



Household problems

Lesson code: 117R-K6CC-NLS3

UPPER INTERMEDIATE +

1 Causes of problems

Match the problems with the possible reasons below:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. I have to do the laundry by hand. | a. It's blocked. |
| 2. I cut my lip while drinking coffee. | b. The battery is dead. |
| 3. Water is dripping from the ceiling. | c. The cup is chipped. |
| 4. The lights are out. | d. The handle has come off. |
| 5. I can't open the door. | e. The milk is off. |
| 6. I can't turn on the laptop. | f. There's a leaking pipe. |
| 7. I can't make cereal for breakfast. | g. There's been a power cut. |
| 8. The toilet won't flush. | h. The washing machine has broken down. |

Which of the problems above have you experienced in the past year?

2 Solutions

Match the possible solutions below to the problems in Exercise 1.

1. Send for a plumber
2. Throw it out.
3. Plug it in.
4. Use a plunger.
5. Screw it back on.
6. Call a repair man.
7. Check the fuse box.

3 Talking point

When you have a household problem, do you try to fix it yourself or do you usually call for help?



4 Other problems

Complete the sentences below using the verbs in their correct forms.

leave let mislay run out of spill lock

- I can't get in the house. I've locked myself out.
- I can't leave the house yet. I've _____ my keys.
- I can't have breakfast this morning. I've _____ cereal.
- I've _____ some coffee on my new carpet. There's a horrible stain.
- I've accidentally _____ the fridge door open all day. All the food is off.
- The kitchen is flooded. Somebody's _____ the tap run all day.

Work in pairs. Take turns to ask and answer second conditional questions about each problem like in the example below:

What would you do if you locked yourself out?

5 Household tools

Match the words to the pictures below.

a drill
a plunger

a hammer
a screw

a mop
a screwdriver

a nail
a spanner



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

Which household problems would you fix with the above tools?



1 Causes of problems

1. h 2. c 3. f 4. g 5. d 6. b 7. e 8. a

2 Solutions

Possible answers:

1. There's a leaking pipe.
2. The milk is off.
3. I can't turn on the laptop (the battery is dead).
4. The toilet is blocked.
5. The door handle has come off.
6. The washing machine has broken down.
7. There's been a power cut.

4 Other problems

2. mislaid 3. run out of 4. spilt 5. left 6. let

5 Household tools

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1. a drill | 2. a spanner | 3. a screwdriver | 4. a plunger |
| 5. a mop | 6. a screw | 7. a hammer | 8. a nail |

Encourage use of conditional sentences, e.g. 'If I had a blocked toilet, I'd use a plunger.'

