

## The microwave lemon trick – and 10 other household hacks that actually work

### Level 3: Advanced – Teacher's notes

**Article summary:** The author shares some household hacks to make life easier.

**Time:** 60–90 minutes

**Skills:** Reading, Speaking, Writing

**Language focus:** Vocabulary: collocations

**Materials needed:** One copy of the worksheet per student

#### 1. Warmer

- a. This activity aims to introduce the topic of housekeeping and for students to reflect on their relationship to housework and household hacks.

#### 2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Check understanding by asking students to rephrase or find synonyms for the words.

**Key:**

1. skewer
2. bespoke
3. noxious
4. Mould (mold, AmE)
5. Neurodivergent
6. Grounds
7. smoulder (smolder, AmE)
8. smudged
9. grimy
10. zap
11. neutraliser (neutralizer, AmE)
12. sift
13. pong
14. simmer

- b. Ask students to do the exercise individually and compare their answers in pairs or small groups.

**Key:**

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. neurodivergent | 8. neutralisers |
| 2. smudged        | 9. simmer       |
| 3. grounds        | 10. sifting     |
| 4. noxious        | 11. bespoke     |
| 5. grimy          | 12. smouldering |
| 6. zap            | 13. mould       |
| 7. pong           |                 |

#### 3. Comprehension check

- a. Ask students to read the statements and find the relevant information in the text to complete the task.

**Key:**

1. a discarded plastic bottle, a cotton bud, a skewer, and something to pierce the lid with, like a knife
2. Sewing them together will create a sense of luxury and fullness.
3. 200g citric acid, 150ml boiling water, 20ml washing-up liquid and (optional) 5–10 drops essential oil
4. It can remove algae, dissolve rust, and kill mould, clean shower screens, baths, sinks and shower heads, brass, and copper, and remove stains on laundry.
5. Don't sort, and wash everything together on cold. Don't fold.
6. Used coffee grounds.
7. Washing soda. For stains, mix with hot water and soak clothes for an hour. Sift onto chairs, shoes, rugs, or carpets to remove smells.
8. Wipe it with a damp tea bag and then polish it.
9. Use a lemon. Put it in water and microwave for five minutes. Leave it for 10 minutes before wiping down.
10. Use vinegar.

#### 4. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise in pairs and highlight the phrases in the article. Remind them that the phrases might be separated by objects.

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**Key:**

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <i>avoid</i>    | 6. <i>squeeze</i>  |
| 2. <i>kill</i>     | 7. <i>dilute</i>   |
| 3. <i>remove</i>   | 8. <i>soften</i>   |
| 4. <i>dissolve</i> | 9. <i>brighten</i> |
| 5. <i>deter</i>    | 10. <i>scrub</i>   |

- b. Ask students to write questions individually or in pairs. Then, regroup them into pairs or small groups and have them discuss their questions. There will be many possible questions and answers.

### 5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note their ideas about each statement and encourage them to support their opinions with examples and details.

### 6. In your own words

- a. Ask students first to choose an area they want to focus on. Remind them they can choose something they already do well or want to learn. Give them time to research. Then, ask them to write at least three hacks. Remind them that they can use the article as a model. They can structure their text in a similar format or more like a "how to" tutorial.

Have students peer edit in pairs.

- b. Ask students to share their hacks in small groups. You can ask students to share one hack with the whole class if there is time. You could also ask students to share their texts online.