

Rav

Welcome to the City. This area of London is where bankers and stockbrokers work. City workers look smart and work hard, but how much do they know about where they work? If I said you had your work cut out for you, what does that mean?

Man 1

That I'm very busy and I've got a lot to do in a short amount of time.

Woman

You've got quite a lot to do on a certain thing or a project.

Man 2

The traffic's terrible. I've really got my work cut out getting there on time.

Rav

Where in the world do you think that saying first came from?

Woman

My guess would be that it's from some sort of tailoring and having to cut your work out.

Rav

Would it surprise you to learn that this saying was probably first used on this street, just a little bit up that road?

Man 1

It wouldn't surprise me at all, no.

Rav

And what's the name of this street?

Man 1

This is Threadneedle Street.

Rav

Threadneedle Street was the home of tailoring in the 16th and 17th centuries. Tailors worked with assistants. The assistants would cut out the cloth and the tailors would sew it.

If the tailor didn't work quickly enough, the pile of cloth would get bigger and bigger; and because his work was cut out for him, he could clearly see that there was a lot to do and it was all jumbled up in a mess. In other words, he had a really difficult job ahead of him, just like the modern day Londoners here in the city, many of whom do difficult and stressful jobs.

I tell you what... I've got my work cut out trying to get across this road!

Watch the video here: <http://bbc.in/2zALl5m>