

Abschluss2023

Realschulprüfung Hessen



Englisch Prüfung 2018

Englisch

A. Listening Comprehension

Part One

(Audiotrack: QR-Code rechts / Hörtext S. 11)



Listen to the news items and tick (✓) the right statements.

There is only one possible answer per statement.

News Item 1: Smart translator *The Pilot*

4 p

a) *The Pilot* can translate what you

☐ write.

☐ say.

☐ read.

b) At the moment, the device works

☐ only online.

☐ only offline.

☐ online and offline.

c) *The Pilot* translates

☐ background conversation.

☐ group conversations.

☐ conversation between two people.

d) These languages are free with
The Pilot Translating Earpieces:

☐ French, Italian, Spanish and English.

☐ Arabic, Japanese, German and English.

☐ Russian, German, English and Arabic.

News Item 2: Meet LiLou

4 p

a) LiLou is a

☐ Labrador.

☐ Juliana.

☐ Chihuahua.

b) She is a

☐ dog.

☐ traveller.

☐ pig.

c) LiLou has

☐ painted nails.

☐ a toy guitar.

☐ a bow on her tail.

d) When not at the airport, LiLou can often
be found

☐ at training facilities.

☐ flying.

☐ in hospitals.

Part Two

(Audiotrack: QR-Code S. 2 / Hörtext S. 11)

Survey: Modern communication

7 p

Listen to these people talking about texting.

Who thinks what? Write the correct letters in the chart.

Be careful – there is one statement more than you need.



Jane	Graham	Mary	David	Rebecca	Mia	Sim

Part Three

(Audiotrack: QR-Code S. 2 / Hörtext S. 12)

Interview: Mom on strike

10 p

Listen to the interview and write down the information needed.

Fill in only one detail per box.

what Jessica means by 'going on strike'	
why this was necessary	
what was wrong in the house (2 aspects)	
what the dog did	
what happened on Day Four	
why Jessica ended the strike	
what she did while the children were tidying up	
what the children now do to help	
why Jessica can feel proud of herself	

B. Reading Comprehension

1. Tennis star Andy Murray and the science of success

- 1 If you want to know what it is about Andy Murray that makes him stand out from the rest of us, it is summed up in two words – osmolarity check. This is a test where the percentages of water and minerals in his urine are measured, to show whether his body is correctly hydrated. Andy Murray's success is due mostly to science. There is nothing in his life that is left to chance, nothing that isn't measured, calibrated and balanced
- 2 Take his diet. Murray will start the day with yogurt, fruit and a bagel smeared with peanut butter. On his way to the All England Tennis Club he will nibble at a protein bar and a banana. Ninety minutes before his match, he will have a plateful of chicken and rice, loaded with energy-delivering protein. Then, afterwards, there will be sushi; he eats up to fifty pieces a day. The mix of protein and carbohydrate without a hint of fat is reckoned to be the perfect way to recover physical resources after an intense physical workout.
- 3 And all the while he will be drinking. Murray is rarely seen without a bottle in his hand (not alcohol: he is a life-long teetotaler). On court, between games, he sips at a cloudy, lemon-coloured liquid. Mixed by his nutritionist, it's a formula of glucose, sodium, potassium and other minerals that help sustain his energy and concentration levels. He takes a packet of it in powder form wherever he goes, adding to the water supplied. He doesn't drink fizzy water, though. This interferes with his digestion.
- 4 Murray has not arrived at this sort of regime by chance. He employs experts to tell him what is best in every area of his physical development. Six people spend their lives assessing and checking his body. There is his coach and his practice partner, two fitness experts and two physiotherapists who attend to his recovery after matches. Immediately after he comes off court, the pair will be at work. They will supervise his ice bath and then start the massage. This is nothing like we might enjoy in a spa hotel. It is a deep muscle manipulation using elbows and knuckles.
- 5 But perhaps the most effective scientific application has been on the muscle between Murray's ears. Previously, he believed that sports psychologists could not tell him anything of any use. But since eight-time grand slam winner Ivan Lendl became his coach, the difference he has made to Murray's mental preparation has been significant. The crowd at Wimbledon – and the ten million watching on television – may have been dizzy with the drama of what they had just witnessed. But the man himself was calm and restrained in the press conference. Scientific analysis has taught him that you do not waste your energy. Murray is just doing his job.

