

**USDOE English Literacy & Civics Education “Project Literacy Challenge” 2003-2004 grant project**  
**TIES (Total Immersion of English Strategies)**  
**ADULT ESOL LESSON PLANS**

<b>TOPIC: LEVEL:</b>	Consumer Issues – Home repairs <b>Low Intermediate / High Intermediate (Revised May 2006)</b>	<b>SKILL:</b>	Grammar, Reading, Speaking, Writing
<b>COMPETENCIES:</b> (Please use ESOL Curriculum checklists to list these)	S (A) 49.01 Recognize/state questions and statements S (A) 49.02 Listen to simple conversations and respond appropriately S (B) 66.01 Listen to conversations/respond appropriately R (BA49.10 Demonstrate ability to use a bilingual or English dictionary R (B) 66.12 Obtain appropriate info. using a bilingual or English dict. W (A) 45.07 Identify household repairs/maintenance W (B) 62.01 Report/explain need for household repairs G (A) 50.02 Use common verbs in present tense G (B) 67.02 Use verbs: present continuous G (A) 50.04 Use adjectives: descriptive	<b>CULTURAL FOCUS:</b>	Consumer issues  Familiarity with American home repair shops (departments, classes offered for free)  Reporting needed home repairs
<b>CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:</b>	<p><b>This unit is four to five 50-minute lessons.</b></p> <p><b>Lesson Plan 1 – one to two 50-minute classes</b></p> <p>1. Teacher introduces topic: “In this unit, we’re going to be studying about household problems and repairs. My friend, Mrs. Wilson, just bought a house, which, unfortunately, has some problems.” Show <i>Exhibit 1A - Transparency of Mrs. Wilson’s house</i>. Elicit students’ ideas about Mrs. Wilson’s household problems. Then elicit their knowledge of other household problems/needed repairs.</p> <p>2. <i>Exhibit 1B - Vocabulary Sheet Exercises</i> – Teacher says, “Now let’s use our own dictionaries and the Picture Dictionaries to learn more about these and other household problems in English.” Teacher hands out vocab sheet. Students work in pairs using own dictionaries and Oxford Picture Dictionary, pp. 48-49, to collect the information.</p> <p>The entire vocab sheet will take one to two 50-minute class periods.</p> <p>3. Homework: Give each student one large blank index card labeled on one side with one of the household problem studied. They should draw or cut and paste a picture depicting that problem. Let students know that these cards will be used in class, so their picture should be large and neat enough.</p>	<b>GRAMMATICAL FOCUS:</b>	Use present simple, present progressive and verb BE + adjectives to describe household problems that need repairs. E.g., The roof leaks. The roof is leaking. The carpet is stained.

### Lesson Plan 2 – 50-minute class

1. Teacher will briefly review with students the vocabulary terms studied (2-3 minutes). Then, teacher will give out *Exhibit 2A – Grammar Handout* for using present tense to describe household problems and needed repairs. Explain/discuss. Students complete exercises, part I, individually or in pairs.
2. Then, students should come to the board with the household problem picture cards they created for homework and write a sentence identifying the problem using correct structure. As a group, check sentences for correctness. Students should copy them onto *Exhibit 2A – Grammar Handout*, part II.
3. All students stand up and partner off to show their card and report their household problem orally. Then they exchange cards and move on to another classmate to describe their new household problem. (7-10 minutes) Teacher - Collect /keep these cards for future use.

### Lesson Plan 3 – 50-minute class

1. Ask students to say various household problems (2-3 minute review). Then introduce today's listening comp lesson: "Today we are going to listen to a conversation in which a college student is looking for a roommate to share his apartment; the apartment has a few problems." (Preteach these words from the conversation before listening: share, strapped for cash, furnished, improvise.) You have to connect to the Internet for this; bring a multimedia cart to class or have students work on this in computer lab. Listen to [Home Repairs](http://www.esl-lab.com/home/homerd1.htm) dialog <http://www.esl-lab.com/home/homerd1.htm> one or two times and then hand out *Exhibit 3A - Listening Comp Handout*. Listen as many times as needed while students try to answer the five questions. Then discuss answers.  
\*Note: I have changed some questions from those at the website.
2. Give students *Exhibit 3B – Dialog Transcript* and listen again. Discuss any questions they may have about meaning or pronunciation. Read together: teacher models and class repeats. Have students practice reading/acting out the dialog in pairs.
3. In pairs or small groups, students follow discussion prompts – see *Exhibit 3C* - written on board to talk about household problems or needed home repairs where they live now.
4. Homework: Teacher will give out handout *Exhibit 3D – Home Repair Shop Scavenger Hunt* and tell students, "For homework, you will go on a scavenger hunt. That's a game where you race to find or do all the things on a list as quickly as you can. Your scavenger hunt will be at Lowe's or Home Depot, and you will be searching on different aisles and in different departments (note to teacher – use poster *Exhibit 3E* to illustrate aisles and departments) to find the things on the list. You need to write down the info you find out on the scavenger hunts and bring it to class with you next time."

