

Babies make husbands lazier

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New research suggests that husbands do not do their fair share of work around the house. A study from the Ohio State University says that men who do an equal share of housework are a rare breed. Researchers looked at the lifestyles of 182 working couples who became first-time parents. Both partners worked roughly the same amount of hours in full-time jobs. The research team found that men did less housework after the baby was born, even though both mothers and fathers worked the same number of hours outside the home. During the first few weeks of parenthood, fathers did an average of five hours a week less housework, although they spent this time helping to look after the baby.

It is a different story for mothers. Becoming a parent added about 21 hours per week to the amount of work she did, even with her full-time job. Most of their extra work was spent looking after her baby. The researchers explained why new fathers did not keep up with the extra work after a child was born. They said that most men were simply unaware that the mother was doing so much more work. Another reason is that after a baby is born, fathers tend to follow what happened in their own homes when they were younger. They automatically accept and follow the 'traditional' roles of the mother looking after the baby and the father working, even though the mother is also working the same number of hours in her job.

Sources: *The Epoch Times* / *STW News Press* / *smh.com*

Writing

Men and women should always share housework 50-50. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

research / fair share / equal / rare breed / working couples / full-time jobs / average / story / amount / extra work / unaware / younger / automatically / traditional roles

True / False

- Research suggests husbands do their fair share of housework. T / F
- Researchers looked at 1,820 couples. T / F
- Men in the research worked twice as many hours as their wives. T / F
- Fathers spent an average of five hours a week looking after their baby. T / F
- A new baby adds 21 hours to a mother's weekly workload. T / F
- Fathers were totally aware their wife was working harder. T / F
- Fathers followed what happened at home when they were younger. T / F
- Fathers took on traditional roles after their baby was born. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| 1. share | a. about |
| 2. equal | b. additional |
| 3. couples | c. used |
| 4. roughly | d. quantity |
| 5. spent | e. partners |
| 6. amount | f. part |
| 7. extra | g. go along with |
| 8. unaware | h. identical |
| 9. accept | i. positions |
| 10. roles | j. in the dark |

Discussion – Student A

- Would you rather stay at home and look after the baby or go to work?
- Are we becoming lazier or busier in our life?
- Do you like lazy days?
- What advice do you have for mothers with lazy husbands?
- Should fathers take lessons on looking after babies?
- Should we follow traditional mother and father roles?
- What do you think of mothers going to work and fathers staying at home?
- What questions would you like to ask the researcher?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. do their fair share of | a. up with the extra work |
| 2. men who do an equal | b. breed |
| 3. a rare | c. roles |
| 4. roughly the same amount | d. of five hours a week |
| 5. fathers did an average | e. homes |
| 6. It is a different | f. work around the house |
| 7. fathers did not keep | g. unaware |
| 8. most men were simply | h. of hours |
| 9. in their own | i. share of housework |
| 10. traditional | j. story for mothers |

Discussion – Student B

- Are men or women lazier?
- How lazy are you?
- Is it good or bad to be lazy? Why?
- Should men do an equal share of the housework?
- Do you do your fair share of the housework?
- Is it important that both a mother and father work?
- How important is it for one parent to stay at home with the kids?
- How difficult is it to look after a baby?

Spelling

- men who do an eaulq share
- loyugrh the same
- The ecrhears team
- men did less shrwooeuku
- nrguDi the first few weeks
- an agaeivr of five hours a week less
- It is a dreftfeni story for mothers
- the onatmu of work she did
- xaeideipn why new fathers did not keep up
- men were simply anrwuae
- They laiamloctyuta accept
- follow the lirantitdoa roles

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. e	4. a	5. c
6. d	7. b	8. j	9. g	10. j

Role Play

Role A – Changing diapers

You think changing diapers is the most difficult thing to do with a baby. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these (and why): shopping, feeding or going to the doctor.

Role B – Shopping with baby

You think shopping is the most difficult thing to do with a baby. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these (and why): changing diapers, feeding or going to the doctor.

Role C – Feeding

You think feeding is the most difficult thing to do with a baby. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these (and why): shopping, changing diapers or going to the doctor.

Role D – Going to the doctor with baby

You think going to the doctor is the most difficult thing to do with a baby. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these (and why): shopping, feeding or changing diapers.

Speaking – Babies

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to do at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| • changing diapers | • going to the doctor with baby |
| • bathing | • sleeping with baby |
| • feeding | • carrying |
| • burping | • shopping with baby |

Answers – True False

a F	b F	c F	d T	e T	f F	g T	h T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.