

Lesson 55: Renovation

Hi! How are you today?

Today's lesson is about "*Renovation*"

Have fun learning English!

Warm-up | Useful Expressions

Directions: Listen and repeat.

- **renovation** - the act or process of repairing and painting an old building, piece of furniture, etc. so that it is in good condition again
- **ceiling** - the top inside surface of a room
- **plaster** - a substance made of lime, water and sand, that is put on walls and ceilings to give them a smooth hard surface
- **flake off** - to break away from something bigger due to damage
- **stepladder** - a short ladder that is made of two parts, that are joined together at the top, so that it can stand on its own or be folded flat for carrying or storing
- **pliers** - a metal tool with handles, used for holding things firmly and twisting and cutting wire
- **spirit level** - a glass tube partly filled with liquid, with a bubble of air inside. Spirit levels are used to test whether a surface is level, using the position of the bubble
- **whitewash** - a mixture of chalk or lime and water, used for painting houses and walls white
- **cross my mind** - have a thought about something
- **company** - to spend time with someone while they are doing something so that they'll pass that time easier
- **eternally** - forever

Activity 1 | Dialogue 1

Directions: Read the dialogue aloud with your teacher.

Timothy is telling Jim about the renovation work that he is doing.

Jim : So, Tim, how is the **renovation** going? Did you finish painting the **ceiling**?

Timothy : Don't ask! The ceiling will have to wait. Other problems have arisen!

Jim : What do you mean?

Timothy : Well, first off, the **plaster** I put on the walls last week cracked and **flaked off** yesterday. I have no idea what I did wrong, but I know that I'll have to do it all over again. (*sigh*)

Jim : That's a problem, of course, and a time consuming one.

Timothy : And it's only one of many! Not so long ago, I've bought 5 cans of **whitewash** instead of paint. And I keep losing things too. My head doesn't seem to be in the right place.

Jim : What did you lose?

Timothy : Well, first of all, my **spirit level** is gone and, on top of that, I've lost 3 **pliers**. I'll have to buy new ones. However, the thing that baffles me the most is that I somehow managed to lose my **stepladder**!

Jim : A stepladder?! How can you lose a stepladder? They're big objects, they're not pliers.

Timothy : I have no idea. All I know is that I've just left it in the usual place, and that it was gone the following day.

Jim : Things don't vanish just like that, Tim. Have you considered the fact that someone might have stolen them from you?

Timothy : It **crossed my mind**, but who needs three pliers and a stepladder? I'll stay up late and check things out.

Jim : If you need **company**, just let me know, I'd like to see who's stealing your stuff, and I can also help you out with the renovation, since you obviously need some help.

Timothy : Thank you so much, Jim! I would be **eternally** grateful if you could give me a hand

Check your understanding: Answer the following questions.

1. How is Timothy's renovation going?
2. What happened to the plaster in Timothy's house?
3. What things did Timothy lose?
4. Does Jim think that the things were lost?

Activity 2 | Role Play

Directions: Have a role play with your teacher.

Imagine you are renovating your flat. Ask your friend to help you with that. Explain what you plan to do (for example: wallpaper the walls, use plaster to fix the uneven walls, etc.) Persuade your friend to help you and don't forget to promise something in return.

The teacher will be your reluctant friend.

Activity 3 | Free Conversation

Directions: Take turns with your teacher in answering the questions

1. Have you ever renovated a flat, house or room?
2. Do people usually renovate houses or flats themselves in your country?
3. Is it expensive to renovate houses or flats in your country?
4. Do you think you could live in a room with red walls?
5. Have you ever used a spirit level?
6. How does your perfect home look like? Describe it!