

6 Helpful Tips

Life on a Budget:

1. Do not rent an apartment if the total rent and utilities will compromise more than ½ of your monthly income/ allowance. You might think you can make ends meet, but if an unforeseen circumstance arises and you need extra cash, you might wind up short of the funds necessary to pay the rent. And don't forget that you will need money to eat, pay for transportation, buy clothes, school supplies, etc.

Landlord Relationship:

2. Make sure you are comfortable with your landlord. If you do not feel at ease talking with him/her, how will you be able to discuss issues if they arise? If you have bad feelings about a potential landlord, move on. You need to feel comfortable with your living arrangements.

Roommates:

3. They can be a blessing or a nightmare. Sure they can help with rent and expenses, but what good is it if you don't get along with each other? Take the roommate quiz in this brochure; the sooner you realize whether you can live with a specific person or not the better! Don't assume that because you are friends you can live together. You can make enemies that way. Take the roommate quiz provided with the brochure.

Get Connected

4. Once you have signed a lease and will definitely be moving in, waste no time calling the utilities and phone company. You must accommodate their schedule, as they will not usually bend to yours. If you want to make sure that you have electricity, hot water, and a phone as soon as you arrive, make sure you call them at least 2 weeks in advance. Here are the phone numbers you will need:

Electricity:	Southern California Edison	1-800-655-4555
Gas:	The Gas Company	1-800-427-2200
Phone:	Verizon	1-800-483-3000
Cable/DSL/Internet:	Adelphia	1-888-683-1000
	Cox Media	1-805-683-6651

Having Fun:

5. Everybody likes to have a good time, but you should always use some common sense in organizing parties. If you are going to throw a party, talk to your neighbors first, and clear the date you have in mind for the party with them. Once you have that done, invite them, be social. Make sure they know they can come to you if it gets to loud or rowdy. You don't want your neighbors to call the police just because you did not let them know that they could come

to you first. Treat your neighbors in a respectful manner, and they should reciprocate.

Learn to Cook:

6. Go shopping for groceries. This is one of those things that seems self-evident until you have your own kitchen, and then suddenly delivery seems like one of the best words you ever heard. Well, get to the grocery store anyways, because chances are you cannot afford to eat out that much, or at all. One pizza is not worth missing your rent for a month, no matter how late it is or how tired you are.