



1. washing line ['wɒʃɪŋ laɪn] UK, clothes line ['kləʊðz laɪn] UK, N. Am.
2. clothes pegs ['kləʊðz pegz] UK, clothespins ['kləʊðzprɪnz] N. Am.
3. scoop [sku:p]
4. liquid detergent [ˌlɪkwɪd diˈtɜːdʒənt]
5. fabric conditioner [ˌfæbrɪk kənˈdɪʃənə] UK, fabric softener [ˌfæbrɪk ˈsɒfənə] UK, N. Am.
6. soap / washing powder ['səʊp / ˈwɒʃɪŋ ˌpaʊdə] UK, laundry detergent [ˈlɔːndri diˈtɜːdʒənt] UK, N. Am.
7. tumble dryer [ˌtʌmbəl ˈdraɪə] UK, dryer ['draɪə] N. Am.
8. washing machine ['wɒʃɪŋ məˌʃiːn]
9. spin dryer [ˌspɪn ˈdraɪə] UK
10. clothes horse ['kləʊðz hɔːs]
11. care label ['keə ˌleɪbəl]
12. linen basket [ˈlɪnɪn ˌbɑːskɪt] UK, hamper ['hæmpə] N. Am., laundry basket [ˈlɔːndri ˌbɑːskɪt] UK, N. Am.
13. coat hanger ['kəʊt ˌhæŋə]
14. ironing board [ˈaɪəniŋ bɔːd]
15. iron ['aɪən]

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VOCABULARY

Doing the laundry

Can you talk about everyday activities such as doing the laundry?
ANNA HOCHSIEDER presents useful language and some exercises.

MEDIUM PLUS

item ['aɪtəm]
- hier: Kleidungsstück

sparsingly ['speəɪŋli]
- sparsam

surface ['sɜːfɪs]
- Oberfläche

thoroughly ['θɔːrəli]
- gründlich

Does your mum no longer **do your laundry**? Here are some tips on how to do it yourself:

- Start by checking the **care labels** attached to your **clothes**. Items that are not **washable** are marked “dry-clean only”.
- **Sort** the laundry into **piles**: whites, dark and light colours, towels and **delicates**.
- **Load** the **washing machine** with laundry of the same type.
- For the right quantity of **detergent**, check the manufacturer’s **dosing** guide.
- Put the detergent into the **detergent drawer**. **Soap powder** can go straight into the **drum**.
- Select the **wash cycle** and

temperature, and **switch on** the machine.

- **Soak** badly **soiled** items beforehand, and **pretreat stains** with a **stain remover**.
- **Delicate fabrics** such as **silk** or **wool** may need to be **washed by hand** in **cold** or **tepid** water to avoid **shrinking**. Remember to **rinse out** the soap **thoroughly**.
- **Hang out** your **washing** to **air-dry**, if possible, or put it in the **tumble dryer**.
- **Woolens** should be dried on a flat **surface** to prevent them from **stretching**.
- To protect your skin as well as the environment, use **starch**, **bleach** and **fabric softeners** **sparsingly**!

PRACTICE

Now, try the following exercises to practise talking about doing the laundry.



Exercise 1	E
Put the different tasks into the correct order by numbering them from 1 to 7.	
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Switch on the machine.	
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Add the detergent.	
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Load the washing machine.	
D. <input type="checkbox"/> Select the wash cycle and temperature.	
E. <input type="checkbox"/> Sort your laundry.	
F. <input type="checkbox"/> Iron your clothes to make them smooth.	
G. <input type="checkbox"/> Hang out your washing or put it in the tumble dryer.	

Exercise 2	M
Match the words and phrases (A–F) to their definitions (1–6).	
A. A “spin dryer” ...	1. is a machine that dries clothes using hot air.
B. A “tumble dryer” ...	2. is a substance that makes clothes softer after they have been washed.
C. “Laundry detergent” ...	3. is a substance that makes white clothes and linen even whiter.
D. “Fabric conditioner” ...	4. is a substance that makes clothes and linen <u>stiff</u> .
E. “Bleach” ...	5. is a substance that helps remove dirt from clothes.
F. “Starch” ...	6. is a machine that dries clothes by turning them round and round very fast.

Exercise 3	A
Complete the definitions by adding the appropriate nouns from the opposite page.	
A. A(n) _____ is a dirty mark that is difficult to remove.	
B. The _____ is the part of a washing machine that you put your laundry in.	
C. The _____ is the part of a washing machine that you put the detergent in.	
D. _____ are clothes that need to be washed with special care.	
E. A(n) _____ is a small container for measuring a powdered or liquid substance.	
F. A(n) _____ is a wooden or plastic folding frame that you hang washing on to dry.	

Idiomatically speaking

Here are some fun idiomatic phrases and expressions to do with laundry:

- To **wash your dirty linen in public** means to “talk about embarrassing private matters in public”.
- The phrase **It will come out in the wash** means that the truth about something will eventually become known, or a solution to a problem will eventually be found.
- A **laundry list** is a long list of things that you need or want to do.
- If you say that **something doesn’t or won’t wash**, you do not believe or accept it.



Answers

- A-5; B-3; C-2; D-4; E-1; F-7; G-6
- A-6; B-1; C-5; D-2; E-3; F-4
- A. stain
B. drum
C. detergent drawer
D. Delicates
E. scoop
F. clothes horse

stiff [strɪf]
 • steif; hier: gestärkt