### Vocabulary

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>German</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>clothes pegs ['klaʊdz pegz] UK, clothespins ['klaʊzpins] N. Am.</td>
<td>hier: Kleidungsstück</td>
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<tr>
<td>scoop [sku:p]</td>
<td>sparsam</td>
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<tr>
<td>liquid detergent ['lɪkwɪd dɪˈtɜːɡənt]</td>
<td>Österreichisch: Stärkemittel</td>
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<tr>
<td>washing machine ['wɒʃɪŋ mæʃɪn]</td>
<td>Waschmaschine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spin dryer [,spɪn ˈdraɪər] UK</td>
<td>Trockner</td>
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<tr>
<td>clothes horse ['klaʊdz ˈhɔːs]</td>
<td>Ständer</td>
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<tr>
<td>care label ['keə ,leɪbl]</td>
<td>Schutzkleidung</td>
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<tr>
<td>coat hanger ['kəʊt ,heɪŋə]</td>
<td>Wäscheleiste</td>
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<tr>
<td>ironing board ['aɪrɪŋ bɔːd]</td>
<td>Bügelbrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iron ['aɪrən]</td>
<td>Bügeleisen</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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*.
- *Woollens* 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* sparingly!
PRACTICE

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

Exercise 1

Put the different tasks into the correct order by numbering them from 1 to 7.

A. Switch on the machine.
B. Add the detergent.
C. Load the washing machine.
D. Select the wash cycle and temperature.
E. Sort your laundry.
F. Iron your clothes to make them smooth.
G. Hang out your washing or put it in the tumble dryer.

Exercise 2

Match the words and phrases (A–F) to their definitions (1–6).

1. is a machine that dries clothes using hot air.
A. A “spin dryer”...
B. A “tumble dryer”...
C. “Laundry detergent”...
D. “Fabric conditioner”...
E. “Bleach”...
F. “Starch”...

Exercise 3

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


stiff [stIf], steif; hier: gestärkt