

Cleanliness

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Is your home clean and orderly most of the time or only when you are expecting guests?
2. How important is it to have an organized work space?
3. Do you carry hand sanitizer with you everywhere you go?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. have it together | a) untidy |
| _____ 2. immaculate | b) to clean until something shines |
| _____ 3. clutter | c) objects and material left around randomly |
| _____ 4. disheveled | d) extremely neat and clean |
| _____ 5. slob | e) a person who is messy and dirty |
| _____ 6. polish | f) forks, knives, and spoons; cutlery |
| _____ 7. silverware | g) able to produce a lot |
| _____ 8. productive | h) to be very organized; to be ready |
| _____ 9. be told time and again | i) to be reminded many times |
| _____ 10. immune system | j) parts of the body that work together to fight off infection |



Reading

CLEANLINESS

Are you a neat freak or a slob?

1. Some people always seem to **have it together**. Their hair is perfect, their kids' clothes are pressed, and their homes are **immaculate**. Unlike these neat freaks, **slobs** always seem **disheveled**.
2. Neat freaks cannot stand **clutter**. They are fearful of germs. Slobs, on the other hand, can't find anything if it's put away where it belongs! You can keep your shoes on when you visit their home. If a slob comes to visit, you don't have to **polish** your **silverware**.
3. Keeping a perfectly ordered home and office may help you be more **productive**. But what about creativity? Some experts say that slobs, or at least those who refuse to clean up between each activity, are actually more imaginative. We only have to watch children play to see the proof. Young kids rarely tidy up their mess between projects. They have to **be told time and again** to put things away.
4. If we didn't clean up or tell our kids to wash their hands, we would surely be ill all of the time. Or would we? Some doctors say that our obsession with cleanliness prevents our **immune system** from developing properly. Is your house too clean?

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs and write the answers in your notebook.

1. According to the passage, what can neat freaks not tolerate?
2. What is a slob?
3. Why does the passage mention forks and knives?
4. Why might a little disorder be a good thing?
5. Why do some doctors think people are too clean?

Vocabulary Review

Which one word from the vocabulary list on page 1 will fit into all three blanks? Some words are used in a different way in these examples than they are in the passage.

1. a) I can't stand all of the _____ in the kitchen.
b) The bench at the front entrance is always full of _____.
c) My brain is so full of _____ that I can't concentrate.
2. a) My house would be _____ too if I had no children.
b) Don't come down for dinner until your room is _____.
c) Virgin Mary's pregnancy is often called the _____ Conception.
3. a) I got in trouble at work because I didn't _____ my shoes.
b) Did you _____ off the wine, or is there still enough for one glass?
c) I need some pink nail _____ that will go with my dress.

Discuss and Write

Read this letter out loud and discuss possible suggestions with your classmates. After the discussion, write out a response in your notebook from Dr. Neat Freak to Casey.

Dear Dr. Neat Freak,

My closet is full of clutter. I have so many pairs of shoes that I don't know what to do with them. I also have more clothes than hangers. I hate throwing things out! It isn't only my closet that is in disorder. I always seem to look disheveled. I can't find anything to wear and I sometimes run out of time before I can wash my hair. My office is a mess too. My boss has told me time and again that I'm not productive enough. Please help me! I feel so out of control.

Casey

Class Opinion

Walk around the classroom and ask your classmates these questions about cleanliness. Write their answers in the chart below.

[illegible]

Listening – Gap Fill

🎧 <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2011/03/09/podcast-cleanliness/>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

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ANSWERS:

1. pressed
2. belongs, slob
3. activity
4. wash their hands, properly