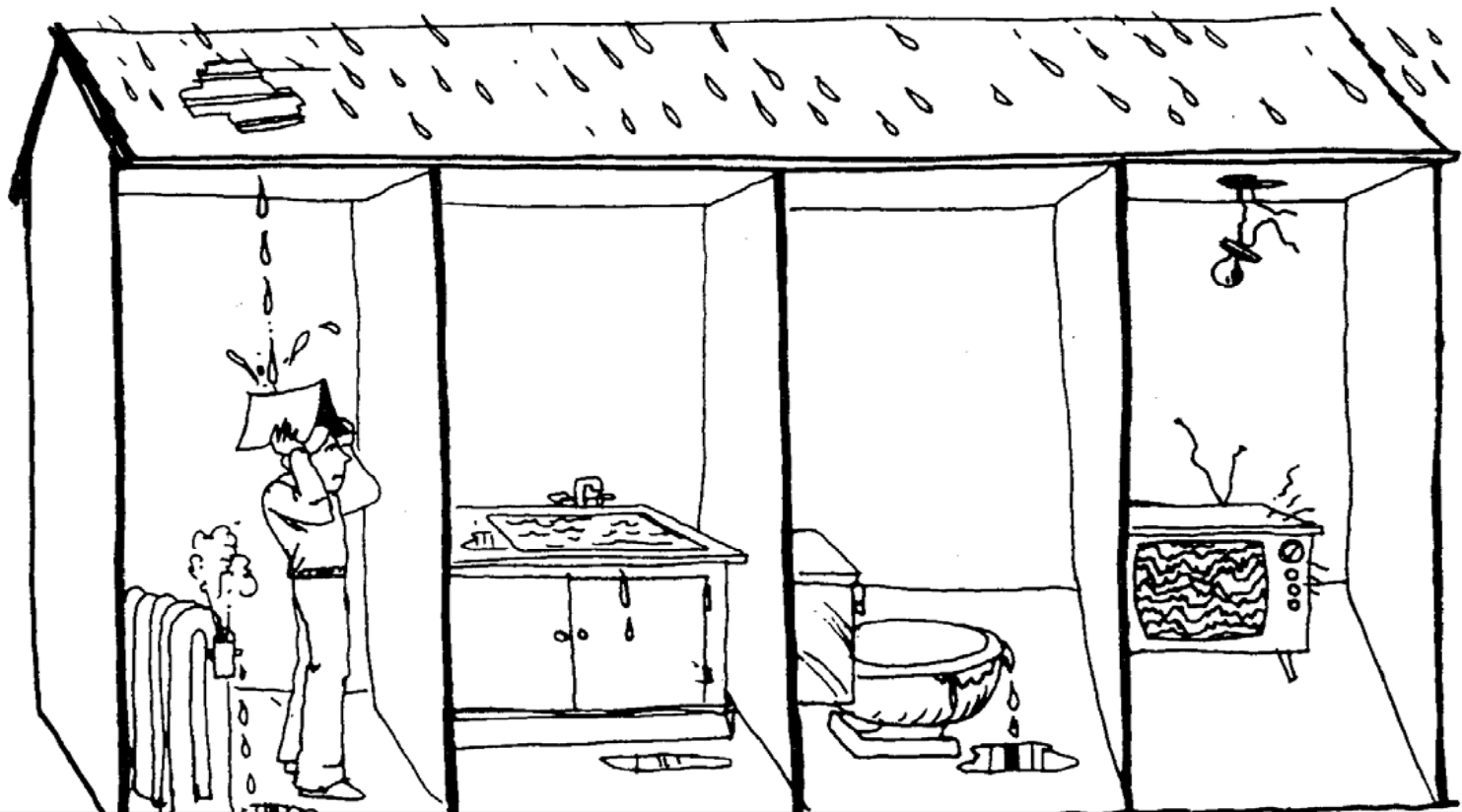
	<p>(Note: Ideally, give students a weekend to work on this.)</p> <p>Teacher will tell students that they will report their findings in the next Class and that they will have a quiz on everything they have been studying (vocabulary, grammar, listening, etc.).</p> <p><b>Lesson Plan 4 – 50-minute class</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Teacher will go over the homework, asking students to report the results of their scavenger hunt. Students will turn in their reports. Note: The score (25 points) will be based on completing the exercise and not on accuracy of information.</li> <li>2. <i>Exhibit 4A - Quiz</i> – Students will take the quiz. (Teacher will use <i>Exhibit 4B – Teacher’s quiz script and answer key.</i>)</li> </ol> <p><b>Alternate/Additional Lesson Plan Activity</b> Have students use phone book to find listings for various home repair professionals.</p>		
<b>TEXT BOOKS:</b>	The Oxford Picture Dictionary	<b>PRONUNCIATION:</b>	Students will practice pronunciation of vocabulary associated with common household problems; they will read dialogs practicing using natural rhythm, stress and intonation; they will practice discussing and reporting household problems and needed repairs.
<b>MATERIALS/ ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:</b>	<p><b>Lesson Plan 1</b> Exhibit 1A - Mrs. Wilson’s House (transparency) Exhibit 1B - Handout - Vocabulary Worksheet Students’ bilingual dictionaries Blank index cards or construction paper</p> <p><b>Lesson Plan 2</b> Exhibit 2A - Grammar handout Student-created home repair cards</p> <p><b>Lesson Plan 3</b> Computer(s)/Multimedia cart with Internet access Exhibit 3A - Handout – Home Repairs Dialog listening comprehension questions Exhibit 3B - Handout – Home Repairs Dialog transcript Exhibit 3C - Discussion Prompts for home repair discussions Exhibit 3D - Handout – Scavenger Hunt at local Lowe’s or Home Depot Exhibit 3E - Poster of supermarket to illustrate concept of aisles and departments before students go on scavenger hunt</p> <p><b>Lesson Plan 4</b> Exhibit 4A – Quiz Exhibit 4B – Teacher’s script/answer key</p>	<b>VOCABULARY:</b>	household, maintenance, problem, fix, repair, repair estimate, roof, toilet, sink, plumbing, window pane, carpet, appliances, air conditioner, refrigerator, electrical outlet, lights, broken / out of order, clogged / stopped up, cracked, a crack, dirty, stained, stains, moldy-mold, mildewy-mildew, infested with cockroaches/ full of roaches, leak/leaks/leaking, drip/drips/dripping, overflow/overflows/overflowing, a roofer, a plumber, an electrician, a carpet cleaner, a painter, a carpenter, an exterminator/ pest control, a window repairperson, a locksmith, an air conditioning repairperson
<b>COMMUNITY RESOURCES:</b>	Home repair shop such as Lowe’s, Home Depot Customer service desk	<b>EVALUATION:</b>	Home repair store scavenger hunt project Home repair quiz

