The Flatmates
Episodes 76 & 77:
Writing an advert

Teacher’s pack
Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

BBC WORLD SERVICE
LEARNING ENGLISH

bbclearningenglish.com
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level:</th>
<th>Intermediate and above</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic:</td>
<td>Advertising for a flatmate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language:</td>
<td>Dialogue; Small ads (accommodation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aims:</td>
<td>Listening skills – Understanding a short dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Language skills – Language of accommodation advertisements</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Writing skills – Small ads (accommodation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson length:</td>
<td>Approximately 90 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials:</td>
<td>Lesson stages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student worksheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Flatmates episodes 76 &amp; 77: Available online at:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode76/index.shtml">http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode76/index.shtml</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode77/index.shtml">http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode77/index.shtml</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation:</td>
<td>Before the lesson:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Make enough copies of the student worksheet so that there is one for every student.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Each pair or small group of students will also need a picture of a house/flat. Each group/pair should have a different picture, if possible. There are some pictures at the end of these notes, or you can use your own pictures if you prefer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• (optional) You will also need blu-tack / sticky tape or pins to put student work on classroom walls, if possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Make sure you have available the audio for The Flatmates episodes 76 &amp; 77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TEACHERS NOTES: LESSON STAGES

A  Stimulate student interest
Generate interest by showing them the image from episode 76. This is at the top of student worksheet 1 and also available at: http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode76/index_blank.shtml
Make sure you use the ‘hide the text’ feature and scroll up so that students can not read the dialogue or see the vote. Ask students: ‘Who are these people?’ (Tim, Alice and Helen). Tell them that the 4th flatmate, Michal, went back to Poland, his home country, a few weeks ago because his father was ill & now Helen has some news.

B  Pre-teach essential vocabulary
Write the words on the board, eliciting spelling as you write. Make sure students copy the boardwork into their notebooks. Model and drill correct pronunciation of the words: elicit and show the word stress of each item and word class, if appropriate.

fair enough
ok, fine, no problem

twitchy
nervous, worried, uncomfortable

colleague
a person who works with you, or at the same place as you

advert
short for ‘advertisement’

C  Pre-listening: prediction
Give out the student worksheet if you haven't already, and ask students to speculate about answers to the questions in task 1. The title of the episode: ‘A new Flatmate?’ may also help students with their guessing.

D  Listening for specific information (episode 76)
Tell students they are going to listen for the answers to the task 1 questions. Play the audio (without showing the text): available at: http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode76/index_blank.shtml
After listening, give students a few minutes to discuss their ideas with their partner. Check answers as a class.

Answers
1. What is Helen's news? **They need to get a new flatmate for Michal's room**
2. What are the reasons for this news? **Michal is staying in Poland for the time being and Helen's Dad (he owns the house) is starting to get twitchy about the rent**
3. What does Alice suggest? **She has a colleague who is looking for a room**
4. Does Tim agree with Alice's suggestion? No. Why / why not? **Alice’s colleague is female and Tim wants a male flatmate.**
5. What is Helen's final suggestion? **She wants to put an advertisement in the newspaper.**

Play the audio a second time for students to check / confirm answers.
E Pre-listening prediction 2:
Ask students what kind of information is normally included in a newspaper advert which offers accommodation.

Students make a list on their worksheets (task 2). You may prefer to make a whole class list on the whiteboard. The list(s) may include some of the following:

- **Type of person**:
  - Age: young / old
  - Sex: male / female
  - Employment status: working / student / retired etc
  - Lifestyle – quiet, clean, likes parties etc.

- **Type of accommodation**
  - Location
  - Type of accommodation – house, flat etc
  - Number & type of people living there
  - Nearby amenities
  - Facilities
  - Rent

F Listening for general information (episode 77)
Tell students they are going to listen to Alice, Tim and Helen writing their advertisement for a new flatmate. While they listen, students should check off the things on the list they have just made, if they are mentioned in the audio.

Play episode 77 (without showing the text): available at: http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode77/index_blank.shtml

After listening, give students a few minutes to discuss their answers with their partner. Check answers as a class but don't correct too thoroughly as students are going to listen again.

