

Actively Engaged at College

*An English as a Second Language textbook
for non-fluent bilingual college students*

by Nicholas Walker

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Actively Engaged at College

By Nicholas Walker

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Lesson 1

Speaking Skill Diagnostic Test

Instructions: With your partner, role-play each of the language tasks. Wherever possible, add details to make your conversation more interesting. While you are speaking, measure your own confidence. Give YOURSELF a confidence score (0, 1, 2, 3) for each task. Take turns so that your partner can measure his or her own confidence, also.

0 = Too difficult.

1 = I need to learn more expressions, vocabulary and grammar.

2 = I know how to say this, but I need more practice.

3 = I can do this well in English! I feel confident.

	Score
1. Exchange contact information: You are visiting another country and staying at a hotel. The front desk clerk needs your name, email address, telephone number. Spell them out so that he or she can write them down.	
2. Request missing items: At the hotel, you realize that you forgot to bring a few things. Now, you can't brush your teeth, wash your hair, trim your fingernails, and shave. Call the front desk and request the missing items.	
3. Request a change: At the restaurant, you ordered a cheeseburger. The waiter brought you a hamburger. You realized only after you took a bite. Tell the waiter about his mistake and request a change to the bill.	
4. Tell a joke: At the hotel bar, you meet a gorgeous traveler. The traveler is feeling depressed and asks you to tell a joke.	
5. Imagine a different present: The gorgeous traveler is somewhat hopeful because of a lottery ticket. He or she asks what you would do if you suddenly became rich. Speculate.	
6. Give advice: Your partner lives with someone who does not love him or her. It is a complicated situation. Give polite advice.	
7. Imagine a different past: Your foreign partner is interested in your culture and asks how you think his or her childhood would have been different if he or she had grown up in your hometown. Explain.	
8. Predict: You are a palm reader. Look at your partner's hand and predict his or her future from the lines on his or her hand.	
9. Give an alibi: When you return to your room, a police officer is waiting for you. There was a murder in the hotel while you were out. Tell the officer 5 things you did and didn't do today.	
10. Talk about your disastrous day: You go to meet your friend at the airport, but you arrive late. So many things went wrong. Tell your partner about your disastrous day.	
Total	

Writing Sample

Answer the questions below and prepare to write three paragraphs about yourself. What you write will help your teacher determine whether this course is right for you.

Paragraph #1 Write a paragraph incorporating your answers to these questions:

What is your name?
How old are you?
What languages do you speak?
How long have you been studying English?
How, where and when do you use English?

Where do you live?
How long have you lived there?
How do you come to school?

Do you have a job?
What do you do?
How long have you worked there?

What school do you go to?
How long have you been a student there?
What program are you in?
How long have you been in that program?

Paragraph #2 Write a paragraph incorporating your answers to these questions:

Have you ever been on a trip?
Where did you go?
Where did you stay?
Who did you go with?
How did you get there?
What did you do on that trip?
What did you want to do on that trip but didn't?

Paragraph #3 Write a paragraph incorporating your answers to these questions:

What are you doing now?
What are you wearing?
What are you thinking about?

Writing Sample (continued)

Paragraph #1

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Paragraph #2

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Writing Sample (continued)

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Paragraph #3

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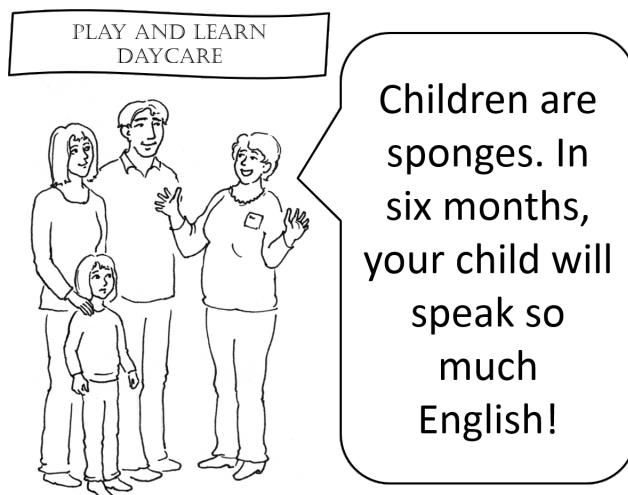
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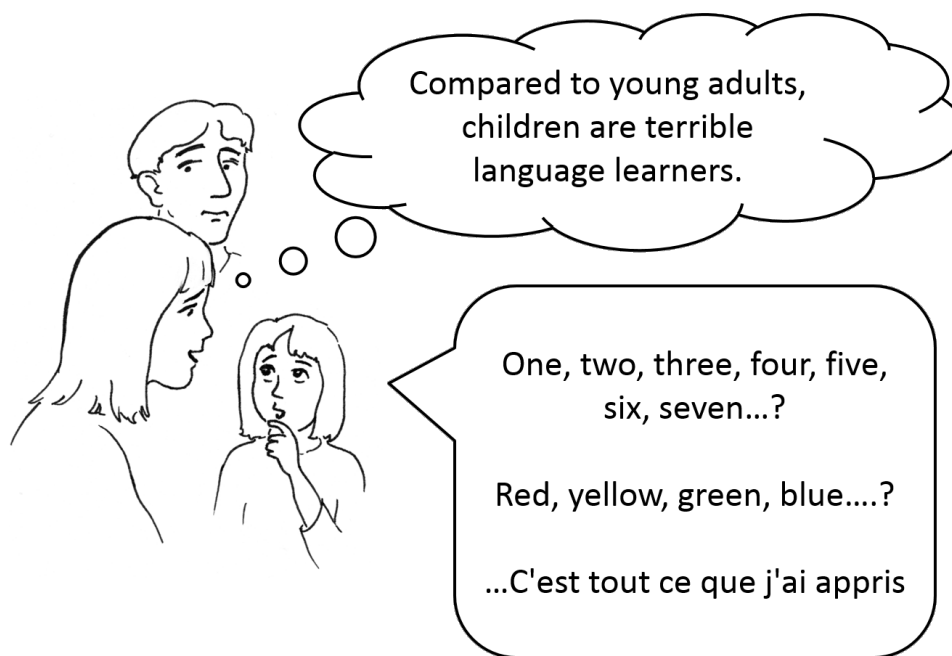
Lesson 2

Children are Sponges

People often claim that children are more efficient language learners than adults. Consider the following situation.