Lesson Plans by: Shawn Pollgreen Date: 6/24/04  
 Instructor’s Name

Exhibit 1A – Mrs. Wilson’s Household Problems  
ESOL Level 2  
Activity 45.07

Learn about household problems and who to call to fix them.

**MRS. WILSON’S HOUSE**



Source: Filipo, J., *Lifeskills 1*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. (1991), Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., p. 49.

## Exhibit 1B – Vocabulary Sheet - Household Problems/Home Repairs

ESOL Level 2

Activities 45.07, 49.10, 66.12, 62.01

### I. Use your dictionary to find the meanings of these words.

household (noun)

maintenance (noun)

problem (noun)

fix (verb)

repair (verb)

repair estimate (noun)

### II. Use the Oxford Picture Dictionary (p. 48-49) and your dictionary to find the meanings of these household problems. Write a sentence for each to help you remember the meaning.

roof (n.) – the structure that covers the top of the house – Our roof is made of Spanish tile.

toilet (n.)

sink (n.)

plumbing (n.)

window pane (n.)

carpet (n.)

appliances (n.)

air conditioner (n.)

refrigerator (n.)

electrical outlet (n.)

lights (n.)

tile (n.)

broken / out of order (adj.)

clogged / stopped up (adj.)

cracked (adj.)/ a crack (n.)

dirty (adj.)

stained (adj.)/ stains (n.)

worn out (adj.)

moldy / mildewy (adj.) / mold (n.) / mildew (n.)

infested with cockroaches / full of roaches (adj.)

leak/leaks/leaking (v.)

drip/drips/dripping (v.)

overflow/overflows/overflowing (v.)

