleaning and dusting. Partner A does the rest.

## **Role D – Partner A's mother**

You are shocked at how much work your son / daughter has to do. A full-time job and 99% of the housework. Marriage is forever, so divorce is not an option. Tell Partner A three reasons why. Tell Partner B not to be so lazy. Marriage and togetherness is more important than friends and running.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'household' and 'chores'.

<b>household</b>	<b>chores</b>
------------------	---------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• grounds</li><li>• otherwise</li><li>• seven</li><li>• gone</li><li>• dual</li><li>• disaster</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• likely</li><li>• rate</li><li>• largely</li><li>• poor</li><li>• middle</li><li>• toxic</li></ul>
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# HOUSEHOLD CHORES SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

Write five GOOD questions about household chores in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# HOUSEHOLD CHORES DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'housework'?
- c) How could housework be made more exciting?
- d) What do you think of household chores being a big factor in divorces?
- e) Do you do your fair share of household chores?
- f) Who do you know who is lazy when it comes to household chores?  
What do you say to them?
- g) Who should do the chores if both partners work?
- h) Should the sharing of household chores and who does what be agreed upon before marriage?
- i) What is your most hated household chore, and why?
- j) Is not discussing household chores "a recipe for disaster"?

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# HOUSEHOLD CHORES DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What do you think of housework?
- c) Men are generally physically stronger, so should they do more of the housework?
- d) What do you think of the Norwegian study that says shared housework leads to more divorce?
- e) What do you think of 70% of Norwegian women being "largely happy" to do most of the housework?
- f) What happens when families are "too poor to split up"?
- g) Is the issue of household chores becoming a bigger problem?
- h) Are men generally lazy around the house?
- i) What's the best "system" to split up the housework?
- j) What questions would you like to ask a divorce expert?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

Most people believe that the biggest (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for divorce are either infidelity or arguments over money. However, a new report from British law firm Gateley suggests (2) \_\_\_\_\_. According to its analysis of 350 divorce cases, seven out of ten divorces occur because of disputes (3) \_\_\_\_\_ who does what household chores. Twenty per cent of divorces are due to unfaithfulness. Gateley says (4) \_\_\_\_\_ are the days when the wife did all the cooking and cleaning. Dual income marriages now mean (5) \_\_\_\_\_ responsibilities for vacuuming, doing the dishes and tidying. Gateley advised couples to discuss who does what before walking down the (6) \_\_\_\_\_. A spokeswoman said that, "going into a marriage blind could be a recipe for disaster".

Conversely, a study in Norway suggests that couples who share household chores are more (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to split up. Thomas Hansen, co-author of the report 'Equality in the Home,' said the divorce rate among couples who shared housework (8) \_\_\_\_\_ was 50 per cent higher than for those where women did all the work. Mr Hansen said that in Norway women did most of the housework in 70 per cent of marriages, and were "(9) \_\_\_\_\_ happy" to do so. An adverse side effect of marital (10) \_\_\_\_\_ is that many families are now "too poor to split up". The U.K. charity Relate said that in many (11) \_\_\_\_\_-income families, couples stay together because they can't afford to divorce. Relate says this results in a "(12) \_\_\_\_\_ " home environment.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |             |              |                  |                |
|-----|-------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) grounds | (b) grounded | (c) grounding    | (d) grind      |
| 2.  | (a) wisely  | (b) other    | (c) otherwise    | (d) other than |
| 3.  | (a) round   | (b) due      | (c) over         | (d) because    |
| 4.  | (a) vanish  | (b) history  | (c) finish       | (d) gone       |
| 5.  | (a) split   | (b) splits   | (c) split up     | (d) split ends |
| 6.  | (a) gangway | (b) aisle    | (c) corridor     | (d) path       |
| 7.  | (a) likes   | (b) liking   | (c) liked        | (d) likely     |
| 8.  | (a) equal   | (b) equally  | (c) equalise     | (d) equality   |
| 9.  | (a) largest | (b) large    | (c) largely      | (d) larger     |
| 10. | (a) harmony | (b) discord  | (c) vocal chords | (d) discern    |
| 11. | (a) mean    | (b) richer   | (c) top          | (d) middle     |
| 12. | (a) poison  | (b) toxic    | (c) vaccine      | (d) antidote   |

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# SPELLING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

## Paragraph 1

1. the biggest orndgus for divorce
2. either nfdeitlyi or arguments over money
3. dtspsiu over who does what household chores
4. divorces are due to hslfntsuafneiu
5. ncvugiaum, doing the dishes and tidying
6. ... could be a epceir for disaster

## Paragraph 2

7. voyesrlnec, a study in Norway suggests...
8. yituelqa in the home
9. An svareed side effect of marital discord
10. The U.K. thraicy Relate
11. they can't rfaodf to divorce
12. a "toxic" home eonnvtnmeri



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) poor to split up". The U.K. charity Relate said that in many middle-income families, couples stay together because
- ( ) Norway women did most of the housework in 70 per cent of marriages, and were "largely
- ( ) the wife did all the cooking and cleaning. Dual income marriages now mean split responsibilities for
- ( ) housework equally was 50 per cent higher than for those where women did all the work. Mr Hansen said that in
- ( ) happy" to do so. An adverse side effect of marital discord is that many families are now "too
- ( ) they can't afford to divorce. Relate says this results in a "toxic" home environment.
- ( ) Conversely, a study in Norway suggests that couples who share household chores are more likely to
- ( ) of 350 divorce cases, seven out of ten divorces occur because of disputes over who does what household
- ( ) chores. Twenty per cent of divorces are due to unfaithfulness. Gateley says gone are the days when
- ( ) over money. However, a new report from British law firm Gateley suggests otherwise. According to its analysis
- ( ) split up. Thomas Hansen, co-author of the report 'Equality in the Home,' said the divorce rate among couples who shared
- ( ) down the aisle. A spokeswoman said that, "going into a marriage blind could be a recipe for disaster".
- ( **1** ) Most people believe that the biggest grounds for divorce are either infidelity or arguments
- ( ) vacuuming, doing the dishes and tidying. Gateley advised couples to discuss who does what before walking

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

1. of According 350 to divorce its cases analysis.