Six months later....



Why do people believe this myth? Who are the real sponges when it comes to language learning?

.....

.....

.....

Grammar Challenge

Good language learners are able to look at examples and work out a rule. Look at the following examples of prepositions in sentences and identify the rule for **during**, **since** and **for**.

Q: How long have you been working here?

A: I haven't been working here **for** very long. I have only been working here **since** the spring.

Q: How long have you been driving a manual transmission car?

A: I have been driving stick-shift **since** June 3rd, 2012.

Q: How long have you been studying sciences?

A: I have been studying sciences **for** one and a half years.

Q: Where do you work?

A: I'm not working these days. I don't work **during** the school year. I only work **during** the summer holidays.

Which preposition is used to mean **in the middle of**? Which is used with **a measure of how long something lasts (duration)**, and which is used with **a starting point**?

RULE : Use **for** with

Use **since** with

Use **during** to mean

PRACTICE: You will remember these rules better if you write full, meaningful sentences about yourself using **for**, **since**, and **during**.

Q: How many years have you been studying English as a Second Language? (*for*)

A:
.....

Q: How long have you been living in your current home? (*since*)

A:
.....

Q: What outdoor activities do you do and when do you do them? (*during*)

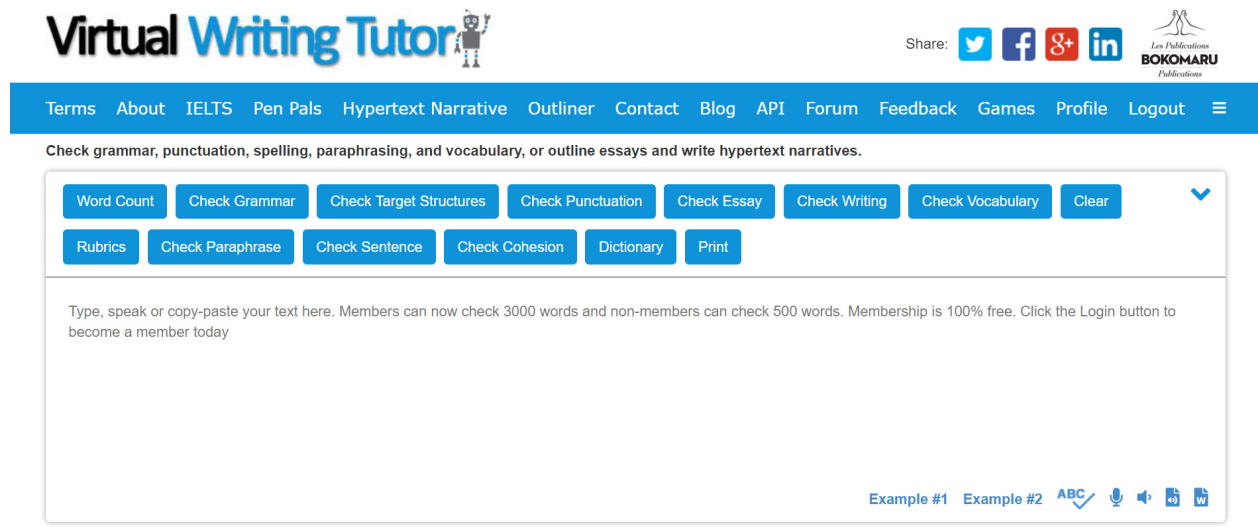
A:
.....

VirtualWritingTutor.com

Bokomaru Publications, the publisher of this textbook, offers a free grammar correction service to learners of English as a Second Language everywhere around the world through its website VirtualWritingTutor.com.

The system is easy to use. Simply type, speak or paste a sentence or paragraph into the text area, click “Check Spelling” and click “Check Grammar”. The system will check your writing for common errors. Click “Field-related” and the system will find words related to your field of study in your text and provide a link to a glossary.

The Virtual Writing Tutor can also help you with your pronunciation. In Chrome, click on the microphone icon on the right hand side and begin speaking. Correctly pronounced words will appear in the text area. If you click on the icon below the microphone, the system pronounce the words in the text are for you using its speech synthesizer.



Practice

Using a computer, follow the instructions below to learn how to use the Virtual Writing Tutor website.

1. Type *VirtualWritingTutor.com* into the address bar of your browser.
2. Click in the text box in the center of the page.
3. Type the following sentence: *I don't understnd how its work.*
4. Click **Check Spelling**
5. Right-click on *understnd* and select *understand*.
6. Click **Check Grammar**
7. Read the feedback shown, and change the sentence in the text box to *I don't understand how it works.*
8. Click **Check Spelling** and **Check Grammar** to make sure that no more corrections are needed.

You now know how to correct your writing using this free website. Use this revision strategy every time you write.

Contact Information

Practice collecting contact information and personal details from your classmates.

What is your name? How do you spell it? Could you repeat that please?	What is your email address? _ underscore @ at - dash . dot	What is your phone number?	Can I call you?	When is a good time to call?
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

Where do you live?	Where were you born?	Are you single or taken?	How many people are there in your family?	What do you like to do in your free time?
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

Group Photo

Discuss: How many situations call for a group photo. Share your ideas with the class.

