



55 mins.



Secondary*

Moving out of home

This lesson explores costs and responsibilities associated with moving out of home and setting up living arrangements.

Outcomes

Students will:

- identify costs associated with moving out of home
- recognise the need to split living costs fairly with housemates
- understand how and what to budget for
- recognise the importance of contracts
- compare living costs

Curriculum links v9.0

Maths

AC9M7N05

AC9M7N06

AC9M7N09

AC9M8N04

AC9M8N05

AC9M9N01

AC9M9M05

HASS

AC9HE7K01

AC9HE7K04

General Capabilities

Literacy

Numeracy

Critical & Creative Thinking

Senior Secondary

Mathematics Essentials

*NB – Moving out of home has been written as a task for the Essential Mathematics Senior course. However, this lesson can also be mapped to Mathematics curriculum Year 7-10 so younger students, who may be employed after school and on weekends, can consider future financial decisions.

To share: Moving out of home for the first time is exciting, but it also comes with responsibilities like financial commitments, so it pays to be organised.

Getting started (15 mins)

1. As a warm-up ask your students to raise their hand if they see themselves moving out of home by the age of: 18?, 21?, 25?, 30? Share reasons why they might look forward to doing this.
2. What attributes would someone need to be a good housemate? What attributes would make it hard to live with someone? (Someone who...?)
3. What are some different living options? *e.g., with a friend or partner, in a one-bedroom unit, group house, on campus, renting a room, with extended family. What are the advantages or disadvantages of each?*

Discovery (40 mins)

1. Using a round-robin strategy, ask students to contribute one at a time to this brainstorm: What are some of the expenses you'll encounter by moving out of home?

Instructions: In a round-robin brainstorm, every student offers **one idea to the brainstorm**, before anyone contributes a second idea or adds value. Also ask students to be more specific if they say something generic like 'bills'... E.g., A bill for what?

Encourage participation by coming back to students who might say: "My idea was already said." Also consider asking them for a comment on an idea that has been shared that is new to them or something they have already started doing e.g., paying their mobile phone bill.

Did anyone mention a BOND? What is a rental bond?

To explain: A rental bond is the security deposit you pay to your new landlord **before** you move into a rental accommodation. The bond amount is usually equal to four weeks of rent.

See Moneysmart: [Rental bonds and leases - Moneysmart.gov.au](https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/rental-bonds-and-leases) for more information which includes bond assistance loans.



Moving out of home

Other resources

Webpages

[Round-robin Active Learning Design Tool \(griffith.edu.au\)](https://griffith.edu.au)

[Manage the cost of living](#)

[Managing on a low income](#)

Videos

[Get Moneysmart \(1.05\)](#)

[Making money decisions \(1.11\)](#)

[Keeping track of spending \(0.54\)](#)

[Choosing a bank account \(1.14\)](#)

[Maximise your savings \(1.11\)](#)

[Manage spending and debt \(1.21\)](#)

[Talking about money YouTube \(0.58\)](#)

[Know your consumer rights \(1.04\)](#)

[Know where to get help \(1.12\)](#)

[Understand credit and loans \(0.52\)](#)

[Set savings goals \(1.02\)](#)

[Planning for big purchases \(1.09\)](#)

2. Ask students to compare their thoughts with Moneysmart's Moving out checklist on **Worksheet 1** from [Moving out of home - Moneysmart.gov.au](#).
3. Hand out **Worksheet 2**. Give your students a few minutes to fill in the table either individually or in pairs. Students are to note one-off costs and ongoing costs. Open a discussion on individual choices e.g., public transport may constitute a one-off yearly public transport card or an ongoing weekly cost, whereas someone with a car will require ongoing maintenance, parking, and fuel costs.
4. Hand out **Worksheet 3 Quiz - Living arrangements** for completion.

Budgeting:

5. Ask your students to list their current expenses: Do they have a phone, pay for petrol, car insurance or registration, what do they spend on entertainment each week? Are they paying off a debt to someone? Ask students to explore Moneysmart's budget planner [Budget planner - Moneysmart.gov.au](#).
 - › After exploring the budget planner, what changes do students think they can make to prepare for independent living? This is a perfect opportunity to discuss the difference between needs and wants, and different saving behaviours.
6. Have your class watch one or more of the following:
 - › [Keeping track of spending - YouTube \(time: 0.54\)](#)
 - › and/or [Budget for irregular income - YouTube \(1.10\)](#)
 - › and/or [Understand your financial future - YouTube \(1.26\)](#)

Extension (40 mins)

In-class or take-home activities:

1. Explore [Study Australia's Cost of Living Calculator](#) to discover what the weekly, monthly, or annual expenditure might be in various Australian states or territories. What factors draw students to more expensive options?
2. Research assignment: Cost of living
 - › Individually or in pairs, create a table which compares the cost of living in 3-5 different locations around Australia, perhaps a mix of capital cities and regional centres. These discoveries can be shared with peers (the table can include or exclude where you live now).
 - › Add anything that you might be interested in paying for e.g., a coffee from a café, a haircut, gym membership.

Remember to ask students to stay consistent in what costs they compare (weekly, fortnightly, monthly, or annual costs) so students can make accurate comparisons.