Adapted from: Jim White, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/tennis/andymurray/10159973/Andy-Murrays-appliance-of-science.html> (last accessed on 05.01.2017). © Telegraph Media Group Limited (2013)

Match the five correct headings to each part of the text (1 – 5).

5 p

Be careful – there are two headings more than you need.

A	BACKGROUND TEAM
B	PSYCHOLOGICAL DIFFERENCE
C	BEAUTY SPA TREATMENTS
D	DIETARY REQUIREMENTS
E	SPECIAL COCKTAIL MIX
F	BREAKFAST HABITS
G	FLUID ANALYSIS

part of the text	1	2	3	4	5
heading					

2. Toxic e-waste dumped in poor nations

- 1 Millions of mobile phones, laptops, tablets, toys, digital cameras and other electronic devices bought this Christmas can create a flood of dangerous electronic waste (e-waste) that is being dumped illegally in developing countries, the UN has warned.

The global volume of electronic waste is expected to grow by 33 percent in the next four years, when it will weigh the equivalent of eight of the great Egyptian pyramids, the UN has declared. Last year, nearly 50 million tonnes of e-waste were generated worldwide – or about seven kilograms for every person on the planet. These are electronic goods made up of hundreds of different materials and containing toxic substances such as lead, mercury, cadmium and arsenic. An old-style computer screen can contain up to three kilograms of lead, for example.

- Once in a landfill, these toxic materials seep out into the environment, polluting land, water and the air. In addition, electronic devices are often dismantled in primitive conditions. Those who work at these sites suffer frequently from illness. According to Ruediger Kuehr, from the UN, "The increase in e-waste is happening because there's so much technical innovation. TVs, mobile phones and computers are all being replaced more and more quickly. The lifetime of products is also shortening."

- The UN reports that e-waste – which extends from old fridges to toys and even motorized toothbrushes – is now the world's fastest growing waste stream. China produced 11.1 million tonnes in 2015, followed by the US with 10 million tonnes, though there was a significant difference per person. For example, on average each American produced 29.5 kilograms, compared to less than five kilograms per person in China.

In Europe, Germany throws away the most e-waste in total, but Norway and Liechtenstein throw away more per person. Britain is now the world's seventh largest producer, throwing away 1.37 million tonnes, or about 21 kilograms per person.

- A new study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology suggests that the US threw away 258.2 million computers, monitors, TVs and mobile phones in 2015, of which only 66 percent were recycled. Nearly 120 million mobile phones were collected, most of which were shipped to Hong Kong, Latin America and the Caribbean. On average a mobile phone is used for less than two years, but the EU, US and Japanese governments say many hundreds of millions are thrown away each year or are left in drawers. In the US, only 12 million mobile phones were collected for recycling in 2016, even though 120 million were bought. Meanwhile, newer phone models are racing on to the market leaving old ones likely to end up in landfills.

- Most phones contain precious metals. The circuit board can contain copper, gold, zinc and others. The coatings are typically made of lead and phone makers are now increasingly using lithium batteries. Yet fewer than 10 percent of mobile phones are dismantled and reused. Part of the problem is that computers, phones and other devices are becoming increasingly complicated and made of smaller and smaller components.

The failure to recycle is also leading to shortages of rare-earth elements to make future generations of electronic equipment.

Adapted from: John Vidal, © Guardian News & Media Ltd 2020, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/dec/14/toxic-ewaste-illegal-dumping-developingcountries> (last accessed on 16.01.2017).

Tick (✓) the right statements. There is only one possible answer per statement.

10 p

- a) The UN reports that electronic rubbish

☐ is taken to less developed countries.

☐ is dumped in developed countries.

☐ was bought this Christmas.

☐ has caused a flood.

