



Household Chores

1 What kind of chores do you do around the house? Do you do more chores during the week or at the weekend?

Reading

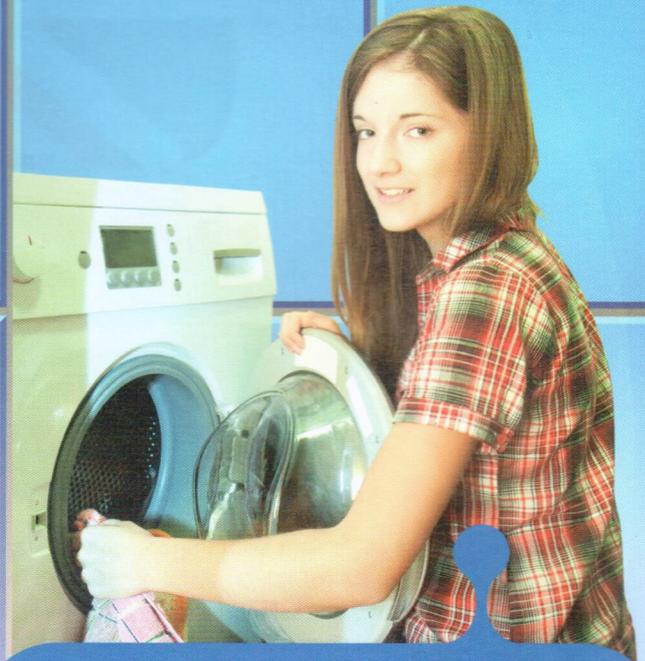
2 Read the title of the text and look at the pictures. What do you think the title means? What sort of chores do you expect to read about? Do you do any of the chores you see in the pictures?

Everyone pitches in

In a busy household, where both parents work and kids are involved in different activities, it can be easy for chores to pile up. This is why everyone does their share to keep the house clean and tidy and teens in the UK are no exception. Here's what some British teens had to say about doing household chores.

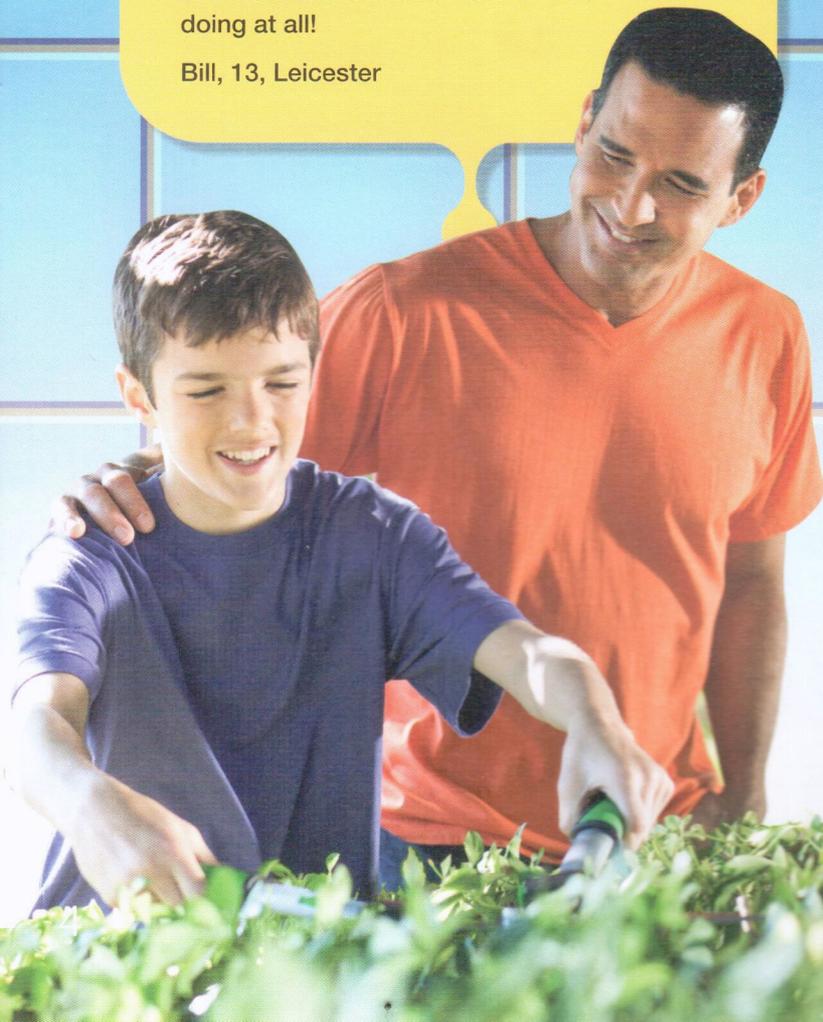
There's one chore my family and I enjoy doing together: gardening. When it's warm and sunny we go out and work in the garden. My dad mows the lawn, my mum takes care of the plants and I do some weeding. My dad's even teaching me how to trim the hedge. Gardening is one household chore I don't mind doing at all!