The topics mentioned in the listening text are (key words from text in **bold**):

- **Type of person**:
  - Age: **young** / old
  - Sex: **male** / female
  - Employment status: working / **student** / retired etc
  - Lifestyle – quiet, **clean**, likes parties etc. **tidy and easy-going; must like cats**

- **Type of accommodation**
  - Location
  - Type of accommodation – house, **flat** etc – **bright, sunny room**
  - Number & type of people living there: **mixed**
  - Nearby amenities: **close to shops, pubs and buses**
  - Facilities: **all mod cons** (Helen mentions tv, broadband, dishwasher, but these are not written into the advert)
  - Rent: **reasonable**

F Detailed listening
Direct students to task 3 on their worksheet. Play the audio again and have students write one word in each space. Allow them to check with their partners and then play the audio a third time if necessary before checking answers as a class. At this point you can use the ‘show the text’ version of the episode:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode77/index.shtml
G  Language focus
Give students a few minutes to do task 4 on their worksheets. They have to classify the words and phrases from task 3 as referring to people, types of accommodation or other. Ask them if they can add any more words or phrases to the 3 categories. Then direct them to task 5 on their worksheets (also available at http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode77/languagepoint.shtml) to check and add to their vocabulary.

H  Practice
Students do task 6 on their worksheets (also available at http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode77/quiz.shtml). Feedback as a class.

I  Further practice
Put students into pairs or small groups.

- Give each pair/group a picture of a house or flat (there are some at the end of these notes) and ask them to think of some adjectives to describe it.
- Then tell them that they live there as flatmates.
- Ask them to think about what type of lifestyle they have – quiet / busy; working / students / unemployed; tidy / messy etc.
- Tell them that they have a spare room and they need to advertise for a flatmate.
- Students should write an advert for a flatmate using the target language from the lesson.
- When they have finished, you can put the adverts on the classroom walls and students can walk round the classroom reading the adverts. Alternatively you could pass the adverts around the groups. Students can then vote for the room they would most like to live in.
ANSWER KEY

Task 3

Alice: Right, how does this sound? Wanted: (1) student or (2) young professional...

Tim: Male student or young professional...

Alice: Ok. From the top. Wanted: male student or young professional for (3) bright, sunny room in flatshare...

Tim: in (4) mixed flatshare...

Alice: for bright, sunny room in mixed (5) flatshare. Must be (6) clean, tidy and (7) easy-going. Close to (8) shops, pubs and (9) buses. (10) Reasonable rent.

Helen: Shouldn't we say something about the cat? He might be allergic.

Alice: Ooh, yeah, good point. Must be clean, tidy, easy going and (11) must like cats. Ooh, and shall we say something about, you know, the dishwasher, tv, broadband...

Helen: Put (12) ‘all mod cons’

Alice: Ok, mixed flatshare with all mod cons. Shall I read it back to you?

Tim: Yeah, and then call the (13) small ads department at the Gazette. Or we could go with the Courier...

Task 4 (suggested answers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>Types of accommodation</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>student</td>
<td>bright, sunny room</td>
<td>shops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>young professional</td>
<td>flatshare</td>
<td>pubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mixed (refers to males and females)</td>
<td>all mod cons</td>
<td>buses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clean</td>
<td></td>
<td>reasonable rent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tidy</td>
<td></td>
<td>small ads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>easy-going</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>must like cats</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Task 5

1. To let: 3 bed house. Suit students or young ...
   a. lodgers – Wrong – you need a word which means 'working people'.
   b. easy goings – Wrong – you need a word which means 'working people'.
   c. tenants – Wrong – you need a word which means 'working people'.
   d. profs. – Correct – ‘profs.’ is short for ‘professionals’, which means working people

2. Wanted: easy-going guy for room in mixed house with all...
   a. mod cons – Correct – this refers to the things inside the house, like a tv and dishwasher.
   b. amenities – Wrong – this refers to things near the house. You need a word or phrase which describes things inside the house.
   c. deposit – Wrong – this refers to money. You need a word or phrase which describes things inside the house.
   d. pcm. – Wrong – this refers to how often the rent is payable. You need a word or phrase which describes things inside the house.

3. Room available in quiet house. Rent £350 pcm + £350 ...
   a. deposit – Correct – this means the money the tenant pays to the landlord/lady when s/he moves in. The tenant gets the money back when s/he moves out.
   b. incl. – Wrong – you need a phrase which means the money the tenant pays to the landlord/lady when s/he moves in. The tenant gets the money back when s/he moves out.
   c. pcm – Wrong – you need a phrase which means the money the tenant pays to the landlord/lady when s/he moves in. The tenant gets the money back when s/he moves out.
   d. negot. – Wrong – you need a phrase which means the money the tenant pays to the landlord/lady when s/he moves in. The tenant gets the money back when s/he moves out.

