



# Renovation

Conversation > Advanced 7



## Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

<b>renovation</b>	The act of improving an old building, piece of furniture, etc. by renewing or restoring it to good condition.
[noun]	<i>Ex: The room's <b>renovation</b> is almost complete.</i>

<b>plaster</b>	A substance made of lime, water, and sand, that is put on walls and ceilings to create a smooth surface.
[noun]	<i>Ex: <b>Plaster</b> has been in use for thousands of years all around the world.</i>

<b>flake off</b>	To break away from something bigger due to damage (as of paint or plaster).
[phrase]	<i>Ex: Steam from the shower caused the paint to <b>flake off</b> the walls.</i>

<b>stepladder</b>	A folding portable ladder that is hinged at the top so that it can stand on its own.
[noun]	<i>Ex: Be careful; this <b>stepladder</b> is very unstable.</i>

<b>pliers</b>	A metal tool, used for holding things firmly and twisting and cutting wire.
[noun]	<i>Ex: The men used <b>pliers</b> to remove the security tags from the stolen items.</i>



<b>spirit level</b>	A glass tube with liquid and a bubble of air inside, used to test whether a surface is level based on the position of the bubble.
[noun]	<i>Ex: <b>Spirit levels</b> became a popular tool for carpenters a long time ago.</i>

<b>whitewash</b>	A mixture of chalk or lime and water, used for painting houses and walls white.
[noun]	<i>Ex: In the early 60's everyone used <b>whitewash</b> to paint their houses.</i>

<b>company</b>	The state of being with someone while he or she is doing something.
[noun]	<i>Ex: Most people just want dogs for <b>company</b> or emotional companionship.</i>

<b>eternally</b>	Forever.
[adverb]	<i>Ex: I am <b>eternally</b> grateful for all of your help.</i>



## Exercise 2 – Dialogue

*Choose one character and read the dialogue aloud with your tutor.*

Daniel: Have you decided what you're going to do with your money, Liam?

Liam: Well, it's obvious that my attic needs renovation. All the paint is starting to flake off the ceiling.

Daniel: There are a few holes in the walls that you need to plaster over, too. I can help you with that.

Liam: Daniel, you always help me. I'm eternally grateful for your help, and company.

Daniel: Don't stress about it, it's my pleasure. What equipment do we need to fix the attic?

Liam: Well for starters we need some whitewash and a stepladder so that I can repaint the ceiling.

Daniel: I'm guessing we also need some plaster to fix the walls.



Liam: That's right. There's a whole lot of loose nails on the shelving in there, too.

Daniel: I own a pair of pliers. I can pull out the nails and put up some new shelves.

Liam: Really? Do you happen to have a spirit level as well? I want to make sure the shelves are level.

Daniel: Yeah I think I do. I'll go through my tools and let you know.

Liam: Thanks, that would be very helpful, Daniel.

Daniel: You're welcome. Maybe if I save you enough money on tools, you'll throw me a party after all.

Liam: Don't get your hopes up! You're not getting a party!



## Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

*Choose the correct answers from the answer pool below and fill in the blanks.*

### Answer Pool

pliers  
stepladder  
renovation  
plaster  
flaking off  
company  
spirit level  
whitewash  
eternally

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ on the walls was cracked and flaking.
2. The paint is \_\_\_\_\_! It's because of the moisture.
3. When the \_\_\_\_\_ is finished, we'll be able to move back into the house.
4. Pass me that pair of \_\_\_\_\_, please.
5. I need to buy a new \_\_\_\_\_, my old one broke.
6. I just enjoy his \_\_\_\_\_. He's such a funny guy to hang out with.
7. Such precision is routinely obtained with a \_\_\_\_\_ and string.
8. I'd be \_\_\_\_\_ grateful if you could arrange the meeting.
9. I'm going to paint my house with \_\_\_\_\_.



## Exercise 4 – Role Play

*Take turns with your tutor and act out the scene described below.*

**Scene:** You are about to renovate your home. Persuade your friend Susan to help you, and don't forget to promise to give her something in return. The teacher can be Susan.



## Exercise 5 – Discussion

*Discuss the following questions with your tutor.*

1. Have you ever renovated a flat, house or room? What was your experience like?
2. Do people usually renovate buildings by themselves or hire someone else in your country?
3. Is it expensive to renovate apartments or houses in your country? Why or why not?
4. Have you ever used a spirit level? If so, what for?
5. What does your dream home look like? Describe it in detail.