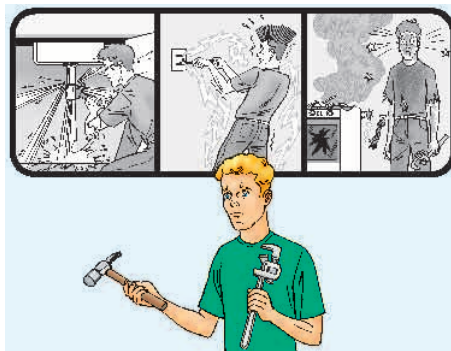


THE EXERCISE IS TO BE DONE AND CORRECTED IN CLASS.

PRACTICING PHRASAL VERBS

In one of the situations, we saw a boy who tried to fix the plumbing in the kitchen and caused a bigger problem because he didn't know what he was doing. That boy is always trying to deal with things he doesn't understand.

Let's take a look at him again:



He's always **playing around with** things he doesn't understand.

Remember this:



To **play around with** something is to deal with it in a casual, careless way.

Here are more examples with **play around with**:

Stop **playing around with** this wrench! You don't know how to use it anyway.

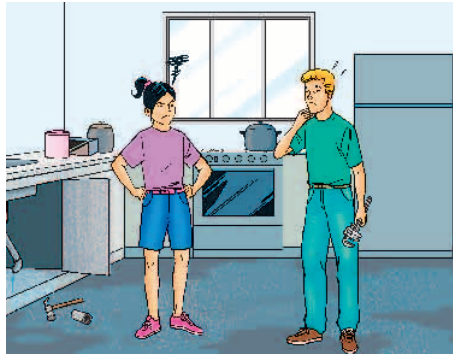
You shouldn't **play around with** the TV. You might get in trouble.

Who's been **playing around with** my computer?

Remember you learned how to use **to mess up** in a situation in which a woman was sorry because she **messed up** her friend's plans?

Now let's see how we can use **to mess up** to describe what the boy did when he started playing around with the plumbing in the kitchen in the situation *You Can't Say I Didn't Try*.

Take a look at this picture:



He really **messed up**.

Remember this:



When you **mess up**, you do something very badly.

Here are more examples with **mess up**:

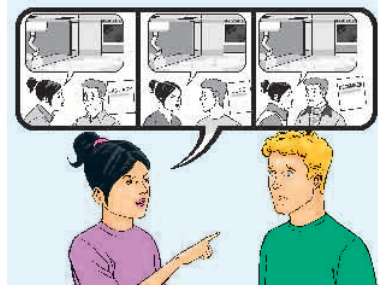
“Why are you so upset, Lisa?” “I **messed up** at work today. I forgot to give the boss a very important message.”

I can't believe you **messed up** again. You've had so many job interviews, but you still don't know what you should or should not say.

You really **messed up** this time, Tony. I told you to dig a hole in the backyard, but not in the middle of the garden.

Do you think the girl is going to let the boy forget about what a stupid thing he did?

Let's look at this picture:



She'll never let him **live it down**.

Remember this:



To **live down** a mistake, failure, or foolish action is to make it be forgotten.

Here are more examples with **live down**:

I don't think you should spend the rest of your life trying to **live down** one silly mistake you made when you were young.

If your wife hears about what you did to the car, she'll never let you **live it down**.

Now complete the text below using the appropriate form of one of the following phrasal verbs: *to play around, to mess up* or *to live down*.

I'll never listen to Todd again. Here's what happened. There was a problem with the office computer system. Mrs. Jann, our boss, had already called the technician, but he hadn't shown up yet. Todd suggested that we try to fix it after work. I said that I would pass on that idea. I told him that we shouldn't (a) _____ with something like that. After all, computers are complicated machines and we only know a little bit about how they work. Todd said that if we could solve the problem ourselves, we'd save the company a lot of money and probably get a raise. So, I decided to help him. Unfortunately, we really (b) _____ and made the problem even worse! When Mrs. Jann found out the next day, she was absolutely furious. I know we'll never be able to (c) _____ this stupid mistake.

a. play around

b. messed up

c. live down