

**I. Tell the group about where you live by answering in a complete sentence. Teachers, if you have a large group, split them into smaller ones for this exercise.**

1. apartment, condo or house
2. downtown, Far West, university housing, south Austin
3. multi story, single story
4. laundry room or washer and dryer inside your unit
5. garage, parking garage, covered parking or parking lot
6. swimming pool, hot tub
7. security system, guard, locked gate
8. balcony, porch, patio
9. dead bolt lock, door chain
10. smoke detector, fire sprinkler system, fire extinguisher
11. first floor, second floor, third floor
12. stairs or elevator
13. inside entrance, outside entrance

**II. Work with a partner. Tell which of the following statements are true for each of you.**

1. I live close to downtown.
2. My apartment is near the university.
3. I wash clothes in the laundry room.
4. I park my car in a parking garage.
5. We have no security system.
6. My apartment has no smoke detectors.
7. I keep my bicycle on the porch.
8. I usually eat in the kitchen.
9. I take the stairs up to my apartment.
10. I would prefer to live in a different area of town.
11. I ride my bicycle around town.
12. There are restaurants and shops close to where I live.
13. I pay higher rent than I was expecting.
14. I enjoy the apartment swimming pool.
15. My apartment is in good repair.
16. We pay extra for cable TV and internet.
17. I use a cell phone instead of a landline.
18. I have met several friends at my apartment.
19. I keep the windows open most of the time instead of running the air conditioner.
20. I love my apartment.

**III. Tell the group what you learned about your partner's apartment.**

**IV. Read the sentence and tell what the underlined words mean.**

1. No dogs allowed on the premises.
2. I asked the manager to do a walk thru of the apartment so I could show him all the damages.
3. The lease agreement stipulates I must pay a security deposit of \$500.00.
4. There are four buildings in my apartment complex.
5. Turn the thermostat to a higher temperature to avoid large electric bills.
6. My landlord is very good about fixing things that break.
7. The tenants in my building had a meeting to discuss the repairs that needed to be made.
8. I have a checklist of things I am looking for in an apartment.

9. There are no vacancies in this complex.

**V. Read this conversation with a partner. Without looking at the conversation, tell your partner what happened in the conversation. This is a good way to check your comprehension.**

**Jo:** I am interested in renting your one bedroom apartment. Are utilities included in the monthly rent?

**Manager:** Your gas and water are included. You have to pay your electric bill.

**Jo:** Do you have cable TV here?

**Manager:** You will have to contract for your own cable TV and internet. There are several companies that provide those services. I can give you a list.

**Jo:** I'm worried about the electric bill. How much do you think that will run?

**Manager:** It shouldn't be high at all during the cooler months. In the summer, you can save electricity by turning your thermostat to a higher setting. We recommend our tenants set their thermostat on 80 degrees during the day while they are out.

**VI. Read this conversation with your partner. Let the other partner summarize the conversation this time.**

**Jan:** I can't afford an apartment near the university. They are too expensive. But I want to be close to campus because I don't have a car.

**Jess:** Have you thought about an efficiency apartment? They are usually quite a bit cheaper.

**Jan:** What is an efficiency apartment?

**Jess:** It is a small apartment with a bathroom and kitchenette. All the living space is in one room. You will not have a separate bedroom or kitchen. But if you are looking for an inexpensive apartment, it is a good solution. I know of one that is vacant now. It is a garage apartment.

**Jan:** I don't want to live in a garage.

**Jess:** No, you won't live in the garage. The apartment is over the garage. It is very small, but nice. The garage and garage apartment are behind the house. My professor lives in the house. He and his wife don't have children, so the apartment should be quiet and private.

**Jan:** That sounds pretty good. I'll call him and set up an appointment to see it.