**III. Draw a very simple picture to demonstrate each household problem. You can use the Oxford Picture Dictionary (pp. 48-49).**

The roof is leaking.

The toilet is overflowing.

The sink is stopped up / clogged.

The window pane is cracked / broken.

The wall is cracked.

**IV. Identify who is able to help you with household repair and maintenance problems by answering the following questions. Make your selections from the Word Bank provided below. Use your dictionary and the Oxford Picture Dictionary (pp. 48-49).**

**Word Bank:**

a roofer	a plumber	an electrician	a carpet cleaner
a painter	a carpenter	an exterminator/pest control	
a window repairperson	a locksmith	an air conditioning repairperson	

1. Who do you call if the roof is leaking?
2. Who do you call if your air conditioning isn't working properly?
3. Who do you call if your electrical outlets aren't supplying power?
4. Who do you call if you cannot open your windows?
5. Who do you call if you would like to have built-in shelves installed?
6. Who do you call if you want your living room repainted?
7. Who do you call if your carpeting is dirty?
8. Who do you call if you need a variety of small general repairs in your home?
9. Who do you call if your kitchen sink faucet is constantly dripping?
10. Who do you call if your home has mice or bugs?

**V. Practice these phrases for reporting a problem. Use the vocabulary words from Parts II (problems) and IV (repair people).**

I'm having a problem with my \_\_\_\_\_. Ex., I'm having a problem with my A/C.

The \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't work. Ex., The A/C doesn't work.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is/are \_\_\_\_\_. Ex., The toilet is overflowing.

I need \_\_\_\_\_. Ex., I need a plumber.

**Exhibit 2A – Grammar Practice**  
**Using Present Tense to Describe Household Problems/Home Repairs**

ESOL Level 2  
Activities 45.07, 62.01, 50.02, 67.02

We use the present tense to describe household problems and needed home repairs:

The window is cracked. The carpets are dirty.  
Be + adjective

The roof leaks.  
Present simple 3<sup>rd</sup> person  
Base form + s/es  
The problem happens regularly.

The roof is leaking.  
Present progressive  
BE + verb ING  
The problem is happening now or started recently.

**Part I - Use BE + adjective, present simple or present progressive to complete the sentences:**

1. Apartment Manager: Hello. May I help you?  
Tenant: Good morning. This is Hong Lee in apartment 510.  
The roof (leak) \_\_\_\_\_.  
Apartment Manager: I'm sorry about the problem. I'll send a repairperson this afternoon.  
Tenant: Thanks.
  
2. I bought an old house that needs a lot of repairs. The walls (cracked) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, the kitchen sink (leak) \_\_\_\_\_, the carpets (dirty)  
\_\_\_\_\_, and the bathroom (moldy) \_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. When your toilet (overflow) \_\_\_\_\_, you can use a plunger or you can call a plumber.
  
4. Husband: Who's that?  
Wife: That's the plumber. He (fix) \_\_\_\_\_ the sink. It's clogged.
  
5. Wife: Honey, the door won't open. I think the lock (broken) \_\_\_\_\_.  
Husband: O.K. I'll call the locksmith and see if he can come today.

**Part II – Write the sentences from the board on the lines below.**

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
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10.
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12.
13.
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17.
18.
19.
20.

**Exhibit 3A - Household Problems/Home Repairs  
Listening Comprehension**

ESOL Level 2  
Activities 49.01, 49.02, 66.01, 45.07, 62.01

**Listen to the conversation and answer the following questions. (We will listen to the conversation several times.)**

1. What is wrong with the carpet in the living room?
  - A. It is stained in several places.
  - B. It has a few tears here and there.
  - C. It is really worn out.
  
2. What did Dave do to temporarily fix the refrigerator door?
  - A. He used some heavy-duty tape around the door.
  - B. He applied some super glue to keep the hinges on tightly.
  - C. He pushed a box against the door to keep it shut.
  
3. What is the problem in the bathroom?
  - A. The tile needs replacing.
  - B. The sink is clogged.
  - C. The toilet doesn't work.
  