Bill, 13, Leicester



There are six of us in my family so you can imagine that the house can get pretty messy. We all have to do something. I'm responsible for doing the laundry. That means loading the washing machine, hanging out the clothes to dry and then bringing them back in, folding, ironing and putting them away. My 9-year-old sister helps with preparing meals, setting the table and then clearing the table after we eat. Even my 4-year-old twin brothers do chores! They have to put their toys away and feed our dog.

Emma, 16, Leeds





I'm not always in the mood to help out with the chores around the house but when it comes to walking Choco, our 3-year-old Labrador, I am always the first one to volunteer! Dusting, vacuuming, making the beds, washing the car and so on are boring but walking our dog gives me a chance to get out of the house, play and get some exercise!

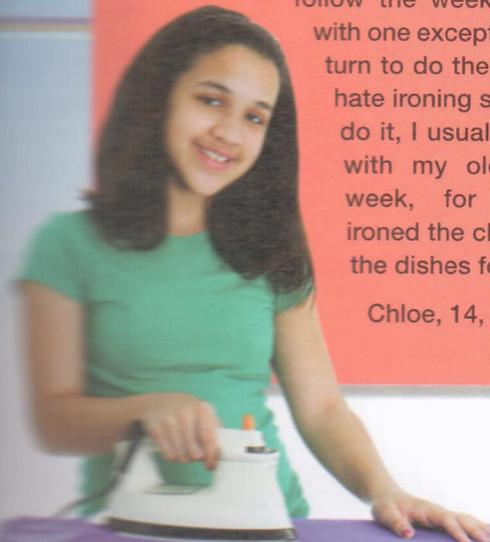
Megan, 15, Glasgow

CHECK THESE WORDS

pile up, mow the lawn, weeding, trim, hedge, load, fold, set the table, volunteer, schedule, exception, switch

My mum has put up a list of chores each one of us has to do around the house during the week. We are a big family living in a two-storey house so we need to get ourselves organised! We all follow the week's schedule but with one exception: when it's my turn to do the ironing. I simply hate ironing so when I have to do it, I usually switch chores with my older sister. Last week, for example, she ironed the clothes while I did the dishes for her!

Chloe, 14, Belfast



3 Which person, E (Emma), B (Bill), M (Megan) or C (Chloe):

- 1 doesn't feel like doing chores sometimes?
- 2 is learning how to do something new?
- 3 dislikes one chore in particular?
- 4 says that even little children do their chores?
- 5 combines a chore with fun and fitness?
- 6 has to follow a weekly plan of chores?

Vocabulary

4 Use: turn, set, exception, switch, clear, involved, schedule, trim, mow and mood to complete the sentences. There are four extra words. Use the extra words to make sentences based on the text.

- 1 Every person in the house is in keeping the house nice and clean.
- 2 We should the hedge; it's grown too tall.
- 3 It's my job to the table after dinner every night.
- 4 According to this week's, I have to do the laundry at the weekend.
- 5 Jeremy hates it when it's his to do the dishes.
- 6 Kylie will gladly do any chore her mum asks her to do, with one: vacuum the carpets.