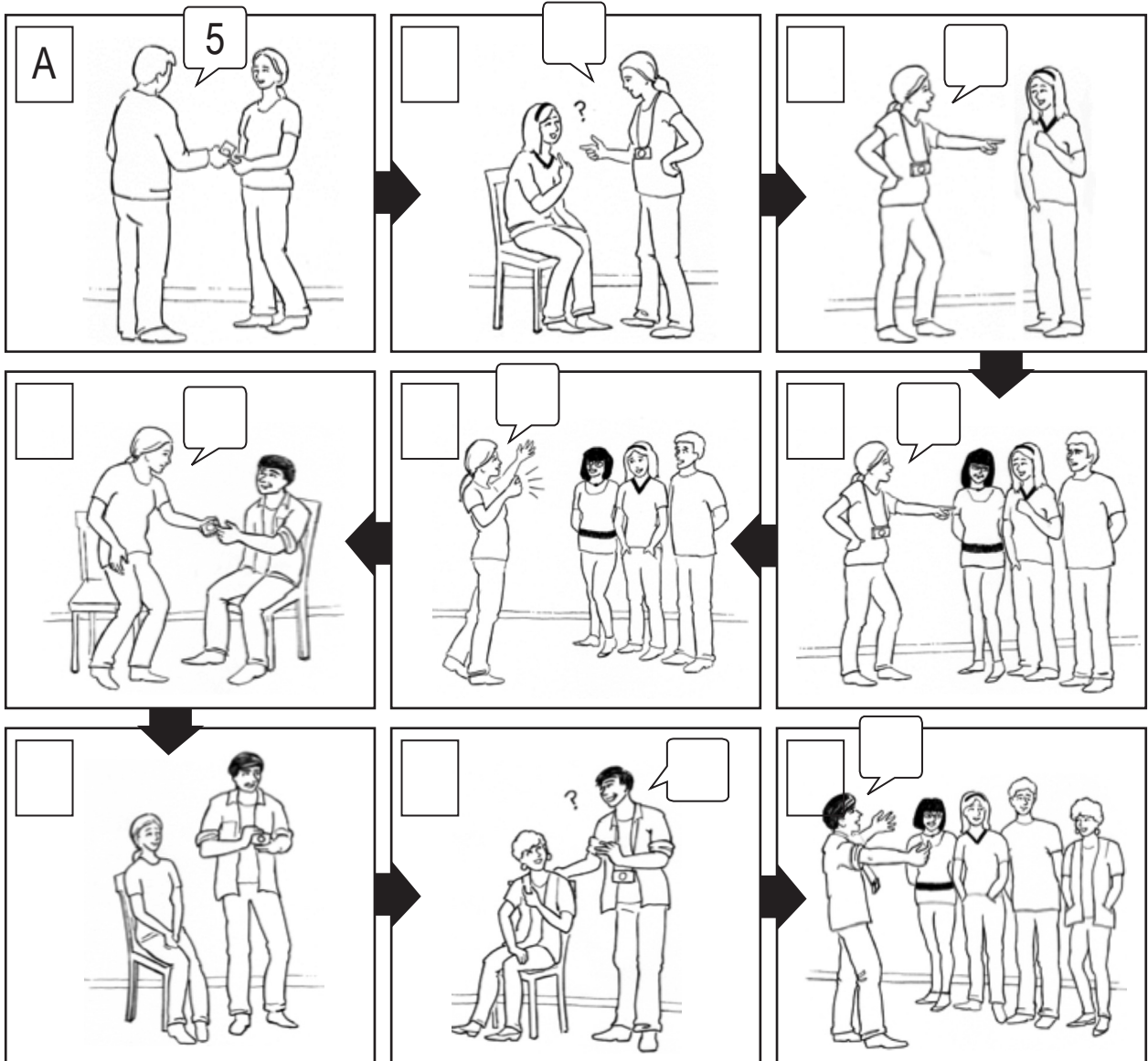
Match: Look at the pictures below showing the steps for taking a group photo. In the spaces provided, write the letter of what to do and what to say for each step.

What to do:

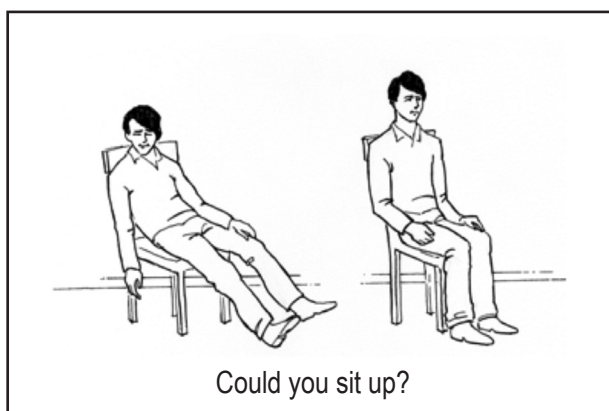
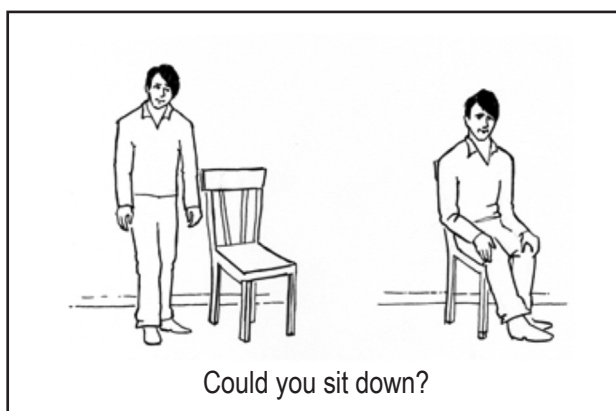
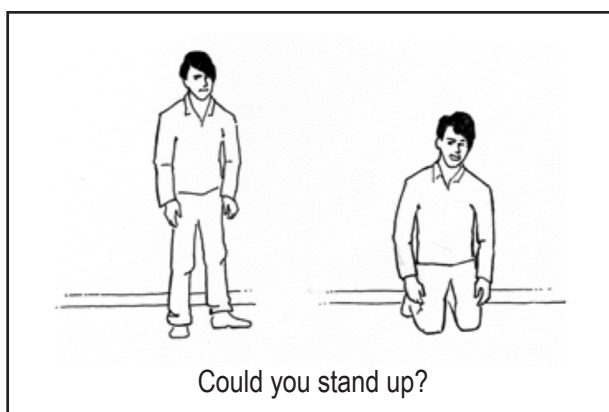
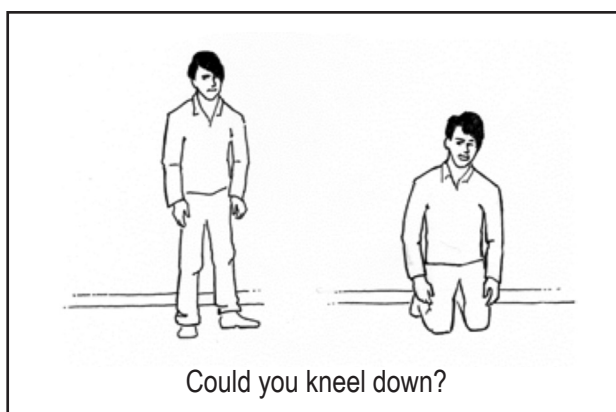
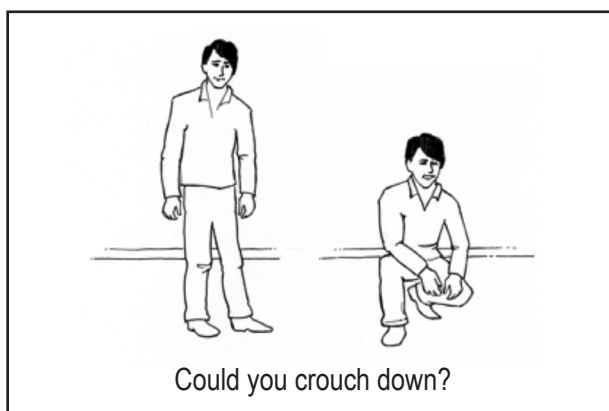
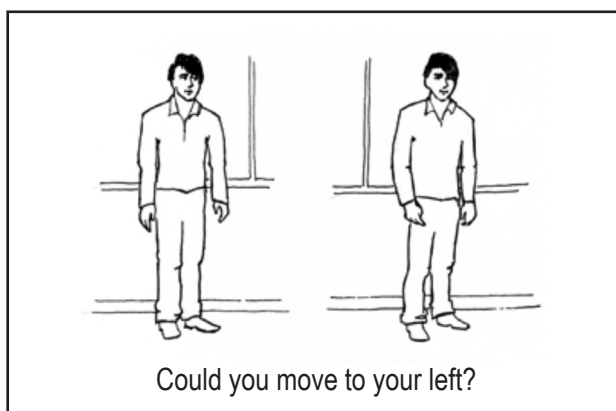
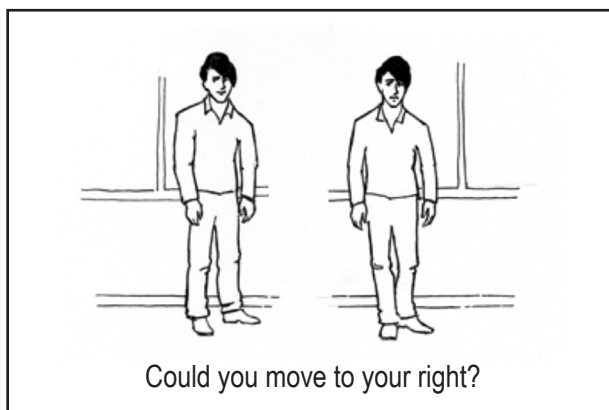
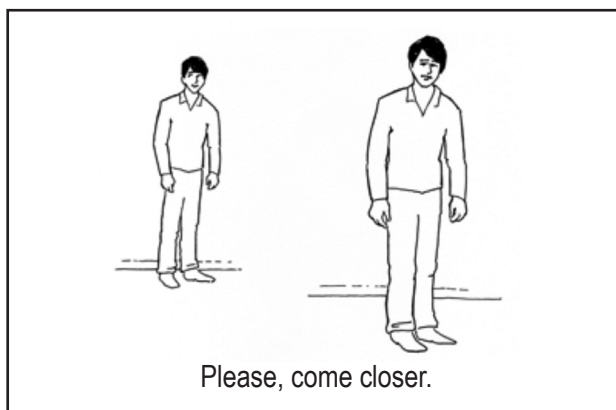
- A. Give the camera to a classmate.
- B. Get everyone to smile and take the photo.
- C. Tell the classmate to go to the front.
- D. Tell the classmate where to stand in relation to the others.
- E. Ask a classmate what his or her name is.
- F. Sit down.

What to say:

1. Could you stand on the end next to Julian?
2. Could you stand between Audrey and Julian?
3. Please, could you go to the front of the room?
4. Say, "Cheese!"
5. Could you take the next photo?
6. What is your name?



Visual Dictionary of Useful Phrases

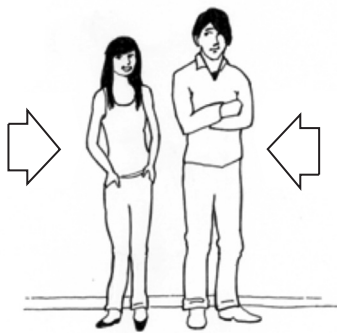




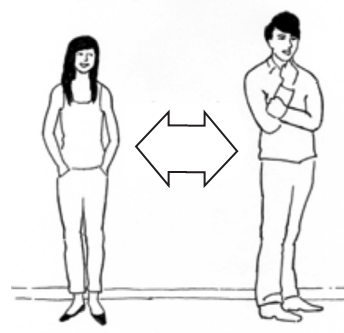
Aurelie, please stand next to Philip.
Aurelie, could you stand beside Philip?



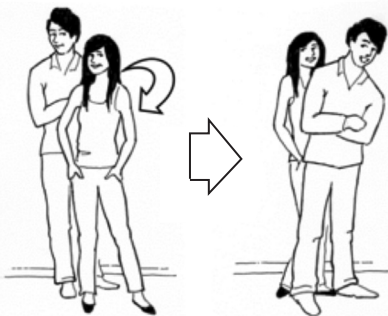
Aurelie, please sit next to Philip.
Aurelie, could you sit beside Philip?