- b) The amount of e-waste will

☐ weigh as much as an Egyptian pyramid.

☐ be stored near the Egyptian pyramids.

☐ increase in the near future.

☐ be tackled by the UN programme.

- c) Last year, ____ of e-waste were made.

☐ more than 50 million tonnes.

☐ about seven million kilograms

☐ about 50 million tonnes.

☐ less than seven million kilograms

- d) One problem is that
- ☐ workers in Europe suffer from illness.
 - ☐ poisonous substances escape into the environment.
 - ☐ electronic goods contain toxic substances like copper.
 - ☐ mobile phones in use pollute land, water and air.
- e) Nowadays,
- ☐ electronic goods do not last long.
 - ☐ technical innovation is slowing down.
 - ☐ TVs and mobile phones pollute the environment.
 - ☐ TVs and mobile phones explode.
- f) In 2015, ____ produced the most electronic rubbish.
- ☐ the United States
 - ☐ Europe
 - ☐ China
 - ☐ Germany
- g) Another problem is that
- ☐ a lot of e-waste is not recycled properly.
 - ☐ only 33% of e-waste is recycled.
 - ☐ millions of phones were collected and recycled.
 - ☐ millions of phones were collected in Latin America.
- h) In 2016,
- ☐ 12 million new mobile phones were sold.
 - ☐ 12 million new mobile phones were bought in the US.
 - ☐ 120 million mobile phones were recycled in the US.
 - ☐ 120 million mobile phones were sold in the US.
- i) Phones and other electronic devices
- ☐ are becoming less complicated.
 - ☐ contain precious metals such as gold.
 - ☐ have circuit boards made of lithium.
 - ☐ have silver coatings.
- k) If we do not change our habits,
- ☐ some materials needed for electronic devices will boom.
 - ☐ there will be a shortage of electronic inventions.
 - ☐ there will be a shortage of rare-earth elements.
 - ☐ there will be no rare-earth elements left.

3. The lifeboat clique

¹ *Denver Reynolds is an unpopular girl at a high school in Los Angeles (LA) in California. In the following excerpt, she talks about her life at school.*

My name is Denver Reynolds, Assassin of Dreams, Killer of Friendships. [...]

I moved to LA four years ago, when I was twelve, and I hated it from the start. The myth is that LA can create you, turn
⁵ you into everything you ever thought you could be. Fill you up with that kind of sparkle that makes for huge houses and adoring crowds. But the truth is, LA can turn on you if you're not on your guard. [...]

The morning [...] started like it always did, just me trying to sleepwalk through high school. Because that is what you do. You sleepwalk. You have a role and a place and a mark on your head that designates your rank. You are certain, when you walk through those doors, who will talk to you and who will not. [...] You know if you are the hunter or the prey. You
¹⁰ know if people think you're smart or funny or pretty or geeky or annoying or cool or – worst of all – if they don't think anything about you. Everyone is neatly separated, like a stamp collection. [...] And if I sound bitter, that's because I was. A bitter little stamp left off the envelope of life. But no matter what, I was determined to survive high school. I, Denver Reynolds, would survive.

At lunchtime, in the cafeteria, I received my first surprise of the day. I got The Look. An unmistakable moment that led
¹⁵ to an unmistakable night and insured that I was in the absolute wrong place at the wrong time.

I'd given up on high school. Given up on anyone trying to understand me or like me or see my value. [...] But at that moment, The Look gave me hope.

Our high school lunchroom was set out in an orderly grid. If you Google-Earthed it and zoomed in from above using the satellite setting, you would find that the students were carefully designated by tables. The geek table, the loser table, the
²⁰ student council table, the deeply committed Christian table, the drama table, [...] the rising young felon¹ table (from which oily-looking, detention-bound shoplifters and fire starters glared balefully²), and several uncategorized tables, where I sat with various other students who didn't really fit into a group and who ate their lunch fast. There were, in addition, half a dozen tables of ascending social importance that led to that hallowed table in the center of the cafeteria where the most popular kids sat.

