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Moving to a New Apartment: Furniture Vocabulary for ESL / ENL



Moving Checklist

You have just moved into your first new apartment.

The apartment is **unfurnished** except for a refrigerator, an oven, a shower, a toilet, sinks, closets and cabinets.

You will need to buy everything else.

With your group, make a list of 20 things that you need to buy.

Hint: Think about the small objects that you use every day.
Try to come up with words that you don't know how to say in English.

ESLairplane.com

This ESL activity will help expand your students' furniture vocabulary. They will learn to describe everything you'd find inside of a house or apartment.

I often find that it can be hard for students to name or recall the names for everyday objects. Students of varying English levels find this type of activity helpful for building their vocabulary and for refreshing their memory. I'd suggest using it as a vocabulary activity with high-beginner or pre-intermediate classes, and possibly as a vocabulary refresher with students at slightly higher levels.

Lesson Plan Ideas:

- Warm-up: Show the slide above to your class, or introduce the following scenario:

<https://eslairplane.com/creative-tasks/moving-to-a-new-apartment-furniture-vocabulary>

You have just moved into your first new apartment. The apartment is unfurnished except for a refrigerator, an oven, a shower, a toilet, sinks, closets and cabinets. You will need to buy everything else. With your group, make a list of 20 things that you need to buy.

- Let your students know that this is a vocabulary-building exercise to expand their furniture vocabulary. Encourage them to think about the little things that they use on a regular basis that they couldn't live without, and to focus on words that they don't know how to say in English.
- As groups are working, you might want to jot down useful words that they come up with on the board.
- After they finish, you might ask groups to read their lists aloud to the class. Tell the other groups to check off words on their lists that the other groups mentioned, so that they don't end up repeating them.

Other Ideas:

- Here are a couple of first apartment checklists to have on hand for your reference. (You might want to print one out for your students after you've finished the activity): [Checklist from My First Apartment](#) | [Checklist from Bed Bath and Beyond](#)
- With lower-level students, you might begin by teaching vocabulary for the rooms of a house.
- Once they have learned the relevant vocabulary, ask your students to draw a picture of their house (or of their imaginary dream home). Make sure to remind them that they aren't being judged on their artistic ability. :) After they finish drawing, pair your students up, and have them describe their houses to a partner. I was a little uncertain about how this would work out the first time I tried it, but my adult students always seem to love it. It works especially well when you have visual learners in your class.
- Another possibility is to have students draw a picture of their favorite room in their house, furniture and all. They can then tell a partner about what they already have in the room, and what they would like to buy.