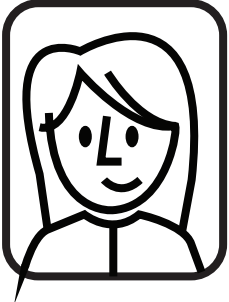# LESSON 12: HOMEWORK TASK
Sarah's and John's case studies

Hi, my name is Sarah.

I'm 19 and a first year in college. I'm doing a 3-year bakery course in DIT. As I'm from Kilkenny I live in a rented house in Dublin with four housemates. We share the rent but it's still quite expensive – we pay €300 each, every month.

When I started college I had to buy a lot of cooking and baking equipment. That cost €200. The same thing will probably happen at the start of next year. I have a few bills in the house as well. We share all the bills between us but even so, I spend €250 on bills and food every month.

I can claim a student grant of €500 per term but that doesn't go very far. There are three terms a year so I get €1,500 every college year. I'm very lucky, my uncle agreed to give me a loan of €3,900 to help while I'm in college. I divided the loan up between the three years so I get €1,300 per year. I don't have to pay him back until I finish college and I don't have to pay any interest!

I have a part-time job. I work 20 hours a week in a kitchen for the minimum wage of €8.65 an hour, but I can only work when I don't have exams coming up. This means I work for seven months of the college year. When I'm finished with this year's exams my boss said she'll take me on for 35 hours a week at the minimum wage for the three summer months which is great.

I spend at least €50 going out during the week. I also have a car. This year, my insurance was €425 and the tax cost €310. Petrol usually costs me €20 a week. I only use it to drive to Kilkenny every second weekend to see my parents. One of my housemates is from Kilkenny as well and she travels home by coach. She says it's really cheap and that you can get a student return ticket for €10.80.

I think I'm pretty good at budgeting as I can make my money last until the end of term when I get my grant. When college is over, though, I'll have to repay my uncle so there is always room for improvement.

LESSON 12: HOMEWORK TASK

Sarah's and John's case studies
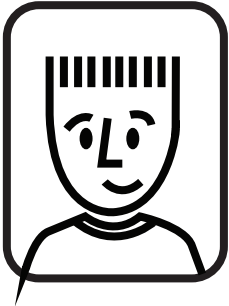
Hi, I'm John.

I'm 25 and unfortunately I don't have a job. I'm looking for work, but while I'm doing that I'm claiming unemployment benefit. I get a payment of €188 each week. I live with my brother who only charges me €40 rent a week and this covers all the bills too. I usually spend about €50 a week on food for the house and take-aways after the pub. I'm single and don't have any kids, so I don't really have too many expenses. All the same, my money doesn't seem to go too far.

I drive a Subaru Impreza WRX, which is expensive to run. My motor tax is about €600 a year and my insurance is €900. The insurance has come down over the last few years but it's still really expensive. My mam told me I should trade my car in for something less powerful and get cheaper insurance but I don't want to, I love my car! I don't know how I'll afford the insurance this year though. The Subaru uses a lot of petrol. I don't drive it much because of that but I'm still spending €40 a week on petrol.

When I got laid off, I still had some savings left, but I thought I could do with a holiday so most of it went on that. I didn't expect to be out of work so long. I haven't any savings left now. I'm trying to save some of the dole, but I usually spend most of what's left on going out and on clothes. I tried to work it out and I think I'm spending at least €125 a month on going out and clothes.

A local pizza shop offered me some work delivering pizza. They offered me 15 hours a week at the minimum wage €8.65 an hour, but I don't want my car to smell of pizza. I do need to earn more money so I really need to think about the offer. I can work a couple of days a week without it affecting my dole.

I feel like I'm stuck in a rut. The car insurance is costing a fortune. I'd really like to head to Australia to work in a year. I'd say the ticket would cost about €1,500 and I'd need at least €2,000 for when I get there. I'm going to start saving for that, but I'm not sure it's going to work on the money I'm getting off the dole.