²⁵ It had room for sixteen, and those sixteen had the shiniest teeth, the best hair, the fastest cars, and the sleekest abs³ in the eleventh grade. The table almost glowed with promise. We, the non-sixteen, couldn't help staring at it. And there, right in the middle of that shining table, was [...] Abigail Kenner. She sat among them, ruling them, passing notes down the table, planning her stupid parties, and laughing her braying⁴ laugh that swept over the room, reminding the rest of us that she was in and we were out.

¹ felon – criminal

² balefully – angrily

³ abs – stomach muscles

⁴ braying – the noise a donkey makes

Adapted from: The Lifeboat Clique by Kathy Parks, Kathy Hepinstall Text Copyright © by Kathy Parks. Used by permission of HarperCollins Publishers.

Answer the questions.

a) What does Denver really think about LA?

_____ 1 p

b) In Denver's opinion, what is the worst people could think about another student?

_____ 1 p

c) What does the high school's lunchroom look like?

_____ 1 p

d) Name two different groups that can be found in the school lunchroom.

 _____ 2 p

e) Where is Denver's place in the school lunchroom?

_____ 1 p

f) Name two characteristics of the students who sit in the middle of the cafeteria.

 _____ 2 p

You cannot find the answers to the following questions directly in the text:

g) What does Denver mean when she talks about "sleepwalking" through high school?

1 p

h) What are Denver's feelings towards Abigail Kenner?

1 p

C. Use of Language

1. Mediation

Traditional festivities

Jake, ein schottischer Austauschschüler, steht vor einem Plakat am Rathaus. Da er nicht so gut Deutsch spricht, versteht er wenig davon und fragt einen Passanten, was darauf steht. Der Passant wiederum spricht leider nicht so gut Englisch und du bietest deine Hilfe an.

Vermittle zwischen Jake und dem Passanten. Ergänze den folgenden Dialog mit den wichtigsten Informationen in der jeweils geforderten Sprache.

Hinweis: Wörter in Anführungszeichen können übernommen werden.

Jake: I keep seeing this poster for a "Hutzelfeuer". What is that?

Du [Deutsch]: _____

1 p

Passant: Ach, das Plakat. Das sieht sehr schön aus, nicht wahr? Beim „Hutzelfeuer“ werden die alten Weihnachtsbäume verbrannt. Das Feuer soll den Winter vertreiben. „Hutzelfeuer“ ist echt ein komisches Wort. Ich weiß nicht, wo es herkommt.

Du [Englisch]: _____

2 p

Jake: Oh, I see. That sounds fun. What a nice way to end a season! What other customs do you have here?

Du [Deutsch]: _____

1 p

Passant: Lass mich mal überlegen. Das größte Ereignis hier bei uns ist die „Kirmes“. Da bauen wir ein Zelt auf und abends spielen Bands. Das ganze Dorf kommt zusammen und wir freuen uns schon das ganze Jahr darauf! Letztes Jahr war ich mit meiner gesamten Familie dort, obwohl es ganz schön kalt war.

Du [Englisch]: _____

2 p

Jake: That sounds like great fun.

Passant: Falls er dann noch hier sein sollte, muss er unbedingt hingehen. Das wird ihm gefallen. Gibt es etwas Ähnliches da, wo er herkommt?

Du [Englisch]: _____

1 p

Jake: I don't think so, but "Burns Night" is very important where I come from. This is a celebration in honour of the Scottish poet Robert Burns. He's probably the most well-known poet of Scotland. "Burns Night" is celebrated at the end of January every year.

Du [Deutsch]: _____ **2 p**

Passant: Das finde ich sehr ungewöhnlich. Was passiert denn an „Burns Night“?
Komisch, dass ich noch nie davon gehört habe, wenn das in Schottland so eine große Sache ist.

Du [Englisch]: _____ **1 p**

Jake: We always eat "haggis", mashed potato and turnips. Then there are speeches and whisky and people recite poems by Burns. I was sorry to miss it this year. My brother told me all about it.