4. To let: 2 bed flat. avail. ... Jan. Suit n/s prof.
   a. pcm – Wrong – you need a word which means 'at the beginning of' (January)
   b. incl. – Wrong – you need a word which means 'at the beginning of' (January)
   c. beg. – Correct – this means 'at the beginning of' (January)
   d. bed – Wrong – you need a word which means 'at the beginning of' (January)

5. Bedsit avail. for n/s mature lady. Rent ...
   a. deposit – Wrong – you need a word which means that the landlord/lady and tenant will agree on how much the rent should be.
   b. negot. – Correct – this means 'negotiable': the landlord/lady and tenant will agree on how much the rent should be.
   c. mod cons – Wrong – you need a word which means that the landlord/lady and tenant will agree on how much the rent should be.
   d. suit– Wrong – you need a word which means that the landlord/lady and tenant will agree on how much the rent should be.

6. ... to let; share bathroom with 3 others. Reasonable rent.
   a. Studio apartment – Wrong – Studio apartments are usually self-contained: you don’t have to share the bathroom with other people in the building.
   b. Lodger – Wrong – this is a person. You need a word which means that you have to share the bathroom with other people in the building.
   c. Self-contained flat – Wrong – if you live in a self-contained flat, you don’t have to share the bathroom with other people in your building.
   d. Bedsit – Correct – if you live in a bedsit, you may have to share the bathroom with other people who live in the same building.
STUDENT WORKSHEET

Task 1: Prediction 1

1. What is Helen's news?

2. What are the reasons for this news?

3. What does Alice suggest?

4. Does Tim agree with Alice's suggestion? Why / why not?

5. What is Helen's final suggestion?

Task 2: Prediction 2

Information given in accommodation advertisements:
Task 3: Listening

Alice: Right, how does this sound? Wanted: (1) ____________ or (2) ____________

Tim: Male student or young professional…

Alice: Ok. From the top. Wanted: male student or young professional for (3)

Tim: in (4) ____________ flatshare…

Alice: for bright, sunny room in mixed (5) _____________. Must be (6) ____________,

Tim: (4) ____________ flatshare…

Alice: (7) _____________ and (7) _____________. Close to (8) _____________, (9) _____________ and

Tim: (4) ____________ flatshare…

Alice: (9) _____________. (10) _____________.

Helen: Shouldn't we say something about the cat? He might be allergic.

Alice: Ooh, yeah, good point. Must be clean, tidy, easy going and (11) ____________

Helen: Ooh, and shall we say something about, you know, the dishwasher, tv, broadband…

Alice: (11) ____________. Ooh, and shall we say something about, you know, the dishwasher, tv, broadband…

Helen: Put (12) '___________ _____________ ____________'

Alice: Ok, mixed flatshare with all mod cons. Shall I read it back to you?

Helen: Put (12) '___________ _____________ ____________'

Alice: Yeah, and then call the (13) _____________ _____________ department at the Gazette. Or we could go with the Courier…

Task 4: Vocabulary work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>Types of accommodation</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>student</td>
<td>bright, sunny room</td>
<td>shops</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Task 5: Check your answers

The Flatmates – Small ads vocabulary - accommodation
You can see this language point online at:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode77/languagepoint.shtml

