

# What are my duties?

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**Let's** talk about our duties!

How do you feel about your daily activities?

A lot of people – children, teenagers, and adults – have to do determined things in their day-by-day. What do you usually have to do?

Do you help your parents at home? Believe it or not, it's a great way to start a good habit and keep good relations as social individuals!

It can help us to live life in harmony. It can help us to establish stronger relationships, and

it can also lead us to build a more human society!

## Starter activities

1. After holding a conversation about your duties, write **always**, **usually**, **sometimes** or **never** right after each statement below:

- I make my bed in the morning.
- I clean my tennis shoes.
- I wash the dishes to help my mother.
- I go to the bank for my father.
- I play with my siblings.

2. If you answered **always** or **usually** to most of the statements above, you really must feel happy for building a more human society. If you answered **sometimes** or **never** to most of them, you might try to improve your relationships at home first.

3. Do you usually talk to your relatives at home? What do you usually talk about?

4. Students talk about the things in the list above that they have to do, or don't have to do, at home. Follow the example:

A - I have to cook lunch every day. Do you have to cook at home?

B - No, I don't have to cook. My sister has to cook dinner sometimes. But I have to go shopping. Who has to go shopping in your family?

5. Look at the list of activities below. Put a tick next to those you usually have to do. And add two more of yours.

- tidy up my bedroom every day.
- take my little brother to school.
- help my mother in the kitchen.
- do the gardening.
- go shopping in the store.
- help my grandparents.

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## Pair Work

1. Find a classmate and practice the following.

A: What time do you get up on weekend? (**usually**)

B: I **usually** get up at nine o'clock.

- a) Do you go to school in the morning or in the afternoon? (**always**)
- b) When do you wash your bicycle? (**sometimes**)
- c) What do you like to do on Sunday mornings? (**usually**)
- d) Who do you have to help at home? (**sometimes**)
- e) Do you have to tidy your house? (**always**)

2. Read the statements below about children's duties. Put a tick next to those you agree with and a cross next to those you disagree with.

- a) They have to be involved with school sports such as basketball, soccer, volleyball, handball, or track & field.
- b) They have to play instruments in the school band and have to attend practice early in the morning.
- c) After finishing their homework, the children are usually expected to do some chores such as caring for the dog or cat, helping with the laundry, mowing the grass and suchlike.

- d) They have only to chat on Internet and stay in their bedroom all day long by themselves.
- e) The children don't have to be involved in a church because it isn't important in learning right and wrong and developing a moral person.

## Reading

1. Look at the list below. Match the verbs on the left with the activities on the right. Some verbs may be matched with more than one activity.

a) to tidy up	after school
b) to mow	sports
c) to do	the bedroom
d) to cook	the newspaper
e) to play	a letter
f) to go shopping	my father in the garage
g) to write	the grass
h) to read	the dinner
i) to work	the homework
j) to help	at the store

2. Do you have a pen pal? Students around the world usually get a pen pal to change information about different cultures. They always write about their duties, their family, dates, and pets. As they also have to help at home, study, and learn how to preserve their culture and environment. This way, everyone has to do things they like and things they don't like. Do you think all teenagers in the world have duties like you? Does this letter have anything to do with you? What is it? Read this letter and find out about my pen pal.

Hi Paulo,

Here in the middle of the United States we have school 9 months out of the year. I attend a public school from the end of August until the end of May with a few breaks in between. My mother tries to develop routines for me so it will be easier for me to learn good habits for the future. For example when I arrive home from school in the afternoons (usually after 3:30 pm) I am expected to do my homework first when I arrive so I won't forget to do it and schoolwork is considered the most important thing to finish first. After finishing my homework, I am usually expected to do some chores such as caring for the dog, helping with the laundry, mowing the grass, or maybe even helping start the dinner. I usually have duties to do in the mornings before school too like to make my bed, to tidy up my room, and sometimes make my own lunch to take to eat at school. My mother is single and this situation requires more help from me to make the household run smoothly. Also, I have many outside activities to attend during both the week and weekend. I play the guitar in the school band and have to attend practice early in the morning. Here in Aurora I have practice as early as 6 am in the morning until 8 am every weekday morning before school. I am also involved with school sports such as basketball and football. I spend many hours practicing my sport before and after school and sometimes on the weekends too. In my home, I play games with my mother a lot especially at night. We like to play "scrabble" (a board game that involves spelling words). However, my

mother makes me attend the church with her until I become 18 years old and then it will be my own choice whether to attend or not. I think that being involved in a church for me is very important in learning right and wrong and developing a moral person. Well Paulo, I hope you do so many activities as me. This way we can build great relationships since home.

