

Housing

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Vocabulary

A. Types of Accommodations

Type of Building		Definition
apartment	high-rise	an apartment building with at least ten floors
	walk-up	an apartment building with no elevator, usually four floors or less
house	bungalow / rancher	a house with only one floor above ground (may or may not have a basement level)
	two-story	a house with two floors above ground (may or may not have a basement level)
	three-story	a house with three floors above ground
townhouse		a unit with a separate entrance door that is part of a larger group of homes that are joined together, each sharing a common wall with the one beside it
duplex		a house that is divided into two living accommodations, either side-by-side or one above the other, with two separate entrances
condominium (condo)		an apartment or townhouse that is owned rather than rented; the owner usually pays a monthly fee to cover the costs of building and property maintenance
mobile home / trailer		a home on wheels
suite		another term for an apartment
flat		a British term for an apartment
bachelor apartment		an apartment for one person with no separate bedroom

Vocabulary cont.

B. Related Vocabulary

Word	Definition
landlord / landlady	the owner of a building that is rented out to others
tenant	renter or occupant of a house or apartment
lease	the contract a tenant signs when renting an apartment or house
mortgage	a loan given when one buys a house or property
suburbs	residential districts, away from the downtown area of a city
security deposit / damage deposit	the money a tenant pays a landlord before moving in; often it is half a month's rent; the landlord keeps this money until the tenant moves out; if the apartment is not damaged, the money is returned
appliances	fridge, stove, washer, dryer, dishwasher
utilities	gas, electricity, water

Question Formation

There are many things you may want to know when you are going to rent an apartment. Make one or two questions about the words in brackets.

1. (rent)

How much is the rent?

What is the rent?

2. (number of bedrooms)

3. (close to schools / major bus route / shopping etc.)

4. (appliances)

5. (utilities)

6. (pets)

7. (parking)

8. (security deposit)

9. (lease)

10. (when / available)

11. (air-conditioned / carpeted)

12. (balcony / cable TV)

13. (laundry facilities)

14. (which floor)

15. (elevator)

16. (other)

Group Work

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

Interview your classmates. Find out about the places where they live.
If your classmate lives in an apartment, fill out Chart A. If your classmate lives in a house, fill out Chart B. Do the same for yourself.

Chart A - Apartment

Name			
Location			
Number of Floors			
Which Floor			
Elevator			
Laundry Room / Where			
Balcony			
Parking			

Chart B - House

Name			
Location			
Number of Floors			
Number of Rooms			
Size of Backyard			
Garage			
Porch			
Basement			
Parking			

Abbreviations in Housing Ads

Most newspapers use abbreviations in their advertisements. Abbreviations can be formed with or without a period. Abbreviations may not always be the same in all regions of a country. Here are some ways that abbreviations can be formed:

the first few letters of the word

- balcony → balc.

#	Word	Abbr.
1	adult	adlt.
2	after	aft.
3	air conditioning	a/c
4	appliances	appl.
5	apartment	apt.
6	bachelor	bach.
7	balcony	balc.
8	basement	base. / bsmt.
9	bathroom	bath. / ba. / baths
10	bedroom	b.r. / BR / bed / bdrm.
11	building	bldg.
12	close	cl.
13	conveniences	conv.
14	dining room	D.R. / DR
15	downtown	dntn.
16	drapes	drps.
17	elevator	elev.
18	female	F
19	floor	fl. / flr.
20	furnished	furn.

the first initials of compound words

- bedroom → b.r.

#	Word	Abbr.
21	garage	gar.
22	house	hse.
23	immediate	imm. / immed.
24	includes / included	inc. / incl.
25	inquire	inq.
26	kitchen	kit. / kitch.
27	large	lg.
28	laundry	laun.
29	living room	l.r. / LR / liv. rm.
30	location	loc. / lcn.
31	male	M
32	manager	mgr.
33	modern	mod.
34	month	mo.
35	near	nr.
36	newly decorated	new. dec.
37	parking	pkg. / prkg.
38	phone	ph. / Ph. / tel. / Tel.

consonants (no vowels)

- downtown → dntn.

