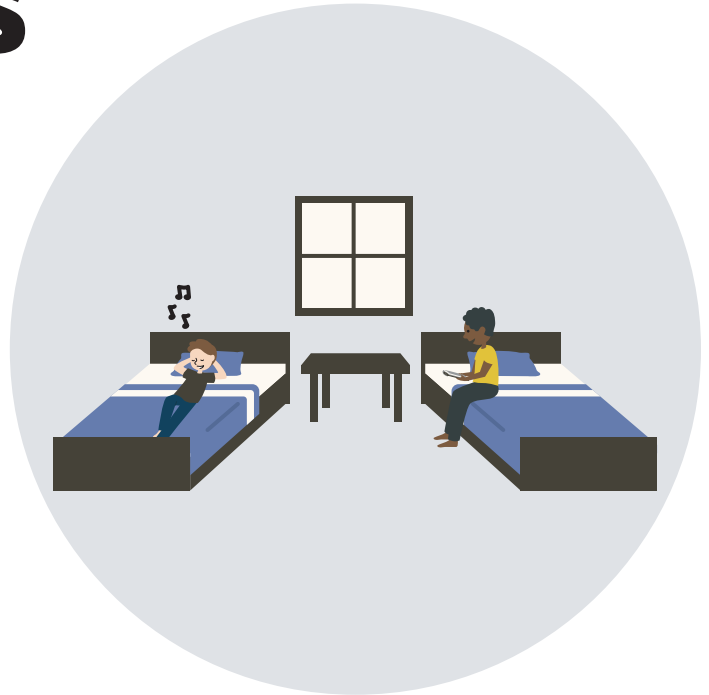


# Roommates

## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do you live alone or with others?
2. Have you ever had to share a room with someone? Did you enjoy this?
3. Who is your perfect roommate and why?
4. What is the hardest part about sharing a living space?



### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| ___ 1. ideal       | a) the space you need from others                         |
| ___ 2. sibling     | b) a reasonable amount for one person or group            |
| ___ 3. long for    | c) a person who wakes up very early                       |
| ___ 4. privacy     | d) the best or most suitable                              |
| ___ 5. anxious     | e) worried  |
| ___ 6. clash       | f) conflict and unhappiness                               |
| ___ 7. slob        | g) a very messy person                                    |
| ___ 8. neat freak  | h) someone who stays up very late at night                |
| ___ 9. night owl   | i) a brother or sister                                    |
| ___ 10. early bird | j) to have a major conflict                               |
| ___ 11. expense    | k) something that costs money                             |
| ___ 12. fair share | l) a person who wants everything to look tidy and perfect |
| ___ 13. tension    | m) to really want   |

## Reading

### ROOMMATES

*Too close for comfort*

1. Your **ideal** roommate changes throughout your life.
2. As a child, you may have roomed with your brother or sister due to lack of space. Many young children with their own rooms prefer to share a bed with a **sibling** or parent anyway.
3. As kids get older, they **long for** more **privacy**. Many students go back to room sharing during college or university. Not knowing who your roommate will be is an **anxious** feeling. In their second year, many students choose their own roommates.
4. Choosing a best friend for a roommate is not always the best idea. Some personality types **clash** in shared living spaces. For example, **slobs** have difficulty living with **neat freaks**. **Night owls** don't suit **early birds** either.
5. Sharing **expenses** is another challenge of having a roommate. Some people think costs should be split down the middle. Others only want to pay their **fair share**. **Tension** builds when your roommate's boyfriend moves in without paying his share of the rent or groceries.
6. Many couples try living together before they get married. They want to be sure they can handle being roommates for life.

*“On some level, it’s holding up a mirror to yourself. You learn a lot about yourself by dealing with your roommate.”*

—Jim Smart,  
 university housing director

## Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. Who is often a child's first roommate?
2. What typically happens when children get older?
3. What do students often do in their second year of college?
4. Which type of personality type do early risers have difficulty living with?
5. Name an example of a financial conflict between roommates from the reading.

## Vocabulary Review

### A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.  
You may need to change the word forms.

- I'd love to have a roommate, but I can't give up my \_\_\_\_\_.
- Call me a \_\_\_\_\_. I like everything to be in its place.
- Though my wife is a \_\_\_\_\_, I'm more of an \_\_\_\_\_. I like to wake up before the sun.
- My housemates all help with the cleaning. We each do our \_\_\_\_\_.
- My \_\_\_\_\_ roommate would be my sister. Even though we are \_\_\_\_\_, we get along well.

### B. Choose the Correct Word

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

- I long for the day when I can have my room to myself again.
  - sometimes need
  - never get
  - really want
  - think about
- There is a lot of tension in the house because the girls called the guys slobs.
  - feelings
  - unhappiness and anger
  - tears of sadness
  - messiness
- An early bird should not marry a night owl. These personality types clash too much.
  - fly
  - change
  - sleep
  - differ
- I'm feeling anxious about getting a new roommate tomorrow.
  - positive
  - upset
  - worried
  - scared
- The expenses we have to share include the bills for water, heat, and telephone.
  - rent
  - work
  - costs
  - service



## Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

### ROOMMATES

*Too close for comfort*

1. Your \_\_\_\_\_ roommate changes throughout your life.
2. As a child, you may have \_\_\_\_\_ with your brother or sister due to lack of space. Many young children with their own rooms prefer to share a bed with a \_\_\_\_\_ or parent anyway.
3. As kids get older, they long for more \_\_\_\_\_. Many students go back to room sharing during college or university. Not knowing who your roommate will be is an \_\_\_\_\_ feeling. In their second year, many students choose their own roommates.
4. Choosing a best friend for a roommate is not always the best idea. Some personality types clash in shared living spaces. For example, \_\_\_\_\_ have difficulty living with \_\_\_\_\_. Night owls don't suit early birds either.
5. Sharing \_\_\_\_\_ is another challenge of having a roommate. Some people think costs should be split down the middle. Others only want to pay their fair share. \_\_\_\_\_ builds when your roommate's boyfriend moves in without paying his share of the rent or groceries.
6. Many couples try living together before they get married. They want to be sure they can \_\_\_\_\_ being roommates for life.

# Answer Key

**LESSON DESCRIPTION:**

Students read about and discuss the pros and cons of living with other people.

**TEACHING TIPS:**

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

**LEVEL:** Int

**TIME:** 1.5–2 hours

**TAGS:** discussion, roommates, college, university, student, live together, relationships

## Pre-Reading

**A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS**

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

**B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW**

- |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. d | 3. m | 5. e | 7. g | 9. h  | 11. k | 13. f |
| 2. i | 4. a | 6. j | 8. l | 10. c | 12. b |       |

## Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

## Comprehension

1. A brother or sister is often a child’s first roommate.
2. Children typically want more privacy as they get older.
3. Students often choose their own roommates in their second year of college.
4. Early risers have difficulty living with night owls.
5. Deciding how to share the cost of expenses, such as groceries, is an example of a conflict between roommates.

## Vocabulary Review

**A. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES**

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. privacy               | 4. fair share      |
| 2. neat freak            | 5. ideal, siblings |
| 3. night owl, early bird |                    |

**B. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD**

- |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. c | 2. b | 3. d | 4. c | 5. c |
|------|------|------|------|------|

## Discussion

Answers will vary.  
Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

## Class Opinion

Have students walk around the class and ask their classmates questions. They should record their answers in the chart.

## Listening

1. ideal
2. roomed, sibling
3. privacy, anxious
4. slob, neat freaks
5. expenses, Tension
6. handle