Du [Deutsch]: _____ **3 p**

Passant: Das hört sich richtig interessant an. Danke für das Gespräch!

2. Words and structures

Read the text, then tick (✓) the correct words.

12 p

Coral reefs in danger

The world's coral reefs, from the Great Barrier Reef in Australia to the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean, are in serious danger ① _____ dying out completely by the mid-century unless carbon emissions are reduced enough to slow ocean warming, a new UNESCO study says. And consequences could be severe for millions of ② _____.

For a long time, the decline of coral reefs ③ _____ well documented.

But the new study is the first global examination of the entire planet's reef systems, and it ④ _____ an especially grim picture.

"These are spectacular places, many of ⑤ _____ I've visited. Seeing the damage has just been heartbreaking," says Mark Eakin, a reef expert and a lead author of the new report. "We're at the point now where action is essential. It's ⑥ _____."

In the next one hundred years, most reef systems will die, unless carbon emissions are reduced. Many others will be gone even ⑦ _____.

Reefs, often referred to as the rainforests of the oceans, occupy less than one percent of the ocean floor, but provide habitat for a million species, ⑧ _____ a fourth of the world's fish. They also ⑨ _____ coastlines against erosion from tropical storms and act as a barrier against rising sea levels.

"It is terrifying to think of the ⑩ _____ of the global and large scale loss of reefs," says Ruth Gates, director of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. "The reduction in food supplies, the lack of coastal protection as the reef collapses and subsequent land erosion will make some ⑪ _____ unliveable and people will have to move. And that's not even mentioning the collapse of reef-related tourism."

Scientists hope that due to their alarming studies, the world's nations will realize that if they **12** _____ faster to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, these special places and the people who rely on them will suffer greatly, far sooner than expected.

Adapted from: Laura Parker And Craig Welch, National Geographic Creative

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> for
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| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> which
<input type="checkbox"/> who
<input type="checkbox"/> what
<input type="checkbox"/> where | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> upset
<input type="checkbox"/> urgent
<input type="checkbox"/> unless
<input type="checkbox"/> urban | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> later
<input type="checkbox"/> further
<input type="checkbox"/> sooner
<input type="checkbox"/> afterwards | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> adding
<input type="checkbox"/> including
<input type="checkbox"/> incorporating
<input type="checkbox"/> excluding |
| 9 <input type="checkbox"/> protected
<input type="checkbox"/> protection
<input type="checkbox"/> protecting
<input type="checkbox"/> protect | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> effects
<input type="checkbox"/> conclusions
<input type="checkbox"/> meanings
<input type="checkbox"/> impressions | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> situations
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<input type="checkbox"/> country
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D. Text Production

Choose one of the following tasks and write about 150 words.
Count your words and write the number at the end of the text.

25 p

What is the story behind the picture?

Imagine this photo is the object of a creative writing competition and you decide to enter.

Write a text and include at least four of the following aspects:

- ▶ Who are the people? ▶ Where are they?
- ▶ What is happening? ▶ How do they feel?
- ▶ What will happen next?



Bildquelle: privat

or

A good night's sleep

You have noticed that lots of students don't get enough sleep. So you decide to write an article for your English school magazine about sleeping habits.

Use the ideas below to state your opinion.

Include at least four of the following aspects:

- ▶ Do you have problems sleeping / falling asleep?
- ▶ What are your sleeping habits like?
- ▶ Is getting a good night's sleep important or just a waste of time?
- ▶ Why do teenagers go to bed so late in the evening?
- ▶ How does sleep affect success in school?

LCT 2018



Part One

(Audiotrack: QR-Code rechts / Aufgaben S. 2)

News Item 1: Smart translator *The Pilot*

Imagine being able to visit any foreign country without having to worry about the language. Until recently, translating devices only existed in science fiction movies. But companies worldwide are working feverishly to introduce universal translators. Among them is the New York start-up company, Waverly Labs.

Their solution, called *The Pilot*, is a smart earpiece that instantly translates spoken language. The device, an in-ear headphone, picks up the sound of the speech, which then goes through a smartphone app that “whispers” it back to the listener in his or her own language. As a result, the user is able to understand the other person despite not knowing the language.