#	Word	Abbr.
39	possession	poss.
40	refrigerator / fridge	refrig.
41	security deposit	sec. dep.
42	separate	sep.
43	shopping	shop.
44	side-by-side	SxS
45	small	sm.
46	smoking	smk.
47	spacious	spac.
48	stove	stv.
49	sublet	sub.
50	suite	ste.
51	television	TV
52	transportation	trans.
53	unfurnished	unfurn.
54	utilities	util.
55	wall-to-wall carpeting	w/w carp.
56	wanted	wtd.
57	washer/dryer	w/d
58	week	wk.

Classified Advertisements

A. Reading

Read the classified ads below, and then answer the questions on the following page.

#1

ROOM FOR RENT (FURNISHED)

260 Young St., cl. to Main St. Nicely furn. clean room, avail. Dec. 1. Rooms incl. fridge & cable. Share kit., bath., laun. Clean & quiet tenants only. \$300 mo. Ph. 453-9860

#2

ROOM & BOARD

Room & board avail., downtown lcn., cl. to all conv. 3 meals, 7 days, TV, ph. 452-3412

#3

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Unfurnished large 2 b.r. ste., nr. dntn., balc., cable TV, a/c, pkg., immed. poss., ph. 787-3426

#4

TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT

immed. poss., spac., 3 b.r., one level twnhse., 2 baths, prkg. incl., \$950, ph. 772-9087

#5

DUPLEX FOR RENT

3 b.r. upper duplex, 4 appl., 1 bath., cl. to shop., bus & schools, \$900, pkg. & all util. inc., avail. Sept. 15, ph 663-7869

#6

HOUSE FOR RENT

nr. shop. mall & parks, 3 b.r., 4 appl., \$800/mo. plus util. w/w carp., avail immed. No pets. Ph. 895-0954

#7

SHARED ACCOMMODATION

M/F roommate wtd. to share 2 b.r. house, \$400/mo. Incl. util. & prkg., no smk. Tel. 489-6059

Classified Advertisements cont.

B. Comprehension

Read the ads in Part A and answer the questions below in your notebook.

- Ad #1**
1. Does the room for rent have a private bath?
 2. Are there laundry facilities?
 3. When can you move in?
- Ad #2**
4. Is this accommodation close to a bus stop?
 5. Is lunch included in the board?
- Ad #3**
6. Where is the apartment located?
 7. Is it on the main floor?
 8. How do you know this?
 9. When is it available?
- Ad #4**
10. Do you have to pay extra for parking?
- Ad #5**
11. Is this a side-by-side duplex?
 12. Is heating extra?
 13. What does "1 bath." mean?
- Ad #6**
14. Is electricity included in the rent?
 15. Which appliances do you think are included?
- Ad #7**
16. What is not allowed in this accommodation?
- Scenario**
17. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts are renting a small two-story house right now. They have two children and a large dog. Soon Mrs. Roberts' mother is coming to live with them, and they will have to find a new place to live. She is very old and has difficulty walking. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts own a car. Which ad do you think they should answer? Why?

What to Look for When Renting a House or Apartment

A. Reading

1. There are many things to consider before renting a house or apartment. First you must decide how much rent you can afford to pay. You also have to consider how much space you will need and what type of accommodation you want. Another important consideration is location. Is convenience important? Do you want to be close to shopping, schools, buses, playgrounds, etc.?
2. When you are looking at places to rent, you should check both the interior and exterior carefully. When examining the outside of the building, it is a good idea to look for cracks and holes in the outside walls because they could let cold air in. Check the doors carefully. They should fit tightly and have locks with keys. Windows should also fit well. Any broken windows should be repaired by the landlord before you move in.
3. Look through each room carefully. Check all electrical switches and outlets to see if they work. Look for holes or cracks in walls. A bathroom should have a fan, window, or vent. You should flush the toilet to see if it works. If the water runs for a long time, it can increase your water bill. Also check to make sure the water faucets work. Look in the bedrooms and check for closet space. If appliances such as fridge and stove or washer and dryer are included, ensure they are working properly. Don't forget to look for a fire alarm or smoke detector. All homes should have one.
4. Whether renting a house or an apartment, you should know the kind of heating system and the heating costs. If it is a house, inspect the furnace. In some rental accommodations, the utilities are included in the rent. In others, they are not. This is the same for parking. Make sure to find out what is included before you agree to take a place. Some landlords require you to sign a lease, which is a rental agreement. The lease tells how much the rent is, the date on which the rent must be paid, the amount of the damage deposit, and the length of time of the rental. Always read a lease carefully before you sign it.

