

FUMC ESL Renting an Apartment

Explain the difference in these word pairs.

It's cold outside. I'd like to build a fire, but I don't have a _____ in my apartment.

chimney mantle fireplace

Put the dishes in the _____ and run some warm water over them.

tub shower sink

When I open the hot water _____, cold water comes out.

faucet sink drain

I was so cold I soaked in a hot _____ for 30 minutes.

closet drain tub

The exterior of this house is very run-down, but the _____ looks very nice.

outside interior superior

Hardwood floors are beautiful, but put down some _____ for warmth.

burners curtains rugs

The living room has hardwood floors, but the bedrooms have _____.

carpet drapes closets

The bathroom is nice, but there is no _____ for privacy.

closet shower curtain window

The windows are covered with _____ made from dark green material.

rugs fog drapes

This apartment has window coverings. People can look into my apartment. I need to buy some _____ for privacy.

curtains steps door mats

You can roast a turkey now that you have a big _____.

burner oven fireplace

This _____ is too small for all my clothes.

closet curtain corridor

I keep my frozen groceries in my _____.

refrigerator oven freezer

A short name for refrigerator is _____.

cold box cooler fridge

This apartment is on the 3rd floor and there is no _____.

lift elevator step

Fill a pan with water and put it on the large _____ on top of the stove.

oven vent burner

Finally I have my own _____ where I can park my car.

utility room garage shelf

I don't have any furniture, so I need to rent a _____ apartment.

furnished unfurnished finished

Practice these conversations:

Nick: I'm looking for an apartment near the university. Are there any apartments with vacancies?

Carla: How many bedrooms do you need?

Nick: A one bedroom would be fine.

Carla: I don't have any one bedrooms vacant. I have a two bedroom you can look at.

What is a vacancy? How many bedrooms does Nick need? Does Carla have any vacancies? Did you have a hard time finding an apartment when you arrived here? How many apartments have you lived in?

Carla: This apartment is on the 3rd floor.

Nick: Is there an elevator?

Carla: No, I'm afraid not.

Nick: This won't work for me. I don't want to climb these stairs every day.

Where is the apartment Carla showed Nick? Why doesn't Nick like the apartment? What floor do you live on? Would you live on the 3rd floor if there were no elevator? Is it common to have elevators in small apartment buildings in your country?

Nick: What is the price of this apartment?

Carla: \$1,200 per month.

Nick: That's really expensive. I can't afford that.

Carla: I will try to find something cheaper. But close to the university, all the apartments are expensive. Would you be willing to live farther away?

Can Nick afford the apartment Carla showed him? Where will Nick have to go for an apartment that he can afford? What is more important to you, price or convenience?

Carla: I'm going to show you a two bedroom apartment in a duplex. It has a small backyard and a carport for your car.

Nick: I would love to have a covered space for my car. Maybe I could even have a vegetable garden in the backyard.

What is a duplex? What is a carport? What does Nick want to use the backyard for? Does your apartment have a yard? Do you have a garden? Do you have a covered parking space?

Carla: Look at the view from this balcony. You can see downtown from here. A view like this is very rare.

Nick: I love it. I am afraid to ask how much this apartment costs.

Carla: It's a little above what you wanted to pay, but I think it's worth it to have a nice view.

What is the great thing about this apartment? Why is Nick afraid to ask the cost? Would you pay more for an apartment with a view of downtown? Does your apartment have a patio or a balcony?

Nick: Are the utilities paid?

Carla: You are responsible for electricity, but the landlord pays water and sewage.

Nick: This carpet has some stains.

Carla: The landlord said he would have the carpet cleaned before you move in.

What utilities must Nick pay? What is wrong with the carpet? What is a stain? Do you have carpet in your apartment? Do you have stains on your carpet? Do you pay utilities?

Nick: Where is the thermostat for the air conditioning.

Carla: It's over here behind the door.

What does a thermostat do? Who sets the thermostat at your house? Do you and your spouse argue about what temperature to set the thermostat?

Discuss:

Are U.S. apartments larger or smaller than in your country?

Are U.S. apartments different in any way from apartments in your country?

Were you surprised by how expensive apartments are here in the U.S.?

Is your apartment convenient to your work or school?

Why did you choose the area where you live?