

# LOOKING FOR HOUSING

**Lesson Length:** 1.25 hours + Extension Activities

**Vocabulary & Expressions:** Words and abbreviations common to housing ads

**Language/Culture Point:** How much? and How many?

**Objective:** Students will be able to recognize common housing vocabulary and abbreviations.

**Materials:** Photos representing different types of dwellings, chart paper, computer, projector, PPT Presentation: Looking for Housing, red/green/yellow Signal Cards, True/False worksheet, newspaper rental classifieds and printed online housing ads, Match Up Cards: Rental Ad Abbreviations, Survey: Rental Ads, *overhead projector, computer lab, internet connection*



## STEP 1: ACTIVATE BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Photos representing different types of dwellings: a shack, a mansion, a house, an apartment, a townhouse, and a teepee</li> <li>- Chart paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Using Pictures</li> </ul>

### TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Before class, go around the room and put up six pieces of chart paper. With each piece of a paper put a photo of a place to live. Then, add written information about the home, such as, the rent, number of bedrooms/bathrooms, square footage, whether it has a yard, central heating/air, allows pets, etc.
2. Tell the students, "Imagine you have to leave your home and find a new place to live. What kind of place would you look for?"
3. Ask students to stand under the photo of the place they would want to live.
4. Review each option and ask the students at each station why they picked it.

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## STEP 2: MINI-PRESENTATION WITH PROMPT

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Computer and Projector</li> <li>- PPT Presentation: Looking for Housing</li> <li>- Alternative: printed slides/pictures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teaching with PowerPoint</li> <li>- Using Pictures</li> </ul>

### TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Create a short slide presentation about looking for housing. The presentation should include common housing vocabulary, such as, rent, landlord, types of housing, and some common abbreviations from housing ads.
2. Consider adding the abbreviations to the PowerPoint so that students can be introduced to what they look like.

## STEP 3: DISCUSSION AND COMPREHENSION CHECK

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Computer and Projector</li> <li>- PPT Presentation: Looking for Housing</li> <li>- Red, green, and yellow Signal Cards</li> <li>- True/False worksheet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teaching with PowerPoint</li> <li>- Using Pictures</li> <li>- Signal Cards</li> <li>- True/False Quiz</li> </ul>

### TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Create a True/False worksheet to accompany your presentation and give one to each student.
2. Go back through the presentation and have students work individually to mark their answers as you go.
3. Check students' answers by reviewing each question as a class and having students use Signal Cards to indicate True/False/I don't know.

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## STEP 4: HIGHLIGHT LESSON FOCUS AND MODEL TASK

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
10 minutes	- Newspaper rental classifieds and printed online housing ads	- Authentic Materials - Brainstorming - Think Aloud

### TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Pass out newspaper classified ads and housing ads printed from an online source, such as Craigslist, with the abbreviations highlighted. Ask students about the things they recognize in the ads.
2. Explain that today students will talk about how to find a new home. Tell students, “I have to move to a new home. What are some things to think about when I find a new home?”
3. List a few ideas on the board, such as wanting it to be safe, wanting to rent instead of buy, wanting a bus stop nearby, etc.
4. Using a Think Aloud go through an ad highlighting the qualities you’d like your new home to have. For example, “This ad reminds me, the summer gets hot so I want air conditioning. This ad says CH/CA. That means ‘central heating/central air.’ I’ll mark this one!”

## STEP 5: GUIDED PRACTICE

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
5 minutes	- Newspaper rental classifieds and printed online housing ads	- Authentic Materials - Brainstorming

### TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Continue by having students scan the ads. As they list ideas of things to think about when finding a new home, list them on the board. Where applicable, put the common abbreviation next to a word (e.g., “Washer/Dryer - W/D”).

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## STEP 6: PAIR OR SMALL GROUP WORK

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
10 minutes	- Match Up Cards: Rental Ad Abbreviations	- Match Up Cards - Question Asking and Answering

### TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Have the students get into pairs. Give each pair a set of cards with words and abbreviations. For example, one student will have a card with the word “bathroom.” The other student will have the abbreviation card that says “BA” somewhere in the stack.
2. Each student should take turns asking his/her partner to clarify abbreviations, for example, “This card says W/D. What does that mean?” The other student should provide the full word.
3. Allow students time to match up all of their cards.

## STEP 7: HIGHLIGHT HOW ENGLISH WORKS

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
10 minutes	- Computer and Projector - Newspaper rental classifieds and printed online housing ads	- Authentic Materials

### TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Write on the board to show the singular/plural pattern of “How much?” vs. “How many?” Start with example related to housing and then expand to include other examples:
 

How much is the rent?	How many bedrooms?
How much does it cost?	How many bathrooms are in the house?
How much money do you have?	How many children do you have?

 Explain that “How much?” is for asking about only one item and “How many?” is for more than one.
2. Project a rental ad. Alternatively, prepare an ad on chart paper ahead of time. Ask students, “How much is the rent?” and highlight where the information can be found.

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3. Ask, “How many bedrooms are there?” and highlight where the information can be found.
4. Point to various pieces of information in the ad and have students generate the questions using “How much” or “How many.”

## STEP 8: QUICK CHECK AND REVIEW

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newspaper rental classifieds and printed online housing ads</li> <li>- Survey: Rental Ads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Surveys and Interviews</li> <li>- Question Asking and Answering</li> </ul>

## TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Have students pick a classified ad.
2. Give each student a survey that asks for students’ names along with targeted information in their ad, such as the rent, number of bedrooms, number of bathrooms, etc.
3. Students should walk around asking 2-3 other people about their ads and filling in the information on the grid.
4. Come back together as a class. Ask each student to report on the results for one person he/she surveyed.

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## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES: WRITE A CLASSIFIED AD/ONLINE SEARCHING

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
Varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newspaper rental classifieds and printed online housing ads</li> <li>- Overhead projector</li> <li>- Computer lab</li> <li>- Internet connection </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dictation</li> </ul>

### TEACHING ACTIVITY #1

1. Read a classified ad aloud to the students and have them write down the abbreviations they hear.
2. Project the classified ad and allow students to check their responses.
3. Model how to write a classified ad for the place you live. For example, "My apartment has one bedroom." Write on the board:  
Apartment, 1 BR.  
"I have a washing machine and a dryer" Add to your classified ad:  
Apartment, 1 BR. W/D  
Continue until you have written a complete ad.
4. Ask students to get with a partner and tell each other about the places they live. Each person should draft a classified ad for his/her partner and then share with the class.

### TEACHING ACTIVITY #2

1. Take students to a computer lab and guide them in using an online site, such as Craigslist, to explore housing ads.
2. Have each student choose an ad for a place he/she would like to live and present it to the class.