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Before Reading

1 Read and answer the questions.



Life on a Modern Farm


My name is Dan and I live on a farm. My father is a farmer. He grows carrots, onions, potatoes and sugar beet. He also keeps dairy cows, that is cows for milk. It is hard work. Every morning, he gets up at six o'clock in the morning. He has a banana and a bowl of cereal for breakfast and then he starts work at half past six. In the winter he finishes work at six o'clock, but in the summer he finishes work at nine o'clock. When he wants to relax, he goes bird watching or he takes photographs.

- a What is Dan's father's job?
- b What time does he get up in the morning?
- c What does he have for breakfast?
- d What time does he finish work?
- e What does he do to relax?

2 Now in pairs, ask and answer the same questions about your family members.

What's your father's job?

He's a bus driver.

3  In pairs, look quickly at the pictures in the book.
Then circle the answers.

- a Mr Murphy lives in a town / in the country.
- b He travels by bus and by bike / by car and on foot.
- c His house is quiet / noisy.

4 Match the characters from the story with their hobbies.



- 1 Hello. I'm Mr Murphy. I like reading.
- 2 Hi! I'm Mr Murphy's older daughter. I like dancing.
- 3 Hello. I'm Mr Murphy's wife. I play the piano.
- 4 Hello. I'm Mr Murphy's mother. I love playing the guitar.

2 It's 5 o'clock. Sean Murphy is on his way home from work. He is tired and the bus is full but he is happy that he is going home. 'I'm happy that I'm going home to my family and my little house in the country,' he thinks.

He thinks of his wife and his four children and his mother and he smiles.

'I want to see my wife and my children and my mother,' he thinks. Then he thinks of his quiet house in the country.

'But first of all I want to sit on the sofa. I want to relax and I want to read a good book.'

Finally Mr Murphy is at home. He is very tired now but he is happy. He says hello to his wife and children and mother. Then he sits down on the sofa. He stretches his legs then lifts up his book. 'Now I can relax,' he thinks and smiles.

GLOSSARY

- **full:** (here) with lots of people
- **lifts up:** takes in his hand
- **on his way home:** going home
- **relax:** rest and feel good
- **sofa:** comfortable chair for 2 or 3 people
- **stretches his legs:** puts his legs out in front of him

But Mr Murphy is not alone in the room. His wife and children and mother are there, too. And there is a piano and a guitar. And there are pots and pans bubbling on the cooker in the kitchen. Mr Murphy can't relax. He puts his book down and sighs.

