1. sewing machine ['souŋ maʃin]
2. needle ['niːdə]
3. frame [frɛim]
4. embroidery ['ɪmbrədərɪ]
5. canvas ['kænvəs]
6. embroidery floss ['ɪmbrədərɪ flɔs]
7. scissors ['sɪzəz]
8. knitting needle ['nɪtɪŋ ,niːdə]
9. ball of wool [wʊl] / yarn [jɔ:n]
10. thimble ['θɪmbəl]
12. pincushion ['pɪŋkəʃn]
13. pin [pin]
14. tape measure ['teɪp ,meɪzə]
15. crochet hook ['krəʊʃət hʊk]
16. safety pin ['ˈseifti pɪn]

**Knitting fellows**

Alan: What are you doing, Mark?
Mark: I’m knitting a jumper.
Alan: Good for you! I didn’t know you enjoyed doing needlework. Most men don’t even know how to darn a sock or sew on a button.
Mark: I know. My girlfriend gave me a voucher for a taster workshop a while ago. I’ve been knitting away ever since. I do get the odd funny look on public transport, but who cares? It’s the most relaxing pastime I know.
Alan: And I guess you’re never short of ideas for Christmas presents.
Mark: Exactly. Would you like me to teach you?
Alan: No need — I’ve recently taken up knitting myself!
Mark: Seriously? That’s fantastic!
Alan: I’m not very good at it, but I can cast on and off, and I know the difference between a knit stitch and a purl stitch.
Mark: Great! You should try crocheting next.
Alan: (laughs) I might just do that.
PRACTICE
Now, try the following exercises to practise talking about needlework.

Exercise 1

Match the words in the two columns to create six compound nouns.

| A. knitting | 1. cushion |
| B. crochet | 2. needle |
| C. sewing | 3. pin |
| D. pin | 4. hook |
| E. safety | 5. machine |

Exercise 2

How to knit a simple scarf: Complete the paragraph by underlining the correct words.

Use thick (A) thread / yarn in the colour of your choice and knitting (B) needles / pins of the correct size. Cast (C) on / off 30 stitches. Knit two, then (D) crochet / purl two across row. For row two, purl two, then knit two across row. Repeat until your scarf has the required (E) length / width and you have about 40 centimetres of yarn left. Cast off and (F) darn / sew in the ends.

Exercise 3

Cross out the verb in each line that is not normally used with the noun on the right.

A. darn / knit / sew a sock
B. do / embroider / take up needlework
C. cast on / crochet / embroider a tablecloth
D. cast off / drop / sew on a stitch

Answers

Exercise 4

The tools of the trade: Complete the sentences with the words from the list.

reel | safety pin | scissors | tape measure | thimble

A. Can you pass me the __________________________? I need to cut out this sewing pattern.
B. Ouch! I’ve pricked my finger again. I’d better use a __________________________.
C. Oh, no — I’m running out of thread. I’ll have to go and buy another __________________________.
D. Let’s check if this is the right length. Where’s my __________________________?
E. I haven’t got time to sew on your button. You’ll have to use a __________________________.

Making a patchwork quilt
Patchwork is a type of needlework in which small pieces of cloth in many different colours and patterns are sewn together. Quilting is the work of making a bedcover that consists of two layers, with soft padding in between. Patchworking and quilting are often combined to make decorative patchwork quilts. This was and still is a popular communal activity in the US, done in so-called quilting bees — gatherings of people working together to create a quilt.

cloth [kleθ] ∙ Stoff
compound noun [komˈpaʊnd naʊn] ∙ zusammengesetztes Substantiv
patchwork [ˈpætʃwərk] ∙ Muster
prick [prɪk] ∙ stechen, piksen
sew [səʊ] ∙ nähen

VOCABULARY