Currently, the device is dependent on having a data connection, but developers hope that future generations of *The Pilot* will function offline too. *The Pilot* can only translate one-on-one conversations. However, researchers at Waverly Labs are confident that it will soon be able to translate everything that is going on around the user as well.

Preorders of *The Pilot Translating Earpieces* cost US \$249 and come with free access to French, Italian, Spanish, along with English. Users can also purchase additional languages including Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, German, Japanese, Russian and many more. The dream of a life free of language barriers has finally become real.

Adapted from: DOGOnews.com, <https://www.dogonews.com/2016/10/30/smart-earpiece-translates-foreign-languages-in-real-time> by Sarah Benton Feitlinger (last accessed on 13.02.2017). <http://www.waverlylabs.com/pilot-translation-kit/> (last accessed on 07.09.2017).

News Item 2: Meet LiLou

On December 5th, San Francisco Airport officials introduced LiLou, the newest member of the Wag Brigade, a group of friendly therapy dogs that roam the airport terminals to provide comfort to travellers. However, two-year-old LiLou is not a Labrador or a Chihuahua like her colleagues, but a Juliana. At this point you are probably wondering why you have never heard of this dog breed. Let me help you – LiLou is a small and colourful pig. The idea of LiLou becoming a therapy animal came from her owner, Tatyana Danilove.

LiLou underwent the same training as the dogs and only after she passed with flying colours was she included in this all-important Wag Brigade family that boasts 300 canine members.

LiLou wears scarlet nail polish on her perfectly manicured nails. She can greet fans, wave, or thank them with a shake of her tail and even entertain them with live music on her toy piano. Airport officials say the pig even takes a bow after each performance!

When not helping calm nerves at the airport, LiLou can often be found entertaining the sick at local hospitals and visiting the elderly at retirement homes.

Adapted from: DOGOnews.com, <https://www.dogonews.com/2016/12/11/adorable-pig-calms-stressed-travelers-at-san-francisco-airport> by Meera Dolasia (last accessed on 14.02.2017).

Part Two

(Audiotrack: QR-Code oben / Aufgabe S. 3)

Survey: Modern communication

Reporter: Hello and welcome to tonight’s show. Our topic this evening is texting. Almost everybody nowadays has a mobile phone and sends messages, texts and photos to friends and family. Is it all good? This morning, I asked some holidaymakers in Brighton what they thought of texting. This is what they said.

Jane: Hi, I’m Jane. Last year I spent eight months working as an au pair in the USA. At the beginning, I felt quite lonely. Making friends was really hard, but thanks to social media, I was able to keep in touch with friends at home and tell or write to them about what I was doing. This made my situation easier.

- Graham:** Hello, my name is Graham Burgess. Generally, I like using my phone for contacting people, but I really do get fed up when I get messages which I can hardly understand because the spelling is so bad. Yes, you may have guessed – I'm a teacher. Students write their essays like they write their text messages. It's a disaster.
- Mary:** My name is Mary and I'm a manager for a big retail company. I have to hold interviews and I have noticed that people find it increasingly difficult to communicate face to face. They are unable to hold eye contact and they lack the social skills they need. One reason for this is definitely too much use of social media platforms.
- David:** Hi. David here. I love my mobile phone and I write at least 30 messages a day. It's great. However, it does get on my nerves if I am out on a first date, for example, and the girl keeps receiving calls and texts and spends more time on her phone than talking to me.
- Rebecca:** My name is Rebecca. It's ironic, but I think a mobile phone, which is designed to keep people connected, can actually drive us further apart. Have you ever seen a group of friends sitting in a restaurant looking down at their phones instead of at each other? You have? That's exactly what I mean.
- Mia:** Hi everyone! My name's Mia. It's great being able to text a friend when you are out and about. You can quickly make a date, be spontaneous, change your mind or chat to several people at the same time. It's so convenient.
- Sim:** My name is Sim. I'm still at school and when I start my homework, I have to put my phone in another room. It's so tempting to pick it up and see whether my mates have started their homework, or I might arrange to meet someone or check the football scores. I really have to be strict with myself.
- Reporter:** Thank you for all your interesting comments.

