

I HATE HOMEWORK

Part 1: The Al's Response

The Situation

Read the Al's response to Elif's letter. Pay close attention to the bolded phrases. They will help you start a conversation, give advice, and talk about your own school life.

Hello, Elif,

Thank you for your honest and funny letter. First of all, you are not a *homework zombie*. You are a smart, creative teenager who just needs a better plan.

I understand you feel like a *tired potato* after school. Homework can be boring, especially when it takes hours. But here's the good news: you don't need to fight the homework monster alone. You can *make a homework routine* that works for you.

Try this: **set a timer for 25 minutes**. Work hard, then take a 5-minute break. Eat a snack, stretch, or pet your cat (but don't let her sit on your notebook again!). Then do another 25 minutes. This method is called the **Pomodoro Technique**. It helps many students stay focused.

Also, *put your phone in another room*. I know it's hard. But your messages will still be there later. You'll finish faster without distractions.

If your homework is too much, *talk to your teacher*. Say, "I want to learn, but I feel stressed." Most teachers will listen. You can also ask your parents to help you find quiet time—maybe your brother can wear headphones while gaming.

And don't forget: *fun is important too*. You need time to draw, laugh, and be yourself. School matters, but so does your happiness.

You're doing your best, Elif. That's enough. Keep going, and don't let homework steal your joy. **You've got this**.

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Warm wishes, Al

Discussion Questions

- Which advice from Al do you like best?
- What is your own homework routine?
- Do you think Elif should talk to her teacher? Why?

Vocabulary Support

homework zombie – very tired from too much homework tired potato – a funny way to say "very tired"

routine - a regular plan or schedule

Pomodoro Technique – study in short blocks with breaks **distractions** – things that stop you from focusing **fun is important too** – a reminder that happiness matters