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Background</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small ads are short advertisements which are found in local and national newspapers, and sometimes on notice boards in shops, colleges etc. In newspaper and magazine adverts, each word and/or letter has to be paid for, so to make them cheaper, people often use short forms and abbreviations, and some non-essential words are not used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This worksheet will focus on the language used to advertise accommodation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advertisers often state what type of person they are looking for. They generally do this by using adjectives, such as clean, quiet, etc. but nouns and compound nouns may be used too.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **professional / prof. (adj/n)**
| somebody who has a job.
| Rooms available: professionals only.
| • Prof. male required for shared house. |
| **bachelor (n)**
| an unmarried man.
| • Bachelor accommodation available end March. |
| **mature (adj)**
| this word is used to describe an older, quieter, more responsible person.
| • Mature lady wanted for single room. |
| **easy-going (adj)**
| friendly and relaxed.
| • Easy-going guy wanted for student house. |
| **n/s (adj/n)**
| non-smoker
| • n/s prof. lady wanted for single room. |
| **landlord / landlady (n)**
| The person who owns the accommodation. A landlord is male, a landlady is female. |
| **tenant (n)**
| The person who pays rent to live in the accommodation. |
| **lodger (n)**
| A person who lives with his / her landlord. |
| **mixed (adj)**
| This means that both men and women are living in the accommodation. |
## Types of accommodation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>flatshare / houseshare (n)</strong></th>
<th>This refers to the situation of sharing a house or flat with people who are not your family.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘bright, sunny room in mixed flatshare.’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>bedsit (n)</strong></th>
<th>A type of accommodation where you live and sleep in the same room. The bathroom and kitchen may be shared with other people who live in the same building.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘Bedsit to let: suit student or young professional.’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>self-contained (adj)</strong></th>
<th>Self-contained accommodation means that the kitchen, bathroom and other rooms are not shared with anyone else, and the accommodation has its own door which is not used by anyone else.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘Self-contained single flat to let.’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>studio flat / apartment (n)</strong></th>
<th>A flat or apartment which does not have a separate bedroom and/or kitchen, but it has its own bathroom.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘Clean, quiet studio flat. Reasonable rent.’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>fully furnished / part furnished / unfurnished (adj)</strong></th>
<th>Advertisers often say how much furniture is provided.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>fully furnished</strong></td>
<td>‘all the necessary furniture is provided.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>part furnished</strong></td>
<td>‘some of the necessary furniture is provided: the tenant might have to buy some additional furniture.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>unfurnished</strong></td>
<td>‘no furniture is provided.’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>single room / double room</strong></th>
<th>A single room is suitable for one person; a double room is suitable for two people.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘Single room avail. end March.’</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>bed</strong></th>
<th>Bedroom.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘3 bed flat avail. Dec. Reasonable rent.’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>all mod cons</strong></th>
<th>‘mod cons’ means ‘modern conveniences’ – things like a telephone, washing machine, dishwasher etc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘2 bed flat avail. Dec. All mod cons. Rent negot.’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>close to all amenities</strong></th>
<th>amenities are shops and services that people like to have close to their houses – such as schools, banks, doctors, stations etc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘3 bed house avail. Dec. suit family. 5 mins from schools &amp; amenities’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Money

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>reasonable rent:</strong></th>
<th>Advertisers do not always write the exact cost of the accommodation in the advertisement.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘Reasonable’ usually means that the rent is not too expensive, or that it is the same as the rent for other similar accommodation in the same area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
negotiable / negot.
This means that the landlord is willing to talk about the rent and agree on a price that is acceptable to both the landlord and the tenant.

pcm
per calendar month. Sometimes rent has to be paid every 4 weeks, but pcm means that the rent is payable on the same date each month, often the 1st.
Example:
- Bedsit to let. £500 pcm.

incl.
Inclusive – the rent includes the cost of gas, electricity etc.
- Wanted: young prof. for studio flat. Rent £200 pcm incl.

deposit / dep. (n)
This is an amount of money which the tenant pays to the landlord / landlady when s/he moves in to the accommodation. The landlord / landlady gives the money back to the tenant when s/he moves out.
- 3-bed flat avail. end Dec / beg. Jan. £500 pcm + £500 dep.

Task 6: Vocabulary practice
The Flatmates – Quiz – Small ads vocabulary - accommodation

You can try the quiz online at:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode77/quiz.shtml

For each of the six advertisements choose the one correct abbreviation, word or phrase.

1. To let: 3 bed house. Suit students or young ...
   a. lodgers
   b. easy goings
   c. tenants
   d. profs.

2. Wanted: easy-going guy for room in mixed house with all …
   a. mod cons
   b. amenities
   c. deposit
   d. pcm.

3. Room available in quiet house. Rent £350 pcm + £350 …
   a. deposit
   b. incl.
   c. pcm
   d. negot.
   a. pcm
   b. incl.
   c. beg.
   d. bed

5. Bedsit avail. for n/s mature lady. Rent …
   a. deposit
   b. negot.
   c. mod cons
   d. suit

6. … to let; share bathroom with 3 others. Reasonable rent.
   a. Studio apartment
   b. Lodger
   c. Self-contained flat
   d. Bedsit