Best wishes  
KEVIN

## Talking points

1. Talk about Kevin's duties and compare them with yours. Afterwards talk about the points below with a partner or partners.

- Do girls contribute more to the household run smoothly? Do you think this is due to the gender, personality or anything else?
- List some duties which you do automatically. Tick those you really believe that strengthen your relations.
- What feelings do you experience most often at executing your duties?

2. According to Kevin's opinion our duties help us to build up stronger relationships. Do you agree? Through the following questions let us know your opinion about it.

a) How do you feel when you have to do any chore? Why?

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b) Do you usually do your duties before anyone reminds you? Why?

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c) Do you agree there are different duties for boys and for girls? Explain.

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d) Is it easy for you to hold a conversation with your parents? Comment.

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e) How often do you talk about your future? Who do you usually talk with?

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f) How do you feel doing chores at home?

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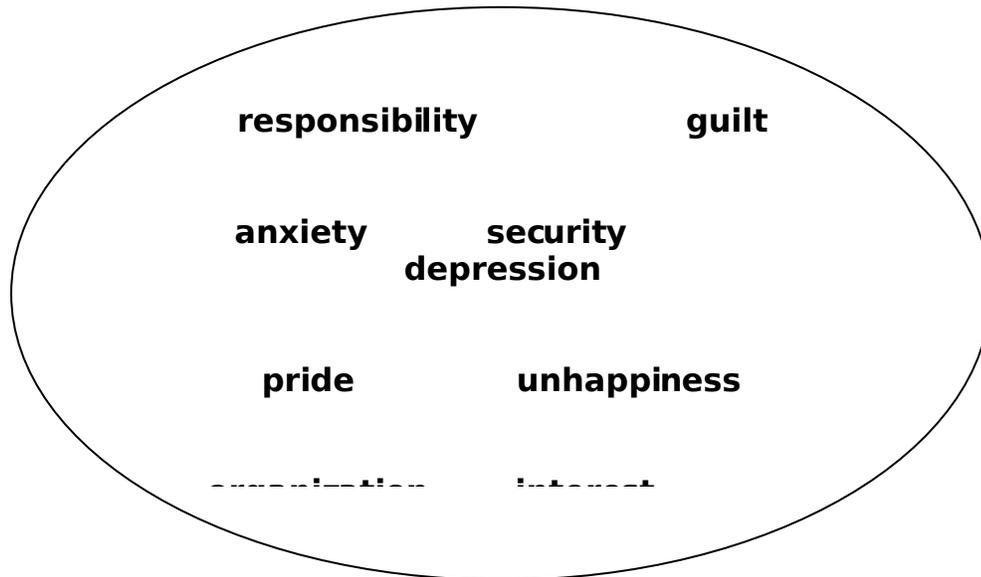
g) Do you believe social relations can improve the society?

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3. Look at the words for feelings in the circle. Which feelings are expressed in Kevin's letter? Do any of these feelings worry you? How do you deal with them?



4. Which of the relationships listed below are most important to you? Number them in order of importance (1= most important, 5 = least important). Do the girls and boys have the same opinion on the importance of a relationship? What about the differences between male and female patterns?

neighbours

parents

boy/girlfriend

friends

other members of your family

## Grammar

1. Read the sentences below. Each expresses someone's view of their personal future. Which sentence expresses which view? Write **plan**, **intention**, **prediction** or **certainty** next to each one. Then compare and discuss your answers with a partner.

h) I think I'll probably find it hard to get a job.

i) I suppose I'll spend a lot of time commuting.

j) I'm visiting my friend this evening.

- k) I'm going to get married when I'm about 25.
- l) I'm buying a house in the suburb next month.
- m) I'm going to stay at home and look after my children.
- n) I imagine I'll have to start dinner today.
- o) I'm not going to work unless I absolutely have to.
- p) I'll probably live in the country.
- q) I'll go to work every day.

2. Which tenses were used in the sentences above to express:

- a) personal plans/intentions?
- b) personal predictions?
- c) certainties?

3. Do you have plans? Do you make predictions? Do you have certainties? What is your view of your future? Write down three certainties, three predictions and three intentions/plans about your future. Then discuss your views with a partner.

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## Writing

1. Imagine you have a pen pal in the United Kingdom. Your pen pal may be a boy or a girl who is very curious to read and learn about your culture, habits, relations, and duties. Write a letter to your pen pal saying about your duties and how they contribute to your relationships.

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