

B1 Level (text adapted from *Face2face* – Upper Intermediate - CUP)

Men in the 21st Century

Back in the 1980s, everyone was talking about the 'new man'. Every magazine was full of pictures of him holding babies or saucepans, and we were told that no self-respecting modern man would expect his wife to do all the childcare and housework. So we didn't. The division of domestic labour changed and men got in touch with their **feminine** side. Or at least that's what I thought.

However, read any of the articles written today on the subject and anyone would think that men haven't changed since the beginning of time. No one seems to think the division of labour has really improved and apparently we should feel guilty about it. But all of my married friends are new men compared to their fathers' generation. They don't expect their wives to do everything for them and they all spend quality time with their kids.

I've got two older brothers and both of them do most of the cooking for their families, as well as being the main breadwinners. Neither of them spend hours in the pub with their friends watching football. And I don't think they would prefer the lifestyle our father's generation had. However, no newspapers report that. Instead, we get surveys saying that on an average day in Britain, men only spend 13 minutes caring for children, 45 minutes cooking and doing housework, but three hours watching TV.

It's hard to find anything that shows men in a positive light these days. And each time I read about how selfish and unhelpful men are, my blood boils. It's so unfair!

WORDS: 263

Additional Vocabulary: *handkerchief – psychiatrist – debtor – threaten – leisure*