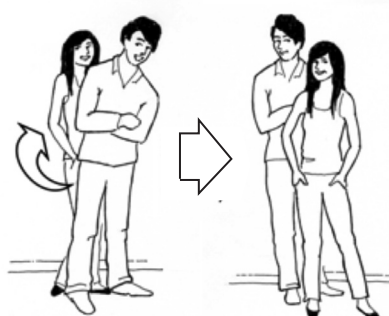
Could you stand closer together?



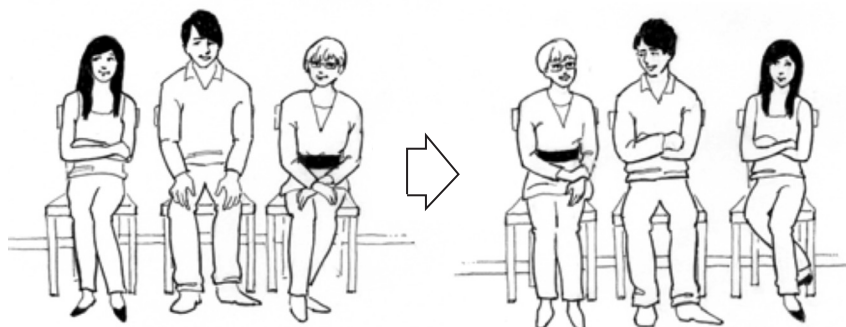
Could you stand further apart?



Philip, could you stand in front of Aurelie?



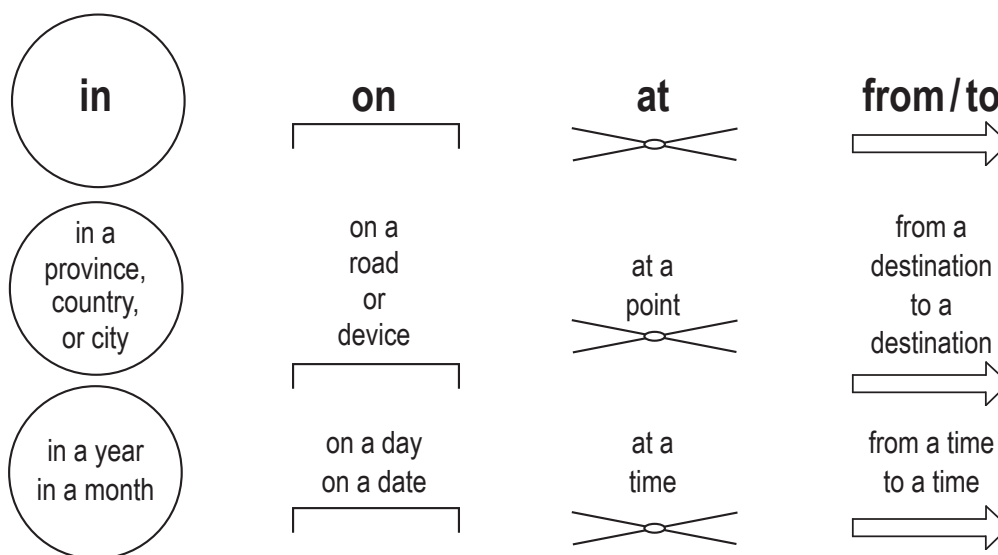
Philip, could you stand behind Aurelie?



Aurelie, could you switch places with Catherine?

Grammar Focus

Prepositions



RULE 1: When something can be represented as inside a circle, use **in** (i.e., I live in Montreal). Use **in** for months, years, and parts of the day (I was born in January, in 1986, early in the morning.).

RULE 2: When there is contact between something and a surface or a line, use **on** (i.e., on the South Shore) or with days and dates (i.e., on Saturday, on the weekend).

RULE 3: When something exists at a point in space, use **at** (i.e., I work at a convenience store) or a point in time (i.e., I work at eight o'clock.).

RULE 4: When something changes position, use **to** or **from** (i.e., I am driving from Montreal to Toronto.) or for periods of time (i.e., I slept from 12 A.M. to 12 P.M.).

INCORRECT: I live at Montreal.

INCORRECT: I am standing to St. Hubert Street.

INCORRECT: I will give you your book back in school.

INCORRECT: My brother is coming at my apartment tomorrow.

Everyday Vocabulary Challenge

List 10 items you can find in a bathroom.

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.
9.	10.

List 10 items you can find in a kitchen.

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.
9.	10.

List 10 items you can find in a bedroom.

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.
9.	10.

List 10 items you can find in a living room.

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.
9.	10.

Reflection

Reflection is an important part of your education. How else will you know if your courses are helping you reach your goals? Think about the previous lesson as a whole, the learning materials, the skills, the language structures, the vocabulary, and the classroom procedures.

1. Using a number, how would you describe the lesson you have just completed?

1	2	3	4	5
Abysmal	Bad	Average	Good	Outstanding

2. How much of the grammar presented in this lesson did you know BEFORE this lesson?

1	2	3	4	5
None		Some		A lot

3. How much of this grammar would you say you now know AFTER having done this lesson?

1	2	3	4	5
None		Some		A lot

4. How much new vocabulary have you learned from this lesson?

1	2	3	4	5
None		Some		A lot

5. What can you do now that you could not do before this lesson?

.....

.....

6. Create a short list of the activities during class. Think about how they helped you to engage with the material, your classmates and the teacher. Reflect on any problems or interruptions that interfered with the smooth running of the activities in your list.

.....

.....

7. This course sets a goal of learning openness and respect. Is that what you saw from your classmates? Create a list of any behaviors or attitudes that you would like to see change.

.....

