

## FUMC ESL 10-1-2015 LEVEL FOUR LESSON

IDIOMS: Match the idioms to the meaning

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| I have <u>a lot on my plate</u> right now.                              | summoned for a reprimand by superiors or others in power                         |
| Don is a real <u>armchair critic</u> .                                  | lower someone's high opinion of themselves                                       |
| Jean got <u>called on the carpet</u> for being rude to the customers.   | terminated prematurely by stopping the funding                                   |
| Jim was <u>caught with his hand in the cookie jar</u> .                 | over the counter-something you can buy without a doctor's prescription           |
| Some people thought the Beatles would be a <u>flash in the pan</u> .    | give them a special welcome to show that you think they are important            |
| You can buy many good <u>OTC</u> pain relievers.                        | someone who spoils others fun  |
| They <u>rolled out the red carpet</u> for the premier.                  | you are very busy and have commitments   |
| Management <u>pulled the plug</u> on my project.                        | caught taking money from the company   |
| Don't invite Sue to the party. She's a real <u>wet blanket</u> .        | very successful for a while, then forgotten                                      |
| Tom is so arrogant. He could stand <u>to be taken down a peg or two</u> | someone who offers advice but never shows that they could actually do any better |

### Men, Women, and Household Chores

The data has been examined, and the conclusions reached: Men create more housework for women. Although he may mow the lawn, shovel snow, or fix things around the house, a husband adds seven hours per week to the load of chores. The information comes via the analysis of time diaries and questionnaires from men and women from regions all across the US between 1996 and 2005.

Of the people surveyed, single women in their twenties and thirties did the least amount of housework, which was roughly twelve hours per week. On the other hand, married women had about seventeen hours on average, which was the most. These numbers are down significantly compared with similar surveys in the past. In 1976, for example, the same demographic of married women clocked in twenty-six hours of labor each week. It seems men pitch in more now.

There were some differences between households, as well as some unusual cases. But the results of the diaries and questionnaires clearly demonstrated the following: Marriage means more work for women and less work for men. In addition, the situation worsens when children come on the scene. With three kids, the wives took on twenty-eight hours of work around the house per week, while hubbies did only ten.

There were some surprises, too. Older men were more likely than younger men to help out, even though surveys from thirty years ago showed that men contributed only six hours per week to household tasks. Women in their sixties and seventies still did the most amount of work. Single women did the least, or about twelve hours each week.

So what does it all mean? Women have traditionally taken on more responsibility around the house, as men focused on the world of work and careers. Despite equal rights and better career opportunities for women, traditional patterns remain taken for granted by both sexes.

1. Do the statistics in this article surprise you?
2. Who does most of the chores around your house?
3. When both husband and wife work outside the home, should chores be split equally? Do you think this actually happens in most households?
4. Are men more helpful around the house in some cultures?
5. Before you married, did you and your future spouse discuss who would be responsible for cooking and cleaning? Is this something you wish you had done?
6. On a scale of one to five, how helpful is your spouse/roommate around the house?
7. Do you believe in paying children to do household chores? Were you paid to help out around the house when you were young?
8. Are there some chores that are “women’s chores” and some that are “men’s chores”?
9. Do most people have maids in your country? Did you have a maid when you were growing up?