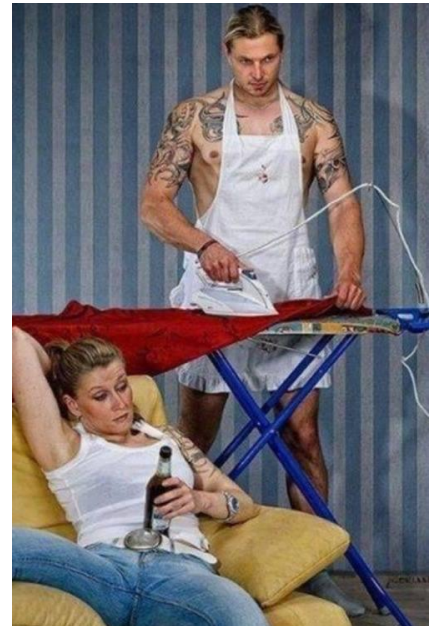


EN210118-22_Gender Roles_part III

- A Compare these photos, especially regarding the ways women and men are portrayed. Then comment on these depictions – realistic or idealistic? (Keywords are fine.)



- B Read the following article and do the following tasks.
- 1 Outline the difficulties and disappointments a house husband faces according to Paul Merrill. (keywords are fine unless you want to write the text.)
 - 2 Analyze the tone of the text and the means the author employs to gain the readers' sympathy. (written)
 - 3 How does the author generally portray himself in this article? (Keywords only.)
 - 4 Explain why childcare and housework still seem to be such unpopular work with males. (Keywords only.)
 - 5 What (more) can be done to improve the present situation?
Prepare a 3-to-5-minute talk with which you want to persuade your audience of your ideas, specifically the males of becoming house husbands and/or starting a career in childcare.

Ten mistakes house husbands make

In this text Paul Merrill describes his experiences as a house husband. Right from the start he had to learn that domestic duty and taking care of his three boys is pretty hard work, and there's hardly a day when he isn't confronted with an embarrassing mistake.

THINKING I COULD HANDLE THE LOSS OF STATUS OK, so I didn't miss getting home from work at 7pm to find only the dog was pleased to see me, but at least I'd spent the day managing a team of professionals and holding a position of authority. I'd made important decisions, held meetings with clients and lunched
5 at trendy restaurants where napkins weren't made of paper. Now the important decisions involved whether my youngest was more likely to eat Dora the Explorer or Wiggles yoghurt (neither, as it turned out) and if I could get away with giving him the bolognaise sauce that had sat in the fridge for a week.

HOPING THE KIDS WOULDN'T NOTICE MY LITTLE BLUNDERS There are some
10 errors I did make only once – putting uncooked bacon in their packed lunches because I thought it was ham and mistaking antibacterial wipes containing bleach for moist toilet tissues while treating the five-year-old. Oh, and forgetting to fill in a note from school giving permission for the middle child to go on a three-day excursion. With each one, you see a look in their eyes that says, "Mummy wouldn't
15 have done that." Then Mummy gets home, is informed and confirms she has, indeed, never done that.

DUSTING OFF THE GOLF CLUBS I'm not saying I ever thought housework and looking after kids was easy, but I assumed there'd be a nice round-of-golf-sized hole in my day once I'd cleared away the breakfast things and before the afternoon
20 school run. What else would there be to do? Sadly, my golf clubs soon had dust on them. I quickly learnt the six hours between 9am and 3pm are sucked into a time warp and actually last about an hour. And that's with all my crafty timesaving measures, such as taking dirty clothes out of laundry baskets, refolding them and putting them away in the kids' drawers.

25 NOT FOLLOWING WASHING MACHINE INSTRUCTIONS As I unloaded the washing machine during my first week, I wondered what had prompted my wife to buy so many pale pink items (including underwear for me) and why on earth we had a cashmere sweater small enough for a Barbie. [...] A coping mechanism I developed for when I'd forgotten to hang out school uniforms was to microwave them dry. One tip: don't do it for white shirts; they tend to crisp up and go brown.

Paul Merrill, *Sunday Magazine*, 2012