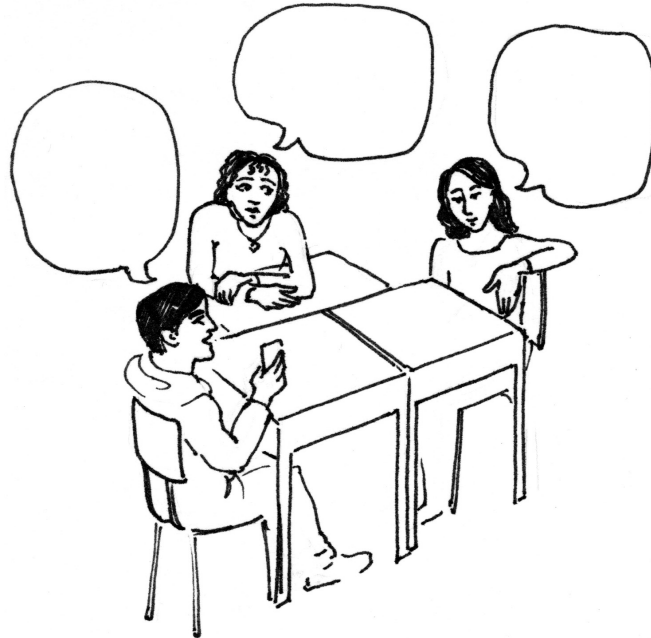
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Everyday House and Home Vocabulary

Card Game

Play this card game in groups of three or four. Players take turns selecting a card from the face-down deck and ask the question shown. The first player to guess the answer wins the card. Play continues to the left. The player with the most cards at the end of the game is the winner.

This serious game promotes vocabulary learning, information seeking, guessing, peer instruction, peer correction, and positive affect. The vocabulary will be useful later in the course in conjunction with the Wiki Writing Project.



**Everyday
House and Home
Vocabulary**

**Everyday
House and Home
Vocabulary**

**Everyday
House and Home
Vocabulary**

**Everyday
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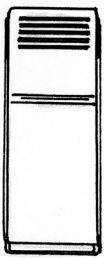
**Everyday
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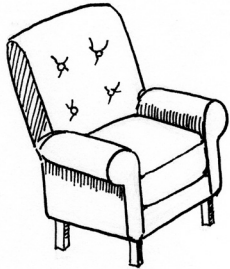
What do you cool your apartment with in the summer?

An air conditioner



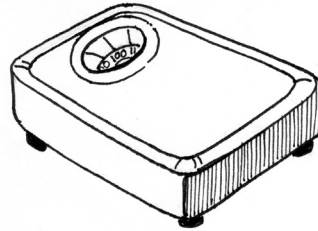
What wakes you up in the morning?

An alarm clock



What kind of chair does one person sit on to watch TV?

An armchair



What do you check your weight with?

A bathroom scale



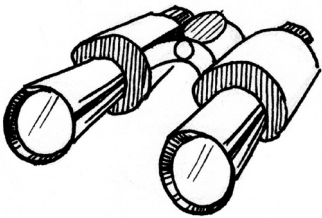
What do you wash yourself in?

A bathtub



What do you sleep in?

A bed



What do you look through to watch birds or other animals far away?

Binoculars



What do you keep your books in?

A bookcase



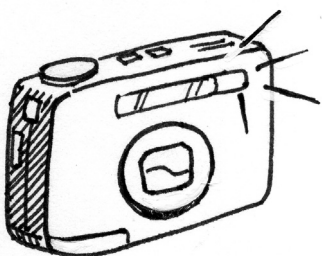
What kind of bed has one on top of the other?

A bunk bed



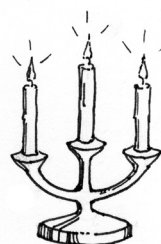
What do you spread butter onto bread with?

A butter knife



What do you take photographs with?

A camera



What do you burn candles in?

A candleholder, candelabrum, or candelabra

**Everyday
House and Home
Vocabulary**

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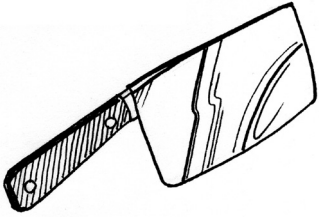
What piece of furniture do you keep your socks and underwear in?

A chest of drawers or a dresser



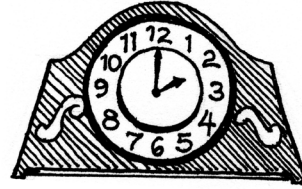
What do you cut food on?

A chopping board



What do you chop meat with?

A cleaver



What do you check the time with?

A clock



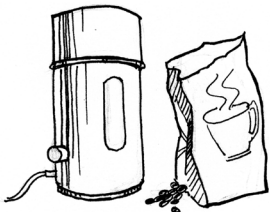
What do you hang your coat on?

A coat rack



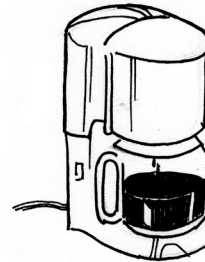
What do you drink coffee from?

A coffee cup



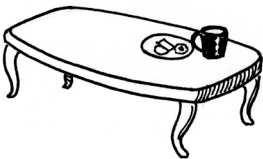
What do you grind coffee beans with?

A coffee grinder



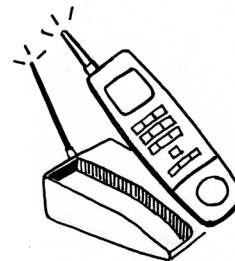
What do you make coffee in?

A coffeemaker



What do you call the little table in a living room?

A coffee table



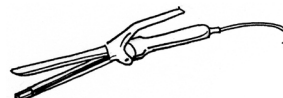
What kind of home phone has no wire?

A cordless phone



What do you remove corks from wine bottles with?

A corkscrew



What do you curl your hair with?

A curling iron

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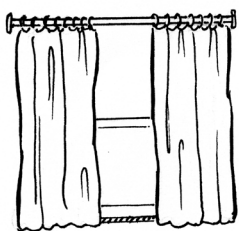
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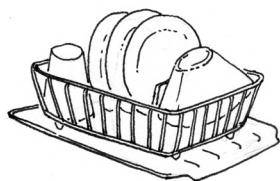
What do you draw across your windows at night?