Worksheet 1: Moving out checklist

There's a lot to organise when you move out. Discuss the Moneysmart checklist which is designed to help make the move as smooth as possible. Can anything be added?

Budget	Do a budget to work out the food, transport, bills, and accommodation you can afford over a week, a month, or a year.
Research the area	Make sure the area has what you need. For example, public transport, or a supermarket, petrol station or pharmacy.
Furniture	Find out if the place comes furnished. If it's unfurnished, budget for new or second-hand furniture.
Unwanted items	Get rid of unwanted items or sell them to raise extra money.
Bills	Pay off any existing bills before moving.
Removalists	Book a removalist, hire a van, or ask family or friends to help.
Utilities	Sign up for electricity, gas, and water connections.
Internet	Sign up to an internet provider.
Insurance	Get online quotes if you want home contents insurance to cover your furniture or other personal belongings . Your new address may also change your car insurance premium.
Contact details	Give your new address to organisations that will need to send you information like a bank statement or driver's licence.
Memberships	Change or cancel any memberships you won't use (for example, local clubs or the gym).

Worksheet 2: Ongoing costs vs one-off costs



Put the following costs into the appropriate category:

- parking permits
- transport
- home contents insurance
- membership fees to gym or equivalent
- removalist fees or van hire
- connection fees for utilities and internet
- groceries
- internet and/or phone bills
- entertainment costs
- rental bond
- furniture and homewares
- rent
- utility bills including gas, water, and electricity
- blinds for the windows

Ongoing costs	One-off costs

Worksheet 3: Quiz: Living arrangements



Understand your options when it comes to living arrangements. Young people often choose to share with housemates for companionship and to save money. For example, choosing to split rent and household expenses in a four-bedroom house with three other flatmates can be cheaper than renting a one-bedroom unit alone.

1. Renting a house or rooms will require a rental agreement. Who should sign the rental agreement (also known as a lease or tenancy agreement)?
 - a. the oldest housemate
 - b. the most trusted and organised housemate
 - c. the person who organised the rental
 - d. every housemate
2. Whose name/s should appear on utility bills?
 - a. every housemate
 - b. any couples in the house
 - c. the person who was responsible for organising the services
 - d. no one should, it is the role of the landlord
3. Taking out home contents insurance is optional (but advisable). Whose name/s should appear on the contents insurance cover?
 - a. anyone who wants to protect their personal belongings from theft or damage
 - b. the housemate with the most expensive items
 - c. a housemate's parent
 - d. your landlord's
4. Who should pay the bond?
 - a. the person who organised the rental
 - b. every house mate should contribute
 - c. the housemate who earns the most
 - d. negotiate with the landlord so no one pays

Worksheet 3: Quiz: Living arrangements



SHARED EXPENSES ACTIVITY:

All housemates should discuss how shared expenses and responsibilities will be divided fairly. See the examples below. What else could you add to this list?

- The cost of utility bills like water, electricity etc
- Rent and bond payments
- Responsibility for paying the rent and bills on time
- Covering the cost of furniture in areas of the home that everybody uses
- Sharing the cost of products or services that everyone uses e.g., cleaning products
- Household chores
- The cost of shared services like streaming
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

TO SIGN OR NOT TO SIGN

If you sign a lease, you're in a formal living arrangement. If you haven't signed the lease, that means you're in an informal living arrangement.

Get a written agreement from the other tenants about how much rent you'll pay and how household costs will be divided. If you don't do this, and something goes wrong, you may not be able to get your money back.

You may also need to add your name to utility services connected to the property like electricity, gas, water, and the internet.

Before you sign anything, make sure you understand your responsibilities. Find out more about [rental bonds and leases](#).

MONEY MATTERS IN A RELATIONSHIP

If you're moving in with your partner, talk about your finances. Get to know one another's attitude to money. Think about your financial goals, both short and long term. You don't have to have everything figured out, just start a conversation.

Getting to know these things helps build a strong foundation for a healthy relationship, with each other and with money. For tips on how to talk about money, see [relationships and money](#) and/ or [A financial toolkit for couples | You, Me & Money \(youmemoney.org.au\)](#)

For more information see: [Moving out of home - Moneysmart.gov.au](#)



Worksheet 2 - Ongoing costs vs one-off costs

Put the following costs into the appropriate category:

- parking permits
- transport
- [home contents insurance](#)
- membership fees to gym or equivalent
- removalist fees or van hire
- connection fees for utilities and internet
- groceries
- internet and/or phone bills
- entertainment costs
- [rental bond](#)
- furniture and homewares
- rent
- utility bills including gas, water, and electricity
- blinds for the windows

Ongoing costs	One-off costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rent • utility bills including gas, water and electricity • internet and phone bills • groceries • transport • entertainment costs • membership fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rental bond paid at the start of the lease • connection fees for utilities and internet • removalist fees or van hire • furniture and homewares • parking permits • home contents insurance • window blinds

NB – Answers will vary. This opens another opportunity to discuss individual decisions.

Worksheet 3 - Quiz: Living arrangements

1. d
2. a
3. a
4. b