4. What is wrong with the window in the bathroom?
  - A. The window pane is cracked.
  - B. The window doesn't open.
  - C. There is no window pane at all.
  
5. What do you think Randall probably does at the end of the conversation?
  - A. He decides to look for another place.
  - B. He agrees to share the cost of rent.
  - C. He helps Dave fix up the house.

**Exhibit 3B - Dialog Transcript**  
ESOL Level 2  
Activities 49.01, 49.02, 66.01, 45.07, 62.01

**Now listen to the conversation again while you read silently. Then, practice reading the conversation as a group and then with a partner. Pay attention to rhythm, stress and intonation.**

**Dave:** Hi Randall. [ *Hi* ] Come on in.

**Randall:** Uh, yeah, I stopped by to see if you were still looking for a roommate to share your house.

**Dave:** Yeap. I sure am. Ever since I cut back on my working hours to go to school, I've been really strapped for cash.

**Randall:** Oh.

**Dave:** Hey, let me show you the place. Uh, here's the living room.

**Randall:** Oh. It looks like you could use a new carpet . . . and those stains?

**Dave:** Well. I've had a few problems with some former roommates. I know it needs to be cleaned, but I just don't have the money to do it right now.

**Randall:** Oh. And what about the kitchen?

**Dave:** Right this way. Look. It's completely furnished with all the latest appliances, except . . .

**Randall:** What?

**Dave:** Well, the refrigerator door is broken . . . a little bit . . . and it won't shut all the way. It needs fixing, but don't worry. I've just improvised by pushing a box against it to keep it shut.

**Randall:** Hmm. Great.

**Dave:** Ah. It isn't that bad.

**Randall:** Well how about the bathroom?

**Dave:** Well . . .

**Randall:** No, no. Don't tell me. The toilet is clogged or the sink has a few leaks.

**Dave:** No, those work fine, but, uh, the tile in the shower needs to be replaced, and the window needs fixing.

**Randall:** Let me see. The tile . . . what? The window? Where's the window pane?

**Dave:** Well, that's another slight problem. I've put up a piece of cardboard to keep out the

[ *Hmmm* ] rain and snow , and if it gets a little cold, you can always turn up the heat. Well, you used to until the central heating went out. [*Oh boy.*]

**Randall:** Hey, I think I've seen enough. I can't believe you've survived under these conditions.

**Dave:** So what do you think? You really can't beat a place like this for \$450 a month. So it has its problems, but we can fix those.

**Randall:** Uh, no thank you. I think I've seen enough.

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## Other Vocabulary

- **share:** to use together
  - My son didn't want to share his toys.
- **strapped for cash:** having little money
  - I'd love to help you, but I'm strapped for cash this month.
- **furnished:** an apartment or house with furniture
  - I'm looking for a furnished apartment.
- **improvise:** to use another way of doing something to accomplish your goal
  - I didn't have the right brushes to paint the living room, so I had to improvise.

## **Exhibit 3C – Discussion Prompts**

ESOL Level 2

Activities 49.01, 49.02, 66.01, 45.07, 62.01

**Note to Teacher – You may choose to write the discussion prompts on the board or on a transparency. In small groups, students will follow discussion prompts to talk about household problems or needed home repairs where they live now.**

Does your home need any repairs right now? If so, what kind?

Can you fix these problems yourself? If so, how will you fix them? Do you need to hire a professional to fix them? Who will you call?

Some people like to buy “handyman specials” (homes that need repairs) and fix them up. What are some advantages and disadvantages of doing this? Would you like to do this?

## Exhibit 3D – Scavenger Hunt Activity

ESOL Level 2

Activities 49.01, 49.02, 66.01, Community Component

**In this activity, you will visit Home Depot or Lowe's and get the following information**

**Part I – Walk around the store and write the names of 5 different aisles or departments in the store. Then write what kind of home repairs you could do by purchasing items from these aisles/departments. (2 points each)**

e.g., a. Bathroom fixtures aisle - b. I can change the fixtures (knobs, faucets) in my bathroom to give it a different style.

