



Lesson 10

An Expensive Roommate

Nicole was having money problems. She paid a lot of money for rent. Her gas and electric, telephone, cable, and water bills were all very high. Sometimes it was hard to buy food. Every month was difficult for Nicole.

Nicole decided she needed a roommate. A roommate could pay for half of everything. Nicole put an ad in the newspaper. In the ad, she asked for a responsible female roommate. After Nicole talked to several people, she chose Gabriela. Gabriela seemed very nice. She had a job. She promised to be an excellent roommate. Gabriela moved in the next week.

Soon Nicole realized Gabriela was not a good roommate. Gabriela was irresponsible. When she was cold, she turned on the heat. When she was hot, she turned on the air conditioner. She made a lot of long-distance calls. She ordered special movies from the cable company. She took long showers. She ate all of Nicole's food.

Nicole was not happy. Her expenses increased with Gabriela as a roommate. Then Gabriela lost her job. Gabriela didn't have her half of the money when the rent and other bills were due.

"We have a problem, Gabriela," said Nicole. "I'm paying more money now than before you were my roommate. That isn't fair."

"I know," said Gabriela. "But I have a solution to our problem."

"What is it?" asked Nicole.

"Let's get another roommate."



Answer the questions.

1. What did Nicole pay a lot of money for?
2. Which bills were all very high?
3. What did Nicole decide she needed?
4. What kind of person did she ask for in the ad?
5. Who did she choose?
6. What did Nicole soon realize?
7. What did Gabriela do when she was cold?
8. What did Gabriela do when she was hot?
9. What kind of calls did she make a lot of?
10. What did she order from the cable company?
11. What did Gabriela lose?
12. What didn't Gabriela have when the rent and other bills were due?

Complete the story.

seemed	promised	realized	made
ordered	increased	took	ate
put	asked for	turned on	chose

Nicole _____¹ an ad in the newspaper and _____²
a responsible female roommate. After Nicole talked to several people, she
_____³ Gabriela. Gabriela _____⁴ very nice. She
_____⁵ to be an excellent roommate.

Soon Nicole _____⁶ that Gabriela was not a good roommate.
When Gabriela was cold, she _____⁷ the heat. When she was hot,
she turned on the air conditioner. She _____⁸ a lot of long-distance
calls. She _____⁹ special movies from the cable company. She
_____¹⁰ long showers. She _____¹¹ all of Nicole's food.
Nicole's expenses _____¹² with Gabriela as a roommate.

"I have a solution to our problem," said Gabriela. "Let's get another roommate."

Meanings

Read the sentences. Look at the underlined words. Circle *a* or *b*.

1. Gabriela promised to be an excellent roommate.
a. person to live with b. person to eat with
2. She made a lot of long-distance calls.
a. to near places b. to far places
3. Her expenses increased with Gabriela as a roommate.
a. became smaller b. became larger
4. I have a solution to our problem.
a. an answer to b. a special movie about

A Conversation with a Roommate

Practice the dialog with a partner.

- A. This gas and electric bill is very high.
B. It was hot last month. I turned on the air conditioner a lot.
A. So, do you have your half of the rent and these other bills?
B. Sorry. I don't have all of it. I lost my job.
A. I'm paying more money now than before you were my roommate. That isn't fair.
B. I know. But I have a solution to our problem. Let's get another roommate.



Past-Tense Verbs

A. Write the present tense of the irregular verbs below.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. _____ chose | 5. _____ ate |
| 2. _____ put | 6. _____ took |
| 3. _____ lost | 7. _____ made |
| 4. _____ had | 8. _____ paid |

B. Write negative past-tense sentences.

1. She chose Gabriela.
2. I put an ad in the newspaper.
3. He lost his job.
4. We had our half of the money.
5. You ate all of my food.
6. They took long showers.

She didn't choose Gabriela.

What about you?

Circle Yes or No. Then write questions and ask your partner.

Yes No 1. I pay a lot of money for rent and other bills.
Do you pay a lot of money for rent and other bills?

Yes No 2. I have a roommate.

Yes No 3. I sometimes put an ad in the newspaper.

Yes No 4. I have a job.

Yes No 5. I know a responsible person.

Yes No 6. I know an irresponsible person.

Yes No 7. I use the heat and the air conditioner at home.

Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. What is a good way to find a roommate?
2. What can you say or do to an irresponsible roommate?
3. What are some solutions to money problems?