

Tatis Medina

Lesson 2: Exercises 1-4

Exercise 1: Write your truth claim in paragraph form

I've been seeing articles and rants online that the education system is to blame for the lack of Home Economics learning. A number of young adults today are blaming their schools for their inability to cook, clean and accomplish 'adult' stuff. These adults feel incapable and utterly hopeless when doing chores. To solve their problem, they demand to bring back Home Economics for adults. As I finish digesting this nonsense, I roll my eyes so far back inside my skull.

I grew up with hard work. I had militant parents and it's either you help out with the housework or... there wasn't another choice at all. Granted, I've become dependable around the house to this day. None of my capabilities can be credited from Home Economics classes I took in school. None. It all came from my upbringing, enforced by my parents and their family values.

I became a capable and responsible young woman not because my teachers taught me to be. My parents did. It's called Home Economics for a reason- it revolves around the home. To learn how to do laundry, cook, mend clothes, clean, fix broken furniture, it needs to be a habit for everyone in the family.

If a child grows up ignorant of house duties, it's the parents' fault for not teaching the child. There is no way a school teacher can enforce this to students because the teachers don't share the same bed with our parents.

Lazy privileged children grow up to be lazy privileged adults. It annoys me that that these bums who face their piled up unclean dishes on their sinks have the nerve to blame it on the education system. No, Derik! Stop whining and wash your dishes like a grown ass man.

Exercise 2: Write from the opposite stance. Make a point-by-point contradiction of the truth claim you wrote in Exercise 1.

Not everyone is blessed with parents who give adequate time for their kids. Some parents work 24 hours a day, rarely seeing their kids just to make a sacrifice of providing for them. Some parents work overseas and have no to little interaction with their children. Some kids don't have parents at all.

It's important to see the bigger picture. Bringing back comprehensive Home Economics classes is a progressive solution for those who want and need to get their adult lives together. There is nothing wrong with having a helping hand in your 20s and 30s.

There are instances when even adults get lost along the way. In whatever age and “privilege” status, anyone should be given a chance to learn responsibilities at their own pace. Home Economics for adults can give this opportunity for those who want to catch up and straighten out their lives.

Exercise 3: Write a monologue in such a way that the arguments you wrote in Exercise 1 and Exercise 2 seem to be debating against each other.

I have no amor for lazy privileged brats. It's unfair that I have to work hard doing chores all my life while special snowflakes get a pass until the time comes that they no longer have mommy and daddy showering them with yayas and chauffeurs.

Sometimes I wonder if I truly am revolted or just jealous. They've always had it easy until responsibility came knocking at their door. If they have the money to pay for Home Economics For Adults 101, I shouldn't care. I should cheer for their baby steps instead.

But baby steps at 25 years old? Pathetic! Why couldn't they learn how to iron clothes when they were at Highschool and needed to rush for crisp school uniforms? I'm certain they had a yaya, dad, or poor grandma do it for them.

Maybe over time they've realized their selfish mistakes, and learning to do housework as adults would make mom proud. It's never too late to grab a broom and sweep off the past years of negligence.

I bet whatever there is to clean has piled up over the years and now there is only a mountain of excuses and dependability blocking their way. They could have easily avoided all the trouble if they weren't just so damn lazy.

Exercise 4: Write a 2-character scene. Put an object that the characters will talk about in the scene.

INT. CONDO - NIGHT

KATE is staring at a pile of dishes in her flat's kitchen sink. The sink is filled to the brim with plates, silverware, mugs, and moldy leftovers in a pool of grimy sink water. There is a line of ants carrying crumbs.

Kate sighs and calls out for her cousin.

Kate: Tine? Halika please.

TINE walks to the sink. She is holding her phone to her face, watching something.

Kate: Ano 'yang pinapanood mo?

Tine: Ah ano, si Marie Kondo, 'yung series niya sa Netflix.

Kate: Ha? Sino- nevermind. Pakipatay muna niyan.

Tine turns off her phone and puts it inside her pocket.

Tine: Bakit ate?

Kate: Umuwi ako sa probinsya 'nung Friday, sinabihan kita na maghugas 'di ba?

Tine doesn't care.

Kate: Monday nang gabi ngayon, galing akong Laguna. Parang dumami pa hugasin?

Tine: Sorry. Nag-hang out kasi ng mga kaklase ko dito kagabi at 'nung Sabado Nag-inuman kami. 'Tsaka dapat ipapadala ni mama si ate Annie yesterday para maglinis dito. Na-cancel lang.

Kate: Kahit na. Dapat ginawa mo pa rin.

Tine: I don't wanna hear it ate. Midterms ko na and subsob pa ako sa training. Please naman, I need to focus on my studies.

Tine: Ha! Pero nakikipag-inuman ka kesyo Midterms mo? Galing!

Tine: Don't judge. It's a group study drinking sesh. Alam mo, try mo rin para kumalma kalma ka.

Kate: Kakalma na ako kapag natuto ka nang rumespeto sa tinitirhan natin.

Tine: First of all, my parents own this unit. Wala pang kalahati ng rent ang binabayad mo dito. You do not own this place, kaya ilugar mo ang sarili mo.

Kate is fuming.

Tine: Second, kung gusto mong spotless dito, eh di ikaw ang maglinis. Simple! Lastly...

Tine takes her phone out of her pocket and opens it. She plays a video of "Tidying Up With Marie Kondo."

Marie Kondo (VO): *We can only transform our lives if we sincerely want to.*

Tine: What makes you think wala akong balak maghugas niyan? Actually kaya ko nga pinapanood ito para ma-motivate ako to wash the dishes. Yet you came barging in at pinangunahan mo lang ako.

A momentary staring contest between Kate and Tine. Tine feels victorious, but suddenly Kate grabs the phone and throws it in the sink. It falls deep in the murky water along with the dishes. Tine no longer feels victorious.

Kate: Yes. I believe na mamotivate ka na ngayon ni Marie Kondo.

Kate exits.

The phone is still playing the video, but it's glitching.

Marie Kondo (VO): *T-t-t-tyding iss the-the-the act of confr-fronti-ting yourself.*

End.