Curtains



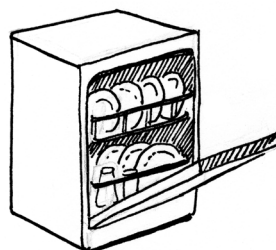
What do people in offices work at?

A desk



What do you leave dishes in to dry?

A dish rack



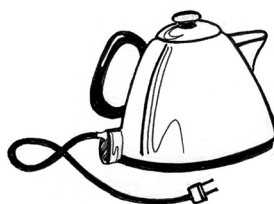
What large appliance washes dishes?

A dishwasher



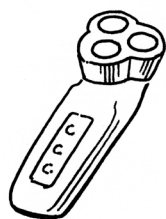
What two items do you use to sweep up dust and dirt?

A dustpan and broom



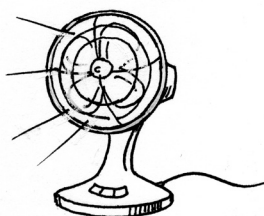
What small appliance do you boil water in for tea?

An electric kettle



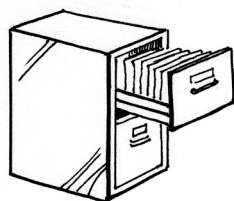
What handheld appliance do you shave with?

An electric razor or shaver



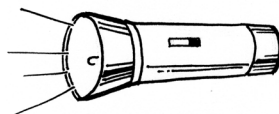
What small appliance keeps you cool in summer?

An electric fan



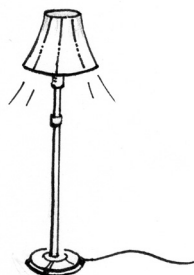
What piece of office furniture do you keep files in?

A filing cabinet



What kind of light fits in your pocket and takes batteries?

A flashlight (US)
A torch (UK)



What kind of light stands on the floor?

A floor lamp



What do you use to clean between your teeth?

Dental floss

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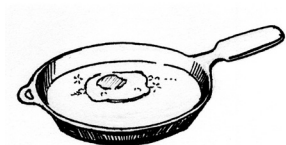
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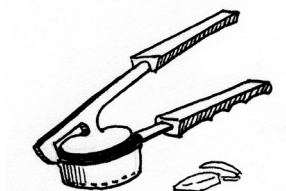
What do you fry
food in?

A frying pan



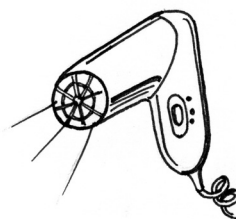
What do you use
to pour liquids
into jars or
bottles without
spilling them?

A funnel



What do you
crush garlic with?

A garlic press



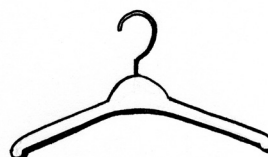
What do you dry
your hair with?

A hair dryer



What kind of bed
hangs between
two trees?

A hammock



What do you hang
your shirt on?

A hanger



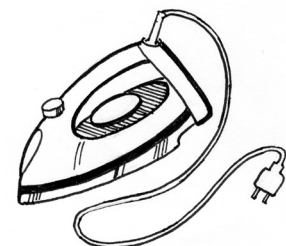
What can you
listen to music
with so that you
don't bother other
people?

Headphones



What kind of plant
do people have in-
side their homes?

A houseplant



What do you get
wrinkles out of
clothes with?

An iron



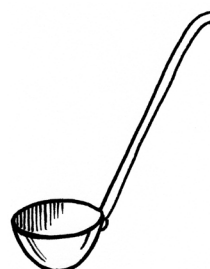
What do you use
to get the juice
out of oranges
and lemons?

A juicer



What do you boil
water in?

A kettle



What do you serve
soup with?

A ladle

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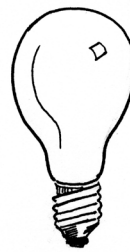
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What kind of chair
do you sit on in
the backyard?

A lawn chair



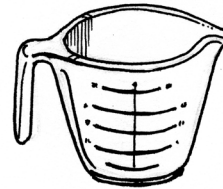
What do you
screw into a light
socket or a lamp?

A light bulb



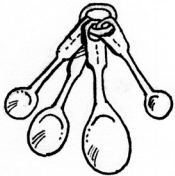
What do you use
to get lint and
dust off your
clothes?

A lint brush



What do you
measure liquids in
the kitchen with?

A measuring cup



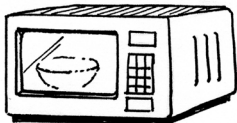
What do you
measure small
quantities of
powders and
liquids with?

Measuring spoons



What do you grind
meat with?

A meat grinder



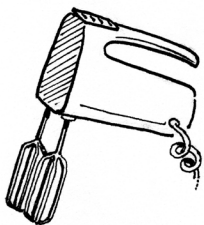
What kind of oven
doesn't get hot
when it heats
food?

A microwave oven



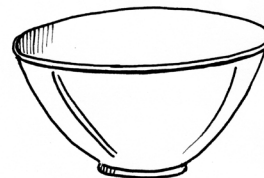
What do you look
at yourself in?

A mirror



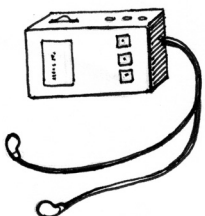
What handheld
appliance do you
mix cake batter
with?

A mixer



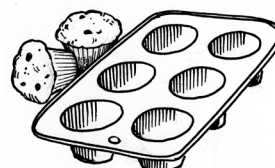
What do you mix
food in?

A mixing bowl



What do you lis-
ten to MP3s on?

An MP3 player



What do you bake
muffins in?

A muffin tin

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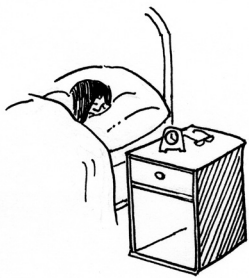
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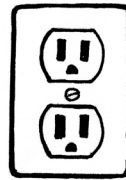
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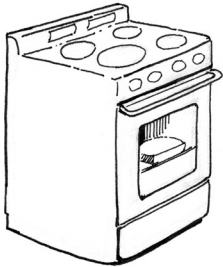
What piece of furniture do you keep next to your bed?