B. Vocabulary

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. afford | a) a place to live |
| _____ 2. interior | b) the outside |
| _____ 3. landlord | c) a written rental agreement |
| _____ 4. vent | d) heat, water, electricity |
| _____ 5. faucet | e) a heater for buildings |
| _____ 6. appliances | f) ease |
| _____ 7. utilities | g) to have enough money |
| _____ 8. lease | h) the owner of a building |
| _____ 9. convenience | i) a water tap |
| _____ 10. furnace | j) the inside |
| _____ 11. accommodation | k) a fridge, stove, washer, and dryer |
| _____ 12. exterior | l) a hole to allow air in and out |

Vocabulary Review

Choose the correct word from the word list on the right to complete each sentence.

1. That apartment building has no vacancies right now, but there may be a suite _____ next month.
2. I had to sign a one-year _____ for my apartment.
3. His apartment is in a very _____ location. It is close to many stores, restaurants, and bus stops.
4. When you rent a house, you often have to pay extra for all the _____, but when you rent an apartment, the heating costs are usually included.
5. The _____ is the occupant and the person who pays the rent.
6. The _____ is the owner of the building.
7. Dan lives alone, so he only needs a _____ apartment.
8. The fridge, stove, washer, and dryer are called the _____.
9. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have five children and a dog, so they want to find a very _____ house.
10. When you rent an apartment, you usually have to pay half a month's rent as a damage _____. If the apartment is in good condition when you move out, this money will be returned to you.
11. I have a one-year lease, but I want to leave before my lease expires. I will have to _____.
12. A house that is divided into two, with two separate entrances, is called a _____.
13. She keeps a lot of pretty plants and flowers on her _____ in the summer.
14. Many students _____ in other people's homes when they go away to university. It is cheaper than renting an apartment.

Word List:

- landlord
- tenant
- lease
- deposit
- sublet
- appliances
- utilities
- balcony
- bachelor
- convenient
- spacious
- available
- board
- duplex

Class Activity

Walk around the classroom and ask your classmates questions. Write the questions in the spaces provided below, and write your classmate's name on the right if he/she answers "yes."

#	Find someone...	Question	Classmate
1	who lives in a rented house.		
2	who has a balcony.		
3	who didn't have to pay a security deposit.		
4	who has an air-conditioned apartment.		
5	who doesn't have a lease.		
6	whose apartment doesn't have an elevator.		
7	who lives in a high-rise.		
8	whose apartment allows pets.		
9	who is thinking of moving.		
10	who owns his/her own appliances.		
11	who had more spacious accommodation in his/her own country.		

Teachers' Notes

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students explore vocabulary, expressions, and key questions related to housing options. Different types of housing are identified and students practice reading classified ads.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 5 hours

TAGS: housing, classifieds, abbreviations, rent, accommodations, settlement

FLASHCARDS: Housing

Introduction

On the day prior to introducing the theme of Housing, ask your students to bring any pictures they have of their homes or their friends' homes, both interior and exterior pictures. Bring pictures of your own that show as many different types of living accommodations as possible. Also bring the classified section of several newspapers or be prepared to show classified ads on local real estate or news websites.

Vocabulary

Before distributing the Vocabulary section, try to elicit as much vocabulary as possible from the students about different kinds of living accommodations, and put the words on the board. Introduce your pictures and the vocabulary. Repeat and monitor pronunciation. Give examples in sentences, and ask the students to give their own examples.

