

slept in a clean bed and I got out of that clean bed again this morning. So can anyone tell me how I'd be dirty?

indignantly:

entrüstet,
empört

awkward:

unangenehm

»I'm not a baby any more,« said Ben **indignantly**, hoping to get away from the **awkward** subject of washing as soon as possible.

»Of course not,« agreed his mother, grinning. »Still, it seems you're not big enough yet to get dressed properly, let alone make your own breakfast.«

(to) groan:

stöhnen

»Oh, Ma!« **groaned** Ben. »You never take me seriously. Look, it's nearly ten to seven. I must go.«

»It's not even twenty to seven,« his mother corrected

him. »Must be a really important game to get you up so early.« She sat on the edge of the bed, rubbed her eyes sleepily again and picked up her dressing-gown from the floor beside the bed. »Where's this wonderful game coming from?« she asked.

»Frank,« said Ben at once.

»It's a **swap**.« As soon as he said it he wished he hadn't.

Now she'll ask what I'm swapping for it. He **made a beeline for** the kitchen. Sure enough, here came the question he expected. »A swap? What for?«

swap: der
Tausch

**(to) make a
beeline for
sb/sth:**
schnell,
geradewegs
auf jdn/etw
zugehen

(to)

Ben **pretended** he hadn't

pretend:
vortäuschen,
vorgeben; so
tun, als ob
(to) shuffle:
schlurfen

heard. His mother **shuffled**
into the kitchen and asked
again as she took milk, butter
and jam out of the fridge.

**(to) take
refuge in:**
sich flüchten
casually:
beiläufig,
lässig

Ben **took refuge in** his room.
»I have to pack up my things
for school,« he said as
casually as possible.

**(to) drone
on:** leiern
**(to)
counter:**
bekämpfen,

As he entered his room, his
radio alarm was just going off.
It was set for quarter to seven.
Some man reading the news
summary was **droning on**.
»The following measures **to
counter** the escalation of

street violence are therefore being discussed by parliamentary committees.«
Ben pressed the Off button. *All that boring talk, he thought. Who bothers about it?*

entgegenwirken

**(to) vanish
without
trace:**
spurlos

He picked up his school bag, hoping it had the books he'd need today in it. Over the last three days he'd been lucky anyway with the basic stuff in his bag. An exercise book, two pens, and of course his maths and physics books. Ben always had those with him. He wasn't about to miss out on his favourite subjects. His history textbook, on the other hand,

had **vanished without trace** three weeks ago, but no one at school had noticed yet.

verschwinden

(to) gurgle:
gluckern

He went back into the kitchen, where his mother had now laid a good breakfast just as she did every morning. Her coffee was still **gurgling** through the filter machine. Ben drank his glass of milk in a single gulp, took an apple from the fruit bowl and disappeared into the front hall.

»Don't you want any breakfast?« asked his mother in surprise.

(to) grunt:
grunzen,
brummen,

» . . .ised . . . eet . . . nk,«
grunted Ben, holding the apple in his mouth as he put