A nightstand



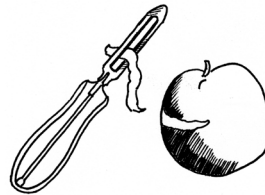
Where do you plug in your electric razor?

an outlet



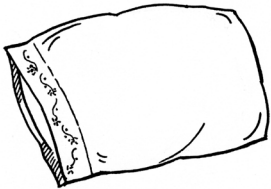
What appliance do you bake bread and cakes in?

An oven



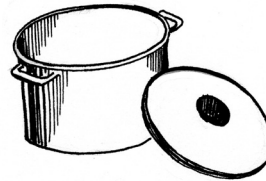
What do you use to remove the skins from fruits and vegetables?

A peeler



What do you rest your head on when you sleep?

A pillow



What do you boil potatoes in?

A pot



What do you shave with?

A razor



What appliance do you use to keep food cool?

A refrigerator or a fridge



What electrical appliance do you steam rice in?

A rice steamer



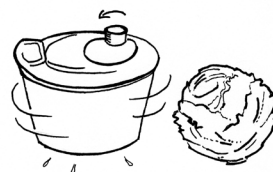
What kind of chair can you rock back and forth on?

A rocking chair



What do you roll pastry with?

A rolling pin



What do you dry lettuce with?

A salad spinner

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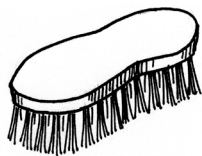
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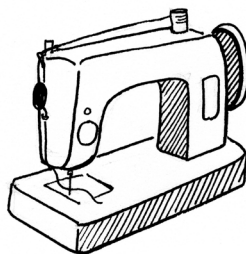
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What do you scrub the floor with?

A scrub brush



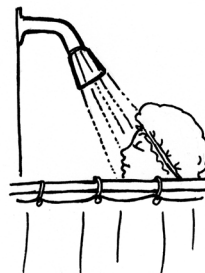
What kind of machine do you use to make or repair clothes?

A sewing machine



What do you put on your face before you shave?

Shaving cream



What do you wash yourself in when you are in a hurry?

A shower



What do you rinse rice or vegetables in?

A sieve



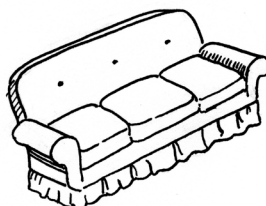
What do you wash your hands in?

A sink



What do you wash your hands with?

Soap



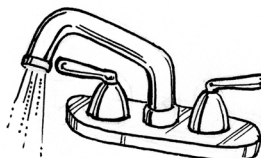
What kind of chair can three people sit on at the same time?

A sofa, or a couch



What kind of chair has feet but no arms or back?

A stool



What gives you hot or cold running water when you turn it on?

A tap (UK)
or faucet (US)



What do you use to look at the stars?

A telescope



What do you measure temperature with?

A thermometer

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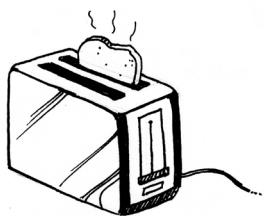
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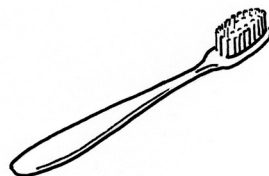
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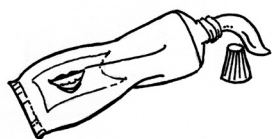
What do you toast
bread with?

A toaster



What do you clean
your teeth with?

a toothbrush



What do you put
on a toothbrush?

Toothpaste



What do you dry
yourself with?

A towel



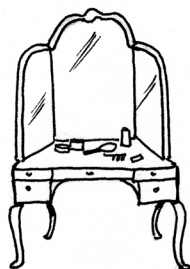
What do you pluck
your eyebrows
with?

Tweezers



What do you clean
carpets with?

A vacuum
cleaner



What has drawers
and a mirror?

A vanity table or a
dressing table



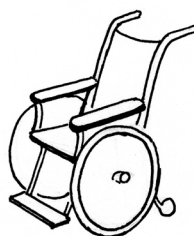
What do you
display flowers
in?

A vase



What do you wash
your clothes in?

A washing
machine



What kind of chair
has wheels on it
for people who
can't walk?

A wheelchair



What do you whip
cream or beat
eggs with?

A whisk



What do you
stir fry vegetables
in?

A wok

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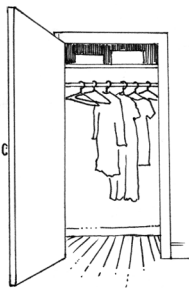
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Where do you
hang your
clothes?

A closet



What do you wipe
counters with?

A cloth



What do you eat
off of?

Dishes



What do you dust
furniture with?

A feather duster



What do you
throw garbage in?

A garbage can, a
trash can, or a
rubbish bin



What do you clean
tile floors with?

A bucket and
mop



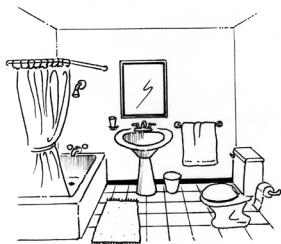
What do you
scrub a toilet
with?

A toilet brush



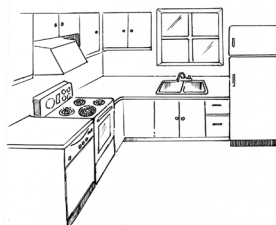
What room do you
relax with friends
or family in?

A living room



What room do you
shower and brush
your teeth in?

A bathroom



What room do you
cook in?

A kitchen



Where do you
keep your
medicine?

A medicine
cabinet



What room do you
sleep in?

A bedroom

Notes