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Finding a housemate



Carly lived with her two friends from school. They lived in a house near the city. The house had three bedrooms, one bathroom and a very small garden. It was an old house, but it was very nice. It was close to school and the train station. The house was great, but the rent was very expensive. Carly and her *housemates* only worked part-time, so they didn't have much money.

One day the girls were drinking coffee at home. They were talking about their money problems. Then Carly's housemate Marie said, "I have an idea. We should get another housemate. Then the rent would be cheaper for us."

"Another housemate," said Carly. "That's a terrible idea. This house is too small for three people. We only have one bathroom."

"And just three bedrooms," said their other housemate, Jill.

"I know, but the rent is too much for us! I never have money for new clothes," said Marie. "I'm happy to *share* a room. The new housemate can have my room."

"But Marie, we can't have four girls in this small house," Carly said.

"Just think of the money. We could *save* so much money," said Marie.

"OK. You're right. What do you think, Jill?" asked Carly.

housemates: people who live with you in a house you rent

share: to use something with another person

save: keep or not spend (money)

are / were

“Well, I’m not happy about four girls in the house, but I’m happy about saving money. I think we should find a good-looking *guy* to share our house. Then I’ll be very happy,” said Jill.

“*Ha, ha!*” said Carly. “Do you really want to share the bathroom with a guy?”

“Why not? I think he should be able to cook,” said Marie.

“He should be *tidy*,” said Jill.

“And he should be our age,” said Carly.

The girls put an *ad* on the internet for a male housemate:

Share a house with 3 female students who wk/pt

Looking for a male housemate for a 3 *bed* / 1 *bath* house, close to schools, transport, the city. Must be *tidy*, a good cook, good-looking and 18–22 years old. \$120/wk all *incl*. Call 04004987861.

Soon after, they got a phone call about the ad. Marie talked to the guy on the phone. He told Marie he wanted to be their housemate. He said he was very tidy. He said he was also a very good cook. He said he was twenty-two years old. He didn’t say he was good-looking.

guy: a male, man

Ha, ha!: words to show someone is laughing

tidy: clean and neat

ad: advertisement, information about buying or selling something

wk/pt: work part-time

bed: bedroom

bath: bathroom

incl: everything is included in the price, everything for one price

Marie liked his *voice*, so she asked him to come to their house at eight o'clock that evening.

While the girls were eating dinner, they talked about the young man who phoned.

"He sounded really nice on the phone," said Marie. "He said he was a student and that he worked part-time."

"He said he could cook, didn't he?" said Carly.

"Yes. He said he liked to cook. He said he cooked healthy food," said Marie.

"That's great," said Jill. "If he cooks healthy food, he *won't* be fat. What did he say about sharing a bathroom with three girls?"

"He said it was no problem," said Marie.

"What did he say about the rent?" asked Carly.

"He was happy about it. No more questions. We'll be meeting him soon. You can ask him your questions then," said Marie.

When the girls were putting the dishes away, there was *a knock at the door*. The girls looked at each other and said, "It's him!"

"Quick, answer the door," said Carly. "I've got to brush my hair."

voice: the sound you make when you speak

won't: will not

a knock at the door: the sound of someone hitting the door so that the door will be opened

“Me too,” said Jill.

“OK,” said Marie. Marie opened the door. She asked the young man to come in. She *introduced herself* and she introduced him to Carly and Jill.

He shook hands with Carly and Jill and said, “Nice to meet you. Your house looks really nice.”

“We’ll show you the house,” said Carly.

The girls showed him the living room and they showed him the kitchen. They showed him the bathroom. They showed him the bedrooms and they showed him the garden. He was very quiet, but he had a nice smile on his face.

The girls smiled at each other and smiled at the young man.

“I really like this house,” he said. “I know the price is right. Can I be your new housemate?” the young man asked.

“YES!” the girls said.

“Are you tidy?” asked Marie.

“Yes, I am,” he said.

“And you really can cook?” asked Carly.

“Yes. I love cooking. My mum taught me how to cook,” he said.

“You’re a student?” asked Carly.

introduced herself: told the young man her name

shake / shook teach / taught

“Yes, and I work part-time,” he said.

“Great!” the girls said.

“You can move in tomorrow,” said Jill.

“We can help you *move* your things,” said Carly.

“You can have the biggest bedroom,” added Marie. “You know the rent includes water, electricity and the internet.”

“Yes, I know,” he said. “Thanks for being so friendly. I’ll give you a call tomorrow and tell you when I’m coming.”

“Great,” said the girls.

The young man said goodbye and left. Marie closed the door. She had a big smile on her face.

Jill also had a big smile on her face.

Carly said, “Marie, getting a housemate was a great idea!”

With that, the girls finished their homework and went to bed. They had very *sweet* dreams.

And the young man, well, maybe he had sweet dreams too.

move: take things and put them somewhere else
sweet: nice