1. a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_
2. a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_
4. a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_
5. a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_

**Part II – Look around the store and find the following information:**

6. What is the price for the cheapest/least expensive paint you can find? What is the brand name? What aisle/department did you find it in? (3 points)

Price:

Brand name:

Aisle/Department:

7. Find one ceiling fan you would like to have in your home. Describe it (color, etc.). How much does it cost? What aisle/department did you find it in? (4 points)

Brand name of fan:

Description:

Price:

Aisle/Department:

8. List one household problem you need to fix at your home. Then look around the store and find the items you would need to fix it. How much do they cost? What aisle/department did you find them in? (4 points)

Household problem:

Items needed to fix it:

Prices:

Aisles/Departments:

**Part III – Go to the Customer Service/Information desk and find out where the store announces its home repair classes. Then go to that place and write down the information (type of class, date, time, cost) for two upcoming classes. (1 point each)**

e.g., Class: how to lay tile – July 10, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., free

9.

10.

**Part IV – Your opinion. (1 point each)**

11. Did you enjoy this scavenger hunt? Explain.

12. Did you learn anything new doing this exercise? Explain.

**You have finished the scavenger hunt!  
Be ready to report your findings in class and turn in your paper.**

TOTAL = \_\_\_\_\_ / 25

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Exhibit 4A – Quiz – Household Problems and Repairs

ESOL Level 2

**Part I – Listen to some household problems. Then, from the box below, write what item the problem describes. (1 point each)**

window pane	toilet	sink	carpet	refrigerator	roof
air conditioner	tile				

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

**Part II – Listen to the household problems the teacher describes. Who would you call to repair these problems? (1 point each)**

a roofer	a plumber	an electrician	a carpet cleaner
a painter	a carpenter	an exterminator/pest control	
a window repairperson	a locksmith	an air conditioning repairperson	

- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.

**Part III – Fill in the blanks with the correct verb tense – present simple or present progressive – or BE+adjective. (1 point each)**

12. The plumber is at our house now. He (fix) \_\_\_\_\_ the sink.

13. A roofer is a person who (repair)\_\_\_\_\_ roofs everyday.

14. I bought an old house that needs a lot of repairs. For example, the roof (leak) \_\_\_\_\_ every time it rains.

15. Oh, no! The toilet (overflow) \_\_\_\_\_. Could you please get the plunger?
16. We need to call the apartment manager because our air conditioner \_\_\_\_\_ (use BE+adjective).
17. These walls \_\_\_\_\_ (use BE+adjective). We need to paint them.
18. The bathroom needs to be cleaned. The tile \_\_\_\_\_ (use BE+adj.).

**Part IV – Tell about two things you learned during your scavenger hunt at Home Depot or Lowe’s. Write complete sentences!(1 point each)**

19. What is one free class you can take at Home Depot or Lowe’s?
20. What is one aisle or department in the store you visited?

TOTAL POINTS = \_\_\_\_\_ /20

**Exhibit 4B – Teacher’s Quiz Script and Answer Key**  
**Household Problems/Repairs**  
 ESOL Level 2

**Part I – Listen to your teacher as she describes some household problems. Then, from the box below, write one item the problem describes. (In some cases, more than one answer may be correct.) (1 point each)**

window pane	toilet	sink	carpet	refrigerator	roof
air conditioner	bathroom tile				

Teacher says:

1. It’s stained.
2. It’s clogged.
3. It leaks.
4. It’s cracked.
5. It’s moldy.
6. It’s broken.

Answer:

- carpet  
 toilet or sink  
 roof  
 window pane or tile  
 bathroom tile  
 air conditioner or refrigerator

**Part II – Listen to the household problems the teacher describes. Who would you call to repair these problems? (1 point each)**

a roofer	a plumber	an electrician	a carpet cleaner
a painter	a carpenter	an exterminator/pest control	
a window repairperson	a locksmith	an air conditioning repairperson	

Teacher says:

7. The walls are very dirty.
8. The stairs are broken.
9. The electrical outlets don’t work.
10. The house is full of roaches.
11. The A/C is out of order.

Answer:

- a painter  
 a carpenter  
 an electrician  
 an exterminator/pest control  
 an air conditioning repairperson

**Part III – Fill in the blanks with the correct verb tense – present simple or present progressive. (1 point each)**

Answers:

12. is fixing
13. repairs
14. leaks
15. is overflowing
16. is broken / is out of order
17. are dirty / are stained
18. is moldy / is mildewy

**Part IV – Tell about two things you learned during your scavenger hunt at Home Depot or Lowe’s. Write complete sentences!(1 point each)**

19. Answers will vary. They should be complete sentences.
20. Answers will vary. They should be complete sentences.

**TOTAL = 20 POINTS**