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2. does who over Disputes chores household what.

---

3. marriages income Dual responsibilities split mean now.

---

4. does walking aisle who before the Discuss what down.

---

5. disaster for recipe a be could blind marriage a into Going.

---

6. shared rate housework among couples The who divorce.

---

7. women of , most housework Norway did the In.

---

8. of effect side adverse An discord marital.

---

9. together can't divorce stay they to Couples because afford.

---

10. environment home "toxic" a in results this says Relate.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

Most people believe that the biggest *ground / grounds* for divorce are either infidelity or arguments *over / because* money. However, a new report from British law firm Gateley suggests otherwise. According to its *analyze / analysis* of 350 divorce cases, seven out of ten divorces occur because of disputes over who does what household chores. Twenty per cent of divorces are *due / because* to unfaithfulness. Gateley says *went / gone* are the days when the wife did all the cooking and cleaning. *Dual / Duality* income marriages now mean *split up / split* responsibilities for vacuuming, doing the dishes and tidying. Gateley advised couples to discuss who does *when / what* before walking down the *corridor / aisle*. A spokeswoman said that, "going into a marriage blind could be a recipe for *success / disaster*".

Conversely, a study in Norway *suggests / suggest* that couples who share household chores are more *likelihood / likely* to split up. Thomas Hansen, co-author of the report 'Equality in the Home,' said the divorce rate among couples who shared housework *equally / equal* was 50 per cent higher than for *them / those* where women did all the work. Mr Hansen said that in Norway women did most of the housework *in / at* 70 per cent of marriages, and were "*larger / largely* happy" to do so. An adverse *front / side* effect of *marital / marrying* discord is that many families are now "too poor to split up". The U.K. charity Relate said that in many middle-income families, couples stay *apart / together* because they can't afford to divorce. Relate says this results in a "*toxic*" / "*poison*" home environment.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

Most peopl believe that the biggest grounds for divorces are their infidelity or arguments over money. However, a new report from Britsh law firm Gtly suggests that wives are accounting for 350 divorces, seven times as many as divorces caused by husbands. Twenty percent of divorces are due to infidelity. Gtly says generally that days when the wife does all the cooking and cleaning. Domestic marriage is now more split responsibilities, but for violence, doing the dishes and tidying. Gtly says domestic complaints are the same as what before walking down the aisle. A spokeswoman said that, "going into marriage blind could be a recipe for disaster".

Conversely, a study in Norway suggests that couples who share household chores are more likely to split up. The same House, a - their report 'quality in the Home,' said that divorce rate among couples who share household work is 50 percent higher than for those who do all the work. Mr House said that in Norway women do most of the household work in 70 percent of marriages, and were "largely happy" to do so. In divorce studies of married couples that many families are now "split split up". The UK charity Rites said that in many middle-class families, couples stay together because they can't afford to divorce. Rites says these results are "taxic" home environment.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

most people believe that the biggest grounds for divorce are either infidelity or arguments over money however a new report from british law firm gateley suggests otherwise according to its analysis of 350 divorce cases seven out of ten divorces occur because of disputes over who does what household chores twenty per cent of divorces are due to unfaithfulness gateley says gone are the days when the wife did all the cooking and cleaning dual income marriages now mean split responsibilities for vacuuming doing the dishes and tidying gateley advised couples to discuss who does what before walking down the aisle a spokeswoman said that "going into a marriage blind could be a recipe for disaster"

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# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household\\_chores.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121123-household_chores.html)

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# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about reasons for divorce in different countries. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. HOUSEHOLD CHORES:** Make a poster about household chores. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. 50-50:** Write a magazine article about married couples sharing household chores. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to a marriage expert. Ask him/her three questions about marriage and household chores. Give him/her three of your opinions on what married couples should do. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F    b T    c T    d F    T X    f F    g F    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. grounds    | a. reasons         |
| 2. infidelity | b. adultery        |
| 3. otherwise  | c. differently     |
| 4. chores     | d. tasks           |
| 5. recipe     | e. formula         |
| 6. split up   | f. separate (verb) |
| 7. equality   | g. fairness        |
| 8. adverse    | h. harmful         |
| 9. discord    | i. friction        |
| 10. toxic     | j. poisonous       |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Infidelity or arguments over money.
2. Seven out of ten.
3. Unfaithfulness.
4. Dual income marriages.
5. Going into a marriage blind.
6. Couples who share household chores are more likely to split up.
7. 70%.
8. Many families are now "too poor to split up".
9. Middle-income families.
10. A toxic one.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c    2. a    3. b    4. d    5. c    6. b    7. d    8. b    9. b    10. a

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)