Question Formation

Work with the class to make questions for the words that are provided on the worksheet. Try to elicit the questions from the students. There may be several different questions for each word; for example:

parking

- Is parking included in the rent?
- How much is parking?
- Is there underground parking?

appliances

- Are the appliances included?
- Which appliances are included?
- Are the appliances new?

Try to encourage the students to think of other questions they would like to ask about housing. Put the questions on the board and practice repeating them.

Group Work

Break the class into groups of three. Have the students complete the charts provided by asking each other about their living accommodations. Have the students share their pictures in their groups, encouraging real conversation, while they complete their charts. Ensure they understand all the vocabulary before they start. There are a few more words on this sheet (porch, basement, fence, etc.) that were not used in the previous activity.

(continued on the same page...)

Teachers' Notes cont.

Abbreviations in Housing Ads

As a class, try to brainstorm the different types of categories of rental accommodation (furnished apartments, unfurnished apartments, room & board, shared accommodation, townhouses, furnished houses, unfurnished houses, duplexes, etc.). Put a list on the board. Break the students into groups and have them gather around a newspaper or computer. Have them choose three or four ads and write down all the abbreviations they find. Put them on the board and have the students try to tell you what the abbreviations mean. Point out that abbreviations are not always formed in the same way and that there might be several different ways to abbreviate the same word. Distribute the list of abbreviations and read it together, monitoring for pronunciation and ensuring comprehension.

Classified Advertisements

A. READING

Have students alternate reading the ads aloud.

B. COMPREHENSION

Have the students work individually or in pairs on the worksheet while you circulate and monitor their work. Correct orally with the class as a whole. Have students alternate giving the answers.

1. No, it doesn't.
2. Yes, there are.
3. You can move in on December 1.
4. Yes, it is.
5. Yes, it is.
6. It is located close to downtown.
7. No, it isn't.
8. It has a balcony.
9. It is available immediately.
10. No, you don't. It's included.
11. No, it isn't.
12. No, it isn't. It's included.
13. It means there is one bathroom.
14. No, it isn't. All utilities cost extra.

15. A refrigerator, a stove, a washing machine, and a dryer are probably included.
16. Smoking is not allowed.
17. Answers may vary, but the townhouse in Ad #4 is best suited to their needs (there are enough bedrooms, it is one level, and it has parking).

What to Look for When Renting a House or Apartment

A. READING

Before doing the reading, ask the class to think of things they should consider before renting a place and what types of things to check for when looking at places to rent. Put the lists on the board. Have students take turns reading the passage aloud, and monitor pronunciation. Check for comprehension by asking questions, such as:

- What should you consider before renting?
- Why should you check the exterior walls?
- What should you take note of when looking at the doors?

B. VOCABULARY

Have the students read the passage again silently and complete the vocabulary exercise on their own. Correct it together.

- | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. g | 3. h | 5. i | 7. d | 9. f | 11. a |
| 2. j | 4. l | 6. k | 8. c | 10. e | 12. b |

(continued on the same page...)

Teachers' Notes cont.

Vocabulary Review

Have the students work individually on the worksheet while you circulate and monitor their work. Correct orally with the class as a whole.

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. available | 6. landlord | 11. sublet |
| 2. lease | 7. bachelor | 12. duplex |
| 3. convenient | 8. appliances | 13. balcony |
| 4. utilities | 9. spacious | 14. board |
| 5. tenant | 10. deposit | |

Class Activity

Distribute the worksheet. Have the students write the questions before they begin the oral practice and review the questions together. This will ensure they are asking the questions correctly as they circulate around the room. Have the students circulate around the class, asking the questions on the sheet. When the student finds a classmate who can answer the question, he/she will then write the student's name on the line and follow up with one more question of his/her own. ("Do you have a balcony?" "Yes." "What floor do you live on?" / "Can you barbecue on your balcony?") Try to encourage the students to engage in real conversation during this activity. Follow up by sharing the information with the whole class. This activity provides a good opportunity for the students to practice the new vocabulary.