

# 5B A perfect match

**Activity type:** Speaking and listening – Role play – Pairs / Whole class

**Aim:** To practise describing houses and flats and discussing accommodation preferences

**Language:** Adverts for rooms – Use at any point from the Target activity, p46.

**Preparation:** Make one copy of the worksheet for every twelve learners. Cut up each worksheet along the dotted lines to make sets of six Property cards and six Tenant cards. For ten learners, use five of each, for eight, use four of each, and so on.

**Time:** 30 minutes

- 1 Divide the class into two equal groups. Explain that one half will play the role of house owners looking to rent out a room in their house or flat, while the other half will play the role of prospective tenants looking to rent a room. If there is an odd number of learners in the class, there should be more tenants than owners.
- 2 Give each learner in one group a Property card and each learner in the other group a Tenant card. Ask them to read their cards carefully and identify the key information in each case. They should decide which preferences or requirements are most important to them and which they can be flexible about if necessary.
- 3 Explain that the tenants are going to visit each owner in turn to find out whether the property is suitable for them. The tenants should explain their preferences as clearly as possible and if necessary try to persuade the owners to be flexible. Note that there are no perfect matches, so some negotiation and flexibility are required in order for the properties to be let.
- 4 The owners sit in different parts of the room with an empty chair next to them. Explain that tenants and owners will have three minutes to ‘interview’ each other and decide whether or not they are interested in letting or taking the room in each case. Owners and tenants should keep a note of which tenants and properties they are most interested in. Explain that after three minutes you will ask them to stop and ask the tenants to move on to another owner.
- 5 Start the role play and allow it to continue until each tenant has spoken to each owner. At the end, ask the tenants to report back on which property or properties they are most interested in, and ask the owners to report back on which tenants they are prepared to accept. The aim is ideally for all the tenants to find a room, although this may not always be the case and is not essential to the task.

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## PROPERTY CARDS

### Property 1

- You are a student and you live with three other students. Your house is five minutes on foot from the university.
- You are all very friendly, and you usually have a party every Saturday night.
- The spare room is big but there is no bed, and the bathroom has a bath but no shower.
- The room costs £250 a month, including bills.



### Property 2

- You are a 35-year-old man. Your house is 30 minutes by bus from the city centre.
- You work from home and you are very busy, so you need someone who is quiet.
- Your house is very clean, but there is no washing machine.
- The room has a bed, wardrobe and bedclothes and costs £225 a month.



### Property 3

- You are a young woman.
- You live with your husband, two-year-old child and dog in a three-bedroom flat, ten minutes on foot from the city centre.
- Your kitchen is very small, so you'd like someone who doesn't like cooking. There is a large garden.
- The room is furnished and costs £420 a month, including bills and internet access.



### Property 4

- You are a 70-year-old woman with four cats.
- You like people, and you want to live with someone that you can talk to.
- The room is very small and unfurnished. There is no internet access, and the house has no central heating, so it is cold in winter.
- You love cooking and the price of the room (only £180 a month) includes dinner every day.



### Property 5

- You are a 50-year-old man and you have a one-bedroom flat at the top of a modern apartment block in the city centre.
- You are going away for one year, and you need someone to live in your flat and look after it.
- You have free internet access and a private garage. No smoking and no pets!
- The rent is £400 a month, but this includes all bills.



### Property 6

- You are a 55-year-old woman.
- You live in a big house in the countryside, 5 kilometres from the shops, and you have five cats and two dogs.
- The house has a large garden, a tennis court and a swimming pool.
- The room has a private bathroom, and costs £200 a month plus bills, but it includes free internet access.



## TENANT CARDS

You run your own business on the internet, so it is very important for you to live somewhere with internet access. You can pay £250 a month. You love animals. You can't drive, so you need to live somewhere near the city centre.



You are a student at the university. You want to rent a room in a shared house, possibly with other students. You like meeting new people and going out with friends. You can pay about £200 a month. You hate cats.



You are a taxi driver, so you need somewhere near the city centre with a safe place to park your taxi. You love cooking, so you want a big kitchen, and you'd like a garden or somewhere to sit outside. You can pay about £450 a month. You have a dog.



You are a writer. You want to rent a room in a flat or a house. You want to live alone if possible, and you definitely don't want to share with students because you need a quiet place to work. You can pay £230 a month. You are a smoker.



You are a scientist at the university. You want to rent a room in a house with a garden. You can pay about £250 a month. You want to live somewhere quiet. You would also like to have a private bathroom. You have your own furniture, including a bed.



You are an architect. You want to rent a modern flat with good views. You can pay £500 a month. You want to live somewhere quiet, and not in the city centre. You don't smoke and you don't have any pets.