Speaking & Writing

5 Work in pairs. Make a list of all the household chores mentioned in the texts and discuss them with your partner. Say which chores you like/don't like/don't mind doing and why, how often you do a chore etc.

- A: *I like doing the dishes. I always listen to music while doing them and it relaxes me. In fact, I'm happy to do the dishes every day!*
- B: *I don't really mind doing the dishes, it's not tiring. I only hate it when we have guests and there's lots of washing-up to do afterwards! etc.*

6 Which household chores do teens in your country do more often? Do a class survey to find out. Write a short paragraph with your findings. Read the paragraph to the class.



Celebrations

1 What national holidays do you have in your country? What is special about these days? How do you and your family usually spend a national holiday?

Reading

2 Look at the headings of the texts and guess which months the holidays occur in. Read to find out if you were correct.

3 Read the text again and correct the sentences below.

- 1 Bank holidays are usually on a Friday.
- 2 The Spring bank holiday is a modern festival.
- 3 People dance around the May Queen at the fairs.
- 4 It's traditional to go to the countryside for the Summer bank holiday.
- 5 When it rains, people usually stay outside on the beach.
- 6 The Notting Hill Carnival is the smallest in Britain.

CHECK THESE WORDS

damp, soggy, services, ancient, festival, fairs, pastimes, maypole, picnic, stalls, excuse, promenade piers, risk, downpour, indoors, scones, gloom, carnival, decorate, costumes, parade

Bank Holidays in Britain

For most British people, the phrase 'bank holidays in Britain' often brings to mind a wet weekend in a seaside resort with the whole family sitting on damp sand, under grey skies, eating a picnic of soggy sandwiches with ginger beer. So what is a British bank holiday?

Basically, it's a public holiday, when banks, shops and services are closed. Most bank holidays are on a Monday so people can have a long weekend. Let's look at a couple of typical British bank holidays and what most British families do to enjoy them.

Spring Bank Holiday

There's no better way to welcome the British spring than the Spring bank holiday, on the first Monday in May. It is both an ancient spring festival and a workers' celebration and this means it's very similar to the holidays held elsewhere in Europe on the 1st of May. In Britain, there are lots of fairs, where people take part in traditional games and pastimes. The most popular is dancing round the Maypole, which ends with a young girl being crowned with flowers as the May Queen. Then, families enjoy the rest of the day by having a picnic or eating food from the fair stalls. May Day is a great day out for the whole family and an excuse to have lots of jolly good fun.



Vocabulary

- 4 Match the words to make phrases. Then, use the phrases in sentences of your own.

1	seaside	A sandwiches
2	soggy	B weekend
3	long	C resort
4	rainy	D music
5	pop	E day

Speaking & Writing

- 5  Work in pairs. Imagine you have just returned from a visit to Britain during a holiday, and your partner is asking you about your experience. Use the information from the texts to prepare question and answers, then act out your dialogue in front of the class.

A: *When were you in Britain?*

B: *This May. I was there for the Spring bank holiday.*

A: *What happens then?*

B: *Well, ...*

- 6  Do some online research to find out information about a major national holiday in your country. Write a short paragraph about this holiday.

Summer Bank Holiday

The next public holiday is the Summer bank holiday on the last Monday in August. This is when many British families head to a seaside resort. Traditional British seaside resorts, such as Blackpool in the north and Brighton in the South, offer tourists the chance to enjoy long walks by the sea, see performances on the piers, watch Punch and Judy shows* on the beach and eat fish and chips on the promenade. Of course, there's always the risk that a day out can be ruined by a summer downpour but then everyone can head indoors to a tea room for tea, scones and cakes to lift the gloom of a rainy day.

In London, it is also the weekend of the Notting Hill Carnival, the largest carnival in Europe. The event is run by the local West Indian community, who decorate all the floats and make the costumes for the parade. There are also lots of bands and djs playing reggae, soca and pop music, as well as stalls selling delicious West Indian foods.

* *Punch and Judy shows are traditional comic puppet shows for children.*

