

# Where men are men .... and women don't know the recipe for equality

LEVEL ONE - ELEMENTARY

## 1 Pre-reading discussion

Make a list of 5 different jobs that you do in the home.

Which of the jobs are "men's jobs" and which are "women's jobs"? Which of the jobs are usually done by both men and women?

	MEN	WOMEN
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 2 Pre-reading questions

You are going to read a text about men helping with jobs in the home.

Are these sentences true or false?

	TRUE	FALSE
a. Many Spanish men think that jobs in the home are women's work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Spanish men enjoy cooking.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Women do not need to work at home in the evening.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Spanish men usually do the shopping in the market.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. On the Day of the Book you give all your friends a book as a present.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Now read the text to check your answers.

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In Granada in Southern Spain, there are some new advertisements which ask men to help their wives with jobs in the home. These jobs include cooking, washing-up, cleaning and ironing clothes. In Spain, as in many other countries, many men think that jobs in the home are women's work. Many women, especially older women, like to serve the rest of the family. They work very hard to make the rest of the family comfortable.

Maria is nearly 60 years old and works full-time. She cleans the large building where I work, and she also works in the cafeteria. Her husband works there too, although his job is not so difficult. When Maria arrives home, very tired after a long day, her work starts again. The rest of the family can relax but she has to work. She cooks a meal and then does the ironing. Most of the clothes she has to iron belong to her five adult children, who still live at home with their parents.

"It's not fair," Maria says, "but what can I do? When I ask them to help, they always have something more important to do – going out with friends, making phone calls."

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On the other hand, it is not true to say that all Spanish men are lazy at home. They also have their duties. My landlord, Pablo, is retired and does a lot of work at home but his wife never asks him to buy food at the market! The jobs in the home are clearly divided between Pablo and his wife. Pablo carries the washing up to the terrace but Emilia hangs it on the washing-line. Pablo waters the garden but Emilia cleans the house.

Younger people are beginning to change but it is a slow process. I asked the men in my class of adult students to tell me how to cook a meal but they couldn't do it. "But I've never cooked anything," said 27-year old Javier. "My mother always cooks."

Here in Southern Spain men are men and women are women. There is no unisex fashion. Boys and girls do not wear the same clothes.

In the summer, on warm evenings, the people of the town meet to talk together. The men stand on one side of the square and the women stand on the other. This is the tradition.

In Spain there is a special celebration on April 23rd. It is called the Day of the Book. On this day you give books to your male friends as presents. To your women friends you give a rose.

Letter from Spain from Barbara Lamplugh  
*The Guardian Weekly* Dec 6 2001

### 3 Vocabulary Work 1

Choose the correct answer to fill the gaps:

- a Women spend a lot of time \_\_\_\_\_ clothes.  
**cleaning      ironing      preparing**
- b Maria is a \_\_\_\_\_.  
**gardener      cleaner      manager**
- c Pablo is \_\_\_\_\_.  
**very young      young      quite old**
- d Pablo \_\_\_\_\_ the washing up to the terrace.  
**carries      brings      hangs**
- e On the Day of the Book people give \_\_\_\_\_ to women.  
**books      chocolates      roses**

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### 4 Vocabulary Work 2

Complete the following table

VERB	NOUN
------	------

to clean	_____
----------	-------

to cook	_____
---------	-------

to work	_____
---------	-------

to shop	_____
---------	-------

to teach	_____
----------	-------

to drive	_____
----------	-------

to write	_____
----------	-------

to paint	_____
----------	-------

to fish	_____
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### 5 Discussion Points

Who does the housework in your home? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you enjoy doing housework? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think women should receive pay for doing housework? \_\_\_\_\_