

Finding and living with flatmates



If you are looking for a flatmate, you need to decide what type of person you are looking for and what is important to you. You'll have a much better chance of keeping a tenancy if you understand the problems that can happen when you share a house and know how to deal with them.

By the end of this module you will have learned about:

- things to think about when you are looking for a flatmate or living with other people
- issues that come up in shared housing
- how to sort out problems.

The right housemate for you

Lots of people find sharing a home fun. It can be about new friends and new activities. But not everyone is the same. Some people just want a quiet place to live.

Because we are all so different it's really important to ask yourself:

- What sort of person would I like to share with?
- What do I want from the experience?

There are no right or wrong answers. **All you have to do is be honest with yourself.** This will help you find the right home and people for you.



Recommended exercise

- Name one thing that a housemate could do to make you like living with them?
- Name one thing that a housemate could do to make you upset or angry?

Experience of living with people

If you have lived with people before, think about what happened. If it worked well, what made it work?

- If it didn't work, why didn't it work out?
- How did it end, why did you move out?

Think about who you want to share with

- Do you prefer to live with a woman or a man, or does it not matter?
- Does it matter how old they are?
- How many people would you like to share with?



You are not looking for your soulmate – that is a perfect match for you. When looking for a flatmate you are looking for someone whose habits you can be happy living with.

You won't always get along with everyone you live with all the time, but by thinking about your preferences beforehand you will make a more considered decision. This also means you will have a good chance of working any misunderstandings out.

Friends don't always make the best flatmates

Sharing with a friend can seem like a good idea, but it doesn't always work. Being friends with someone can be quite different to living with them.

Think about...

- **How do you think people should behave – what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour to you? What do the people you think you would like to share with consider acceptable and unacceptable?**
- **What housework and other jobs around the house would you expect your flatmates to do?**
- **What housework and other jobs around the house would they expect you to do?**

