

Are Chores 'Forced Labour'? 做家务是卖苦力吗?

英语学习点: *Household Tasks* 家务事

An 11-year-old boy from Germany has caused a domestic incident by claiming he's the victim of forced labour because his mother asks him to do the chores.

The youngster even called a police emergency line to complain he was being treated like a slave after his mother told him to clean the home and terrace.



No everyone is joyous about housework.

Household tasks such as washing up, dusting and hoovering are mundane for all but the tidiest amongst us. But this young boy's actions have made it clear just how much he hates housework.

Police say the youth from Aachen, who has not been identified, spoke to an officer on the 110 number. Clearly unwilling to carry out dull and soul-destroying jobs, he said: "I have to work all day long. I haven't any free time."

His mum replied: "He plays all day long and when told to tidy up what he's done, he calls it forced labour." She also revealed that he'd been threatening to call them having repeatedly complained about having to lend a helping hand around the house during the summer holidays.

Lots of kids are reluctant to muck in when it comes to cleaning, but how can they be motivated so parents don't end up working their fingers to the bone? Perhaps pocket money is a good incentive. A financial reward is often a good way to get people to put a bit of elbow grease into their jobs.

Or maybe if he understood the true meaning of 'forced labour' he'd stop complaining about being treated like a skivvy!

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. How did the boy contact the police?
2. Did the boy's mother ask him to clean inside or outside the house?
3. Name three types of chores mentioned in the article.
4. Was the mother surprised her son called the police?
5. What is the English expression used in the article meaning a regular payment made by parents to their children?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. The boy had a _____ about housework.

complain	complaining	complaint	complained
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2. Not many people enjoy the _____ of household chores.

mundaneness	mundanity	mundane	mundanion
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3. People who find their work boring and depressing say it's soul _____ .

destroying	destruced	destruction
destroyed		

4. My mother has _____ up every day of her life.

tidy	tidies	tidyed	tidied
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5. I hate _____ the washing up.

do	doing	making	make
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. How did the boy contact the police? By phone. He called the police.
2. Did the boy's mother ask him to clean inside or outside the house? Both. His mother told him to clean the house and terrace.
3. Name three types of chores mentioned in the article. Washing up, dusting and hoovering.
4. Was the mother surprised her son called the police? No. He'd been threatening to call them.
5. What is the English expression used in the article meaning a regular payment made by parents to their children? Pocket money.

Exercise 练习

1. The boy had a complaint about housework.
2. Not many people enjoy the mundanity of household chores.
3. People who find their work boring and depressing say it's soul destroying.
4. My mother has tidied up every day of her life.
5. I hate doing the washing up.

Glossary 词汇表

a domestic incident 一个家庭事件	forced labour 强迫劳动
chores 家务琐事	slave 奴隶
terrace 露台	household tasks 家务事
washing up 洗碗	dusting 擦灰
hoovering 吸尘	mundane 世俗的, 平凡的
housework 家务劳动	dull 没劲的, 无聊的
soul-destroying 枯燥乏味的, 杀伤灵魂的	to tidy up 收拾干净
to lend a helping hand 帮忙	to muck in 一起出力, 干活
working their fingers to the bone 拼命干活	pocket money 零花钱
elbow grease 干活的力气	skivvy 佣人, 仆人