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Pictograms are graphic images of products that immediately present hazards to the user. Most **pictograms** have a distinctive **red "square** set on one of its points" border. Inside this border is a symbol that represents the potential hazard (e.g., fire, health hazard, corrosive, etc.). Pictograms are assigned to specific **hazard** classes or categories.

Various products used in the house and the working environment could be **hazardous**. Thus, everyone must **comply** with a regulation called the Control of Substances Harmful to Health or **COSHH** that informs us what the hazard of the product is, how it may affect it, the necessary **precautions** we should take when using it and the medical **measures required**.

It would be surprising to count the number of hazardous products people use in different situations. They are not properly used and the container is changed. Besides, the **instructions** are not read carefully. Whereas, Some household chemicals might be **carcinogenic**, cause **reproductive** problems and **damage** the brain. For example, **Bleach** product is **irritating** and **corrosive** to the skin, lungs, and eyes. In addition , it may cause extreme **headaches, migraines, and muscle weakness**. On top of this, mixing bleach and **vinegar** can be fatal if inhaled and may cause **bronchitis, chronic** lung conditions.

Traditional paints and many related products, such as **paint thinner** or **strippers, give off volatile** organic compounds (VOCs). Emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids, VOCs include a variety of chemicals that may include **toluene, xylene, ethyl acetate, and formaldehyde**, Volatile organic compounds can cause headaches, eye irritation, nausea, dizziness, and fatigue.

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There are a few basic rules when dealing with hazardous products to follow in order to keep everyone healthy and safe .

- Check the products you use and replace them with a less harmful product where possible.
- Keep in the original container or packaging.
- Read and understand all the information on the product label, especially the first aid measures, do not wait until they are needed before reading them.
- Ensure that everything required **for first aid measures** is available before using the product.
- Never mix products.
- Never eat or drink while handling any materials, and if your hands are contaminated.
- If it is necessary to identify a material, do not taste or smell it. Read the label, , or take a **sample** for analysis.
- Store all products properly, separate incompatibles, and store in ventilated, dry, cool areas.
- Keep yourself and your work area clean. After handling any material, wash thoroughly with soap and water.

The **hazards must** be classified into different categories. Within each Class, the Categories are numbered, with the most **dangerous category** called "Category 1" and less **severe hazards counting** up from there, such as "Category 2" and "Category 3," until the hazard is no longer serious.

To conclude, Many **cleaning supplies** or **household products** can irritate the eyes or throat, or cause headache and other health problems. It is necessary to read the warning and ingredient labels on cleaning products and common household chemicals. As it is crucial to consider the issue of exposing **workers** to hazardous chemicals. Thus, **employees** have to get access to information and appropriate safe-handling instructions when necessary,

Text exploration – Before reading:

- 1-
- 2- How many paragraphs does the text consist of?
- 3- Circle the letter that corresponds to the right answer:
The text is: a. Argumentative b. Narrative c. Expository

Text exploration – While reading:

- 4- Read the text slowly and silently.
- 5- Extract the difficult words from each paragraph.
- 6- Using your dictionary, find the words you have extracted in addition to the words that are underlined in each paragraph.

Text exploration – After reading:

- 7- What is the main idea of the text?
- 8- Find a title to the text
- 9- Find in the text words that have the same meaning as:
 a. dangerous b. needs c.
- 10- Are these statements: true, false, or not mentioned?
 - a) domestic products cannot be harmful for health .
 - b) Being aware of the safety measures emergency procedures is not vital.
 - c) xylene and other compounds can cause serious irritation .
 - d) . Mixing household product or changing the container cannot cause problems

11- Answer the following questions according to the text:

- Is using household product could be dangerous? Why?
- What are the necessary precautions people must take in order to be safe?
- Why the hazards must be categorized ?

Pronunciation practice

12- Read the following words aloud: **toluene, xylene, ethyl acetate, formaldehyde,**

Homework:

- 1- What are the new things that you've learned from the text?
Mention at least four new words and two important ideas.
- 2- Bring other examples of household product that could be Fatal and hazardous