



Moving house

Anyone who has ever moved house knows how stressful it can be.

ANNA HOCHSIEDER presents tips on how not to break down under the pressure.

MEDIUM PLUS

1. bin bag ['bɪn bæɡ] UK, garbage/trash bag ['ɡɑːrbɪdʒ/'træʃ bæɡ] N.Am.
2. string [striŋ]
3. removal van [ri'muːvəl væn] UK, moving van ['muːvɪŋ væn] N.Am.
4. checklist ['tʃeklɪst]
5. removal box [ri'muːvəl bɒks] UK, moving box ['muːvɪŋ bɒks] N.Am.
6. handcart ['hændkɑːt]
7. bubble wrap ['bʌbəl ræp]
8. plastic crate [,plæstɪk 'kreɪt]
9. tissue paper ['tɪʃuː ,peɪpə]
10. label ['leɪbəl]
11. screwdriver ['skruː,draɪvə]
12. marker ['mɑːkə]
13. removal man [ri'muːvəl mæn] UK, mover ['muːvər] N.Am.
14. pliers ['plaiəz]
15. scissors ['sɪzəz]
16. packing paper ['pækɪŋ ,peɪpə]
17. box-cutter ['bɒks ,kʌtə]
18. tape [teɪp]

At spotlight-online.de/teachers/picture-it you can find German translations for these words and expressions, as well as our Vocabulary archive.



Improving your English vocabulary isn't half as stressful as moving! Find exercises on the words you've learned here in **Spotlight plus:**

How to move house and keep your sanity

1. **Make lists:** start doing this well ahead of the actual moving day. Use a special notebook for the purpose and keep it with you at all times. Prioritize tasks. Tick off the jobs as you do them.
2. **Hire a removal company:** getting professional help will do a lot to preserve your sanity. If that is not possible, ask friends and family members to give you a hand.
3. **Declutter:** sell, donate or throw away any items you no longer use.
4. **Buy, rent or borrow removal boxes:** make sure you have enough bubble wrap or tissue paper and bin bags. Keep supplies such as markers, tape, scissors, etc. in a special container that is always within reach.
5. **Pack rarely used items first and essentials last:** things you won't be needing for a while can be boxed up early on.
6. **Number every box:** compile an inventory listing the contents of each box. This will save you a lot of headache when you start to unpack.
7. **Keep things together:** keep extension cords with extension cords, dishes with dishes and so on. Especially when you are dismantling pieces of furniture, make sure you keep all parts together that belong together, so that you can reassemble them quickly later on.
8. **Prepare a box of essentials:** in other words, items you will need on and around the day of your move, such as snacks, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, first-aid kit, etc. Pack an overnight bag with a few clothes, towels and toiletries as well. Make sure that these essentials are loaded last and unloaded first.
9. **Keep your valuables and important documents with you at all times:** alternatively, ask a trusted friend to look after them for you.
10. **Breathe!** Moving house is stressful, but if you plan it well — and stick to your plan — there's no need to panic. Good luck!

Verbs with prefixes

The text above contains a number of verbs with prefixes. Learning the meaning of prefixes will help you recognize the meaning of new words more easily:

- **De-, dis- and un-** are negative prefixes. "Unpack" and "unload", for example, are simply the opposites of "pack" and "load".
- **De- and dis-** can also turn an action into its opposite. To "declutter" means to "remove clutter" (things that are not needed). Other examples: deactivate, decode, decontaminate. To "dismantle" means to "separate the parts of an object so that they no longer form a single unit". Other examples: disagree, displease, distrust.
- The prefix **re-** adds the meaning "again" to a verb. To "reassemble", for example, means to "put something back together after it has been taken apart". Other examples: rearrange, reproduce, rewrite.



compile [kəm'paɪəl]
• zusammenstellen

declutter [di:'klʌtə]
• entrümpeln

dismantle [dɪs'mæntəl]
• abbauen

donate [deu'nert]
• spenden

extension cord [ɪk'stenʃən kɔːd]
• Verlängerungskabel

inventory ['ɪnvəntəri]
• Bestandsverzeichnis

item ['aɪtəm]
• Gegenstand, Ding

prefix ['pri:fiks]
• Vorsilbe

preserve [pri:'zɜ:v]
• bewahren, schützen

reassemble [ˌri:ə'sembəl]
• wieder zusammenbauen

sanity: keep one's ~ ['sænəti]
• bei Verstand bleiben

tick off [tɪk 'ɒf]
• abhaken

toiletries ['tɔɪlətrɪz]
• Toilettenartikel