

Roommates and Money (1/5)

Directions

Review the following list of things to discuss with a potential roommate and then answer the questions that follow.

Things to Talk About Before You Move In

- » **Responsibility:** Make sure both you and your roommate know all the terms of the lease and understand the consequences (both legal and financial) of not complying with the lease.
- » **Utilities:** Many roommates split the cost of utilities equally. However these expenses are covered, they should be discussed and agreed upon prior to moving in.
- » **Your finances:** Know your roommate's financial situation and share yours with them. Do your parents pay your rent, or are you supporting yourself?
- » **Groceries:** Will you plan your meals and shop together, splitting the cost equally? Or will you each buy your own groceries, respectfully avoiding your roommate's stash of cookies.
- » **Guests:** Be sure to set guidelines for how long and often guests can visit. Having noisy guests in your apartment when you're trying to study can strain the best of friendships.
- » **Cleaning:** Some people are neat freaks and others are more laid back when it comes to keeping their place clean. Either way, it's important to discuss expectations of cleanliness prior to moving in.
- » **Who is bringing what:** While bedroom furniture is pretty straightforward, furnishing common space needs to be planned out. What furnishings are needed, and who will be supplying/purchasing them?

Remember, communication is key!

Research and Respond to the Following Questions

- ❶ List some advantages of a roommate.

- ❷ List some possible disadvantages of a roommate.

- ❸ What would be your minimum roommate expectations?

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4 Do you think rooming with old friends is a good idea? Why or why not?

5 What are some tools/sources for finding a roommate safely?

6 Look at the sample rental agreement (lease) provided. What are the basic components of a lease agreement?

7 Look online to find a sample roommate agreement. How might having a written roommate agreement prior to moving in together be helpful?