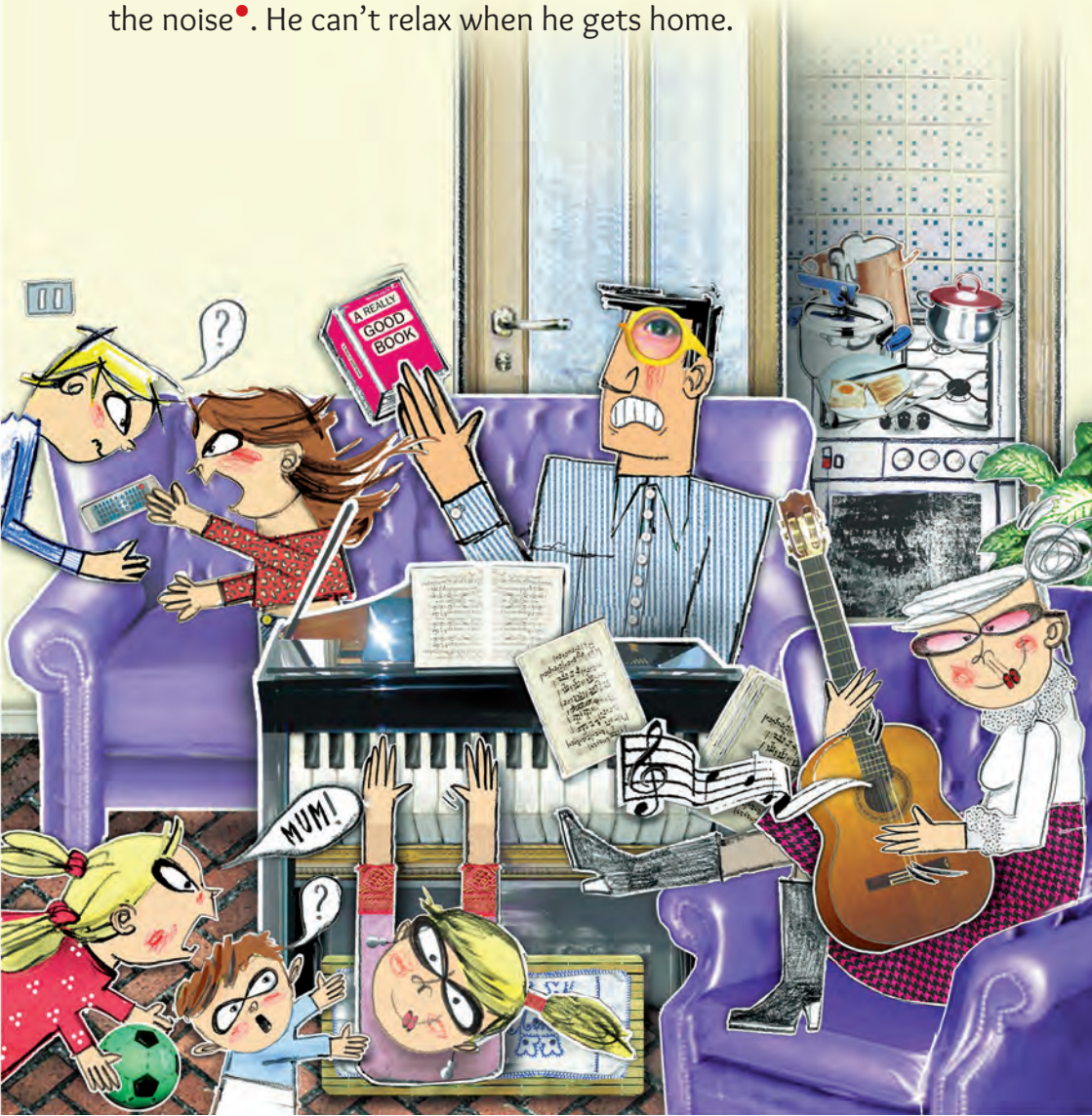
It's the same every day. When he comes home his mother is playing the guitar and his wife is playing the piano. His two younger children are fighting and his two older children are arguing about the television. And the pots and pans are bubbling on the cooker.



GLOSSARY

- **arguing:** discussing a problem aloud
- **bubbling:** (here) making noise when cooking
- **fighting:** hitting each other
- **sighs:** breathes aloud because he is unhappy

Poor Mr Murphy is very unhappy. He can't read his book with all the noise •. He can't relax when he gets home.



• **noise:** loud sounds

One day Sean Murphy is walking to the bus stop with a friend. He looks very sad.

‘What’s wrong?’ asks his friend.

‘I have a big problem,’ says Mr Murphy.

‘When I go home I’m tired. I want to sit on the sofa and read my book and relax. But I can never relax. I can never read my book. When I come home my mother is playing the guitar. My wife is playing the piano. My two younger children are fighting and my two older children are arguing about the television. And the pots and pans are bubbling on the cooker.’



GLOSSARY

- **What’s wrong?:** What’s the problem?

After Reading

1 Look at the pictures. Write what is happening in them.

a



.....

b



.....

c



.....

d



.....

2 What are they doing when Mr Murphy comes home? Write sentences using the verbs below. Use the present continuous.

fight listen dance run after bubble snore

- a Mr Murphy's wife
- b Mr Murphy's mother
- c The geese
- d His two older children
- e His two younger children
- f The pots and pans