

Teacher Resource: Copies of quiz questions with hints/advice to support class discussion.

A letter arrives asking you to pay your TV Licence fee (£154.50 for the year). You think it should be split evenly between you and your flatmates. What do you do?

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Research the rules around TV Licences for students, then invite your flatmates to a meeting to discuss a plan.

Leave some money on the table, next to the letter. That's your share sorted. Others should organise theirs.

Ignore it. You only watch TV on your laptop and you're not sure that students need a TV Licence anyway.

Pay all of the fee yourself (so you know it's paid on time) and then ask each of your flatmates to pay you back their share.

Tips and Advice

In most cases, students need to be covered by a TV Licence.

It's really important that you check the TV Licensing website to find out the rules for your particular living situation.

Sometimes you can have a Licence for the whole house, but sometimes each person must have an individual licence.

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Your flatmate is stressed out about their coursework. They keep shutting themselves away in their room. What do you do?

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Suggest that you study together and test each other on your coursework. Sometimes having a study buddy can make the learning easier.

Ignore them. What they choose to do is their business. You need to concentrate on your own exams.

Go in there and drag them out to a party. You're sure they just need to lighten up a bit.

Bring them a hot cup of tea and see if they feel like chatting about the things that are bothering them. It might help them to talk.

Tips and Advice

Everyone gets stressed, anxious or depressed at times. These moments can be particularly challenging if you're living away from home for the first time.

The great thing about flatmates is that there's support close at hand. Talk about your feelings. Chances are that others are going through the same thing, and you can show each other support.

Most universities also have people you can go to see for advice and support so it's always worth checking this option out if you are struggling a bit.

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Your flatmates invite you out for dinner, but you don't have enough money. What do you do?

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Tell your flatmates to have fun, but stay in. You didn't really want to go - you've a load of work to do and would rather save the money for emergencies.

Go out anyway. You can't afford it, but there's no way you're gonna be passing up this night out, so you put it on the credit card.

Ask your flatmates if you can borrow some money. You can always pay them back later when your student loan comes through, you'd be gutted to miss a night out.

Politely decline because you don't like spending money you don't have, but offer up an alternative idea: You suggest a flat meal - everybody has a bit of food that you can cook up and maybe have some drinks with. That way, you don't miss out and nobody needs to worry about money.

Tips and Advice

Most students live on a budget. One of the best things you can do is to create your own budget sheet showing when you'll receive money and how much you spend.

You can set up direct debits, so that important payments like rent and bills come out automatically; then you'll know how much you have left for other things. Work out how much you've got per week and don't overspend.

There are lots of discounts offered to students - it's worth researching what's available in your local area. And shop around for the best deal.

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One of your flatmates recently split up with her partner and you've noticed she's been drinking a lot lately. To make matters worse, she gets quite aggressive when drunk. Last night you noticed her crying and drinking a bottle of wine, alone in her room. What do you do?

Knock on her door and ask her if she'd like to talk.

Ignore her. You're here to look after yourself, not to play 'mum' to other people. She needs to pull herself together and get over it.

Get rid of any alcohol in the flat and tell her you're worried about her drinking.

Make an extra effort to be friendly and invite her to spend time with you – you could watch a movie or cook dinner together.

Tips and Advice

Antisocial behaviour can be caused by alcohol or drugs, but it could also be due to someone struggling to cope.

The most important thing is to keep an eye on each other and be approachable. People might not always want to talk about their problems, but they usually find it comforting to know that someone who cares about them is there.

All universities have support services so you can always encourage friends and flat mates to ask them for help as well, and if you're not sure how to help, you can ask them for advice about this too.

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You're trying to study for an exam in the morning, but your flatmate has friends over and they're playing music and messing around in the kitchen, being really loud. What do you do?

Grab your flatmate and politely ask him to get his friends to keep the noise down. They should understand the importance of exams and the need for quiet study time.

Go into the kitchen and ask everyone to leave. This is your space and they can make noise in their own flat.

Go into the kitchen and join them. You can just do a bit of binge-revision tomorrow morning before the exam.

Put in some headphones. They don't completely stop the noise, but you find it a bit easier to concentrate.

Tips and Advice

Communication is the golden rule.

It's always best to talk about any problems that arise. Study time is crucial in any student flat, and others should respect when someone has pending assignments or exams. You'll all go through it!

Politely let your flatmates know when you've got important course dates coming up, so they can avoid organising loud gatherings and give you the time you need to concentrate on doing your best.

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When you first moved in, all the flatmates ate dinner together and had a laugh, but now people have gone off in their own little groups. You're feeling a bit lonely. What do you do?

It doesn't really bother you. You need to focus on getting some coursework done, so you decide to throw yourself into that.

Ignore the situation. Go out and meet up with other friends instead.

Organise a flat party to bring all your flatmates together again. In fact, why not invite a few other friends from uni too – the more the merrier!

Cook a delicious dinner for everyone – surely the best way to coax everyone out of their rooms.

Tips and Advice

It can be common for students to experience loneliness and feelings of isolation, especially if family and friends from school are far away.

Talk to others regularly and try to make sure everyone feels welcome and included. Just because someone didn't want to join in the socialising last time doesn't mean it will always be the case.

Don't be afraid to ask for help or support when you need it. And keep an eye out for anyone else who seems to be going through a rough time.

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The kitchen's a mess and there's a note on the fridge saying, 'Stop stealing my milk!!!!'. What do you do?

Call a meeting with everyone to talk through the problem suggesting putting together a roster showing when each flatmate is responsible for kitchen-cleaning and milk-buying duties.

Leave it and go out for dinner instead.

Ignore it and make dinner. Most of the mess is probably yours anyway.

Quickly give the kitchen a good clean and then pop out to the shops to buy a large milk - enough for everyone to share.

Tips and Advice

Some of us find it easier to be tidier than others.

But when you live with others you need to make a bit more effort to keep the communal areas clean and enjoyable places to be.

Speak with your flatmates and agree how you want to organise your shared space. It can help to set some 'house rules' at the beginning so everyone knows what the expectation is and encourage everyone to follow them - even guests.

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You arrive home after a night out with mates. You feel really tired but you're starving! You have some food in the fridge that you could use to cook a quick stir-fry.

Ignore your stomach and go to bed. You know you won't be able to concentrate on the cooking – better to go hungry than risk a fire.

You wake one of your flatmates to help you with the cooking. It'll be safer with someone else.

Grab the food and start cooking! You can wolf down the meal and then go to bed.

You'd rather not risk cooking while you're so sleepy so you pop back out for a kebab.

Tips and Advice

Cooking is the most common cause of household fires and most are easily preventable with the right precautions.

Don't start cooking if you're tired or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Switch on your cooker extractor and never leave cooking unattended. Keep fire doors closed and make sure hallways and exits are free from obstructions.