

FUMC ESL 2-3-2025 Lesson

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. This lesson deals with repairs at your home. Talk about your experiences with getting things repaired at your home. Do you usually do the repair work yourself or do you call a repairman?

These are conversations between a homeowner and a repair person. Read and answer the questions.

Homeowner: Can you help me? My kitchen sink is **clogged**. It won't **drain**.

Plumber: It looks like it's your **garbage disposal** that is the problem. It is clogged with food. Did you run the garbage disposal with a lot of food in the sink?

Homeowner: Yes, I **peeled** carrots and potatoes and put the **peels** in the sink. Then I turned on the garbage disposal and ran the water on high. It **stopped up**.

Plumber: I can fix it. But you shouldn't put a lot of food through the garbage disposal at one time. Just push small amounts down, wait and let them go through, then push a little more through. You do need to run water while your disposal is running, but a small amount is fine. I wouldn't turn the water on **full force**.

Question:

1. What was the problem the homeowner had?
2. What did the homeowner do wrong?
3. What advice did the plumber give the homeowner?
4. How often do you use your garbage disposal?
5. Have you ever had your garbage disposal get clogged? What did you do?



Note: This tool is called a plumber's friend or a plumber's helper. It is used to clear clogs. It can be used when your sink is clogged or when your toilet is clogged. Every hardware store has them.

Homeowner: While you're here, can you look at my toilet in the bathroom.

Plumber: What's the problem with your toilet?

Homeowner: After I flush it, the toilet **keeps running**. I have to **jiggle** the handle to make it stop.

Plumber: You probably just need a new toilet kit. You can get one at Home Depot or Lowe's. It will be much cheaper for you to **install** it than to pay me to do it.

Homeowner: I don't know how to install a new toilet kit. Can't I just pay you to do it?

Plumber: I can't do it today. I have another **call** to go to after this. My manager only allowed enough time for me to fix your kitchen sink. And I don't carry toilet kits with me. If you want me to install a new toilet kit, I'll have to come back. You can buy a new kit and have it here for me, or I can bring one with me.

Homeowner: OK. Please come back soon to fix it.

Plumber: I have to **warn you**. My company has a **minimum service charge** of \$60. It probably won't take but five minutes to install that toilet kit, but you'll have to pay the minimum service

charge anyway. You should **think twice** before having me install it. The toilet kits are easy to install and they come with directions.

Question:

1. Do you prefer to do simple home repairs yourself?
2. What is a minimum service charge?
3. What do you think the homeowner should do?
4. What does the plumber mean when he says "think twice"?

Homeowner: I have one more question. In the morning, my wife and I and both my kids take showers before work and school. We always **run out of hot water**. The last person to shower has only cold water. Why is that?

Plumber: You probably have a small hot water heater. When all four of you shower, it uses all the water in the tank. It takes a while for the water in the tank to **heat up** again. I suggest some of you shower at night and some in the morning. Then everyone can have hot water.

Homeowner: Maybe I should buy a bigger hot water heater. Would that help?

Plumber: I'm not sure a bigger hot water heater will fit in your house. There isn't much room in the closet where your hot water heater is. You could try a **tankless hot water heater**. They are quite small. And they're very efficient. You won't be paying to heat water in your hot water heater when you aren't using it. They are quite expensive, but you will be saving in energy costs **over the long term**.

Questions:

1. What suggestion does the plumber have about showering?
2. Why did the plumber think the homeowner should not buy a bigger water heater?
3. What did the plumber suggest the homeowner buy?
4. Is this a problem you have at your house or apartment?
5. What kind of water heater do you have?
6. What does "over the long term" mean?

Grammar: Verb Tenses

These English students are using the wrong verb tense. Help them correct their mistakes

1. I have did this homework
2. It don't help me.
3. My English has improve a lot.
4. I have took several English classes in the past.
5. I am study the lessons.
6. These lessons are being hard.
7. Since I move here, I have learned a lot of English.
8. The teachers have help me a lot.
9. She is joining the class yesterday.
10. Many students have register for the class.