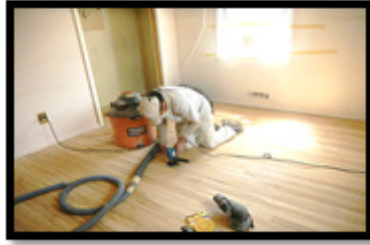


HOME IMPROVEMENT

Have you ever had any repairs or improvements done in your house? (Ex: The light doesn't work.)
How did you fix them?



DEFINITION

Home improvement is work that you do to your house to make it better and more attractive.

LANGUAGE POINTS

If you don't have the skill or experience to fix or improve something in your home, you need to arrange for a professional to do it for you. Study the structures below.

1. We use the structure "have something done" when arranging for somebody to do something for us:

Example 1: The walls were very dirty so I had them painted.

Example 2: My washing machine is working again. I managed to have it fixed.

2. In informal English, we can also use get instead of have.

Example: The walls were very dirty so I got them painted.

PRACTICE 1

Complete the text below using the structure "have something done".

1. The walls are very dirty and have a lot of marks on it so we definitely need to _____ (paint/them).

2. Next, we need to _____ (check/the pipes) because there might be a leak somewhere.

3. We want to completely renovate the kitchen, so we're putting in new kitchen cupboards and we want to _____ (install/a new cooker).

4. We'll need to _____ (repair/the door) as it doesn't shut anymore.

5. It's really hot in the summer so we will definitely need to _____ (install/the air conditioning).

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

lay down – to put something down, especially on the floor,
ready to be used

put up – to fix something onto a wall

pull out – to use force to remove something that is attached
into or onto something else

put in – to fix something such as equipment in the place where
it will be used and make it ready to use

fix up – to clean, repair, or decorate something

beautify (verb) – to make something look more beautiful

light fixture (noun) – the part of a light that is attached to the wall
or ceiling, where you put the light bulb

shingle (noun) – one of many small flat pieces of wood that form
the outer surface of a wall or roof

leaks (noun) – an amount of liquid or gas that comes out of a
hole or crack in something

faucet (noun) – a metal piece of equipment that you turn to
control the flow of water or other liquid from a pipe, especially on
a sink or bathtub.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

PRACTICE 2

From the choices provided, choose which tool to use for each problem given below.

1. paint the walls and ceilings _____
2. paint the door and window frames _____
3. hang a picture on the wall _____
4. clean the floor _____
5. unclog the toilet _____
6. remove door handles and hinges _____

a brush



a mop



a nail



a hammer



a plunger



a screw driver



a roller



a screw



PRACTICE 3

Fill in the gaps with the correct word. Choose from the choices below.

1. Mr Johnsons decided to put up a _____ to keep the dog in.
flag pole porch fence
2. You should install a _____ to protect your home from intruders or unwanted visitors.
sprinkler system sidewalk security system
3. One way to keep your house safer is to trim down the _____ around the house so burglars can't sneak in without being seen.
flower bed garden shrubbery

SPEAKING

What are some home improvements you would like to have done in the place where you now live (home, apartment, dormitory, etc.)?

Would you do them yourself, or have someone else do them for you? Explain your reasons.