



Sharing an Apartment

Conversation > Advanced 7



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

utility bill	Bills for gas, electricity, water, etc.
[noun]	<i>Ex: She found an apartment for \$800 a month plus the utility bills.</i>

perk	Positive side, an advantage.
[noun]	<i>Ex: Having a company car is one of the perks of my job.</i>

landlord	A person who owns and rents an apartment/house to someone.
[noun]	<i>Ex: Our new landlord met us at the apartment to give us the keys.</i>



pros and cons	The positives and negatives; the good and the bad.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: He decided to make a list of the pros and cons about the apartment.</i>

tenant	A person who rents a room, apartment, etc.
[noun]	<i>Ex: They are the new tenants for the apartment.</i>

make a fool of (someone)	To do something that will cause people to judge someone negatively.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: She made a fool of herself at the wedding by getting too drunk.</i>



Exercise 2 – Dialogue

Choose one character and read the dialogue aloud with your tutor.

Megan: I can't stand living with my parents anymore. No one ever wants to hang out with me there.

Lea: Yeah, it can definitely be awkward trying to have fun with your parents around.

Megan: I'm not sure whether to get a little apartment by myself, or rent a house with some roommates.

Lea: Hmm... you should think about it very carefully, Megan. Being a tenant is not easy.

Megan: Definitely! I'm making a list of all the pros and cons for each option right now.

Lea: Very smart! Privacy is definitely a perk of living alone.

Megan: Didn't you just get some roommates? How are you finding it?



Lea: It's made the utility bills and the rent a lot more affordable. But they are always in my space.

Megan: Do you have any advice for a first-time renter? I don't want to make a fool of myself.

Lea: You have to choose people you don't mind being around all the time, Megan.

Megan: At this point, anyone would be an improvement over my parents.

Lea: If the landlord seems difficult to deal with, don't move in. A bad landlord makes life a lot more difficult.

Megan: Oh, another piece of advice! Thanks for the heads up, Lea!

Lea: Of course. Let me know if you have any other questions.



Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct answers from the answer pool below and fill in the blanks.

Answer Pool

perks

pros and cons

tenant

landlord

made a fool of himself

utility bills

1. Are you the one paying for your _____?
2. He _____ at the ceremony. It was really funny!
3. A new _____ just leased this office space.
4. Top executives expect _____ such as large expense accounts.
5. They were tired of paying money to a _____ so they bought a house.
6. You have to weigh up all the _____ before you make a decision.



Exercise 4 – Role Play

Take turns with your tutor and act out the scene described below.

Scene: You want to move out and live on your own. Talk to your friend Julia about it, discuss the pros and cons of living alone or with a roommate. The teacher can be Julia.



Exercise 5 – Discussion

Discuss the following questions with your tutor.

1. Do you live in an apartment? If yes, describe your apartment.
2. Which do you prefer, living in an apartment alone or with roommates? Why?
3. Do you think some roommates are not easy to get along with? Why?
4. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of sharing an apartment?
5. In your own opinion, are landlords responsible for any damages caused by their renters? Why? Why not?