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