Adapted from: <http://www.importantindia.com/22926/mobile-phones-advantages-disadvantages/> (last accessed on 06.09.2017).

Part Three

(Audiotrack: QR-Code S. 11 / Aufgabe S. 3)

Interview: Mom on strike

- Reporter:** Today on the show, my guest is Jessica Stilwell, an ordinary working mum who decided to teach her children an extraordinary lesson. Welcome, Jessica. Tell us your story, please. What did you do that was so special?
- Jessica:** I decided to go on strike.
- Reporter:** What do you mean?
- Jessica:** Well, I decided to stop tidying up after the children. It all began on October 1st, that was a Saturday and my husband Dylan was away golfing for the weekend. For me, it was a typical weekend day filled with errands and sports. I sat down for the first time at 11 am and looked around me. The house was in a real mess and none of it was from me.
- Reporter:** Yes, I think we all know how that feels.
- Jessica:** So I decided to go on strike and stop tidying and cleaning up after the children. I didn't tell the children, though. I just stopped. I did keep a blog, however, about the increasing mess.
- Reporter:** And with your blog, you became a real Internet star! How long did you go on strike for?
- Jessica:** Six days in total. At the end of the first day, the breakfast dishes and the dinner dishes were still on the table, all crusty. The dishwasher was overflowing and the children's shoes and backpacks were in the middle of the hall.
- Reporter:** It just shows you how quickly things can get messy. How many children do you have, Jessica?
- Jessica:** We have got twin girls, who are 12, and another daughter, who is 10.
- Reporter:** OK. And what happened next? Did the situation get better or worse?
- Jessica:** It got worse! At the end of Day Two, there were dirty socks on the floor and used tissues on the sofa. The cereal left sitting in the milk from the day before was starting to stink and the dog had licked clean the dirty plates in the dishwasher.
- Reporter:** That sounds terrible. But didn't the children notice that something was wrong?
- Jessica:** Yes, Quinn, my youngest daughter, when she saw the soggy cereal, said, "Eeeee! What is THAT?" But she still didn't wash the bowl or carry it to the sink. It was a hard lesson and at times I felt awful, but I didn't give in.

- Reporter:** Keep going, Jessica! What happened on Day Four?
- Jessica:** Well, Quinn broke down crying and said, "I don't want to eat off paper plates or drink out of plastic beakers! Can you please help me to clean up?" And she went around picking up her things.
- Reporter:** Were you starting to feel bad that your daughter was unhappy?
- Jessica:** Yes, I was, but I also knew that I had to keep going for another couple of days, otherwise it would have all been for nothing.
- Reporter:** You did really well.
- Jessica:** Yes, and then finally on Day Six, I stopped the strike because the children were beginning to fight and blame each other. At that point, we all sat down on the sofa and talked. Then they apologized to me and started to clean up.
- Reporter:** How long did that take?
- Jessica:** It took them two days and I didn't do a thing, I just sat on the couch and drank coffee which my daughters had made for me. The girls complained bitterly, but they kept at it, and eventually, the whole house was nearly perfect.
- Reporter:** Wow! And what is it like now? Have they learned their lesson?
- Jessica:** Yes, mostly. They do now rinse their breakfast dishes and put them in the dishwasher and they empty their lunchboxes from the day before.
- Reporter:** You must be proud of yourself. You have made them more independent. When they leave home one day, they will be able to look after themselves.
- Jessica:** Let's hope so. Nobody's perfect, though. This morning I found a pair of dirty socks on the stairs.
- Reporter:** As you say, Jessica, nobody's perfect.

Adapted from: Lisa Belkin: Jessica Stilwell, Mom, goes on strike and household falls apart, https://www.huffpost.com/entry/jessica-stilwell-mom-on-strike_n_1948603 (last accessed on 02.09.2020)