

Home habits

1 Reading

A Discuss these statements with a partner. How many are true for you?

- I make my bed every morning.
- I do the dishes right after I eat.
- I organize my books and CDs.
- I always turn off the light when I leave a room.
- I keep my magazines for about six months.
- I use a dozen different cleaning products.

B Read the article. How do your home habits compare with the ones in the article?

AT HOME – How **typical** are you?

Do you make your bed every day? Do you try to save electricity at home? Are you a pack rat? Read about the home habits of Americans – are they the same as yours?

Making beds and doing dishes

74% of people make their beds every morning. 5% *never* do. And 3% actually change their sheets every day.

Do you wash the dishes right after eating? 58% of Americans do, but 5% let theirs sit for two or more days!



Neat and tidy

Are you an organized person? 13% of people alphabetize their books and CDs, or organize them in some way!

The average home has 13 cleaning products around the house.

Pack rats

How long do you save magazines? About half the population throws away old ones after six months. But 20% keep them for years and years.



Lights out

Are you careful about saving electricity? 25% of people turn off the light when they leave a room. 8% never do. Four out of five leave the lights on when they go out at night.



Who does the laundry?

Men do 29% of the 419 million loads of laundry washed each week. Almost all unmarried men do at least one load a week.

C Fill in the missing information from the article. Then discuss with a partner. Which facts do you find interesting? Which are surprising?

- 74% of people in the U.S. make their beds every morning.
- 58% of them _____ right after eating.
- _____ of Americans never turn off the light when they leave a room
- _____ of them organize their books and CDs.
- 50% of all Americans _____ after six months.
- Almost all unmarried men in the U.S. _____.

A Most people make their beds. I think that's surprising. I don't make mine every day.

B No, me neither. I don't have time. I also think it's interesting that . . .

2 Listening and writing Evening routines

About
you

A Do you do any of these things when you get home every day? Tell the class.



B Listen. What does Mario do when he gets home? Number the pictures above in the order he does things. Is your evening like Mario's?

C Group survey Take turns answering the questions. Take notes on your classmates' answers.

- What do you do as soon as you get home?
- Do you change your clothes first?
What do you do next?
- What do you do before you have dinner?
- Do you watch TV while you're eating?
- Do you do the dishes right after dinner?
- Do you have a snack before you go to bed?
What's your bedtime routine?

A OK, so what do you do as soon as you get home? I check my phone messages.

B Really? I always get a glass of water or something.

D Use your notes to write a short article about the evening routines in your group. Use the headings below.

Document 1

Evening Routines

First things first
Most of the people in our group change their clothes **as soon as** they get home. One person has some juice or soda **first and then** changes. We all do different things **next**. Most of us eat a snack, but one person never eats **before** dinner.

Dinnertime
Everyone eats dinner at home. Half of us watch TV **while** we are eating. Half of us talk to our family **during** dinner. No one does the dishes right after dinner.

Time for bed
All of us watch TV **before** we go to bed. Some of us go to bed early, and some of us go to bed late, **after** we watch the news. We all read for about half an hour **when** we go to bed.]

Help note

Ordering events

- To show a sequence:
first, next, (and) then
- Before a noun:
before / after
during = "at the same time as"
- To link actions:
when
as soon as = "immediately after,"
"right after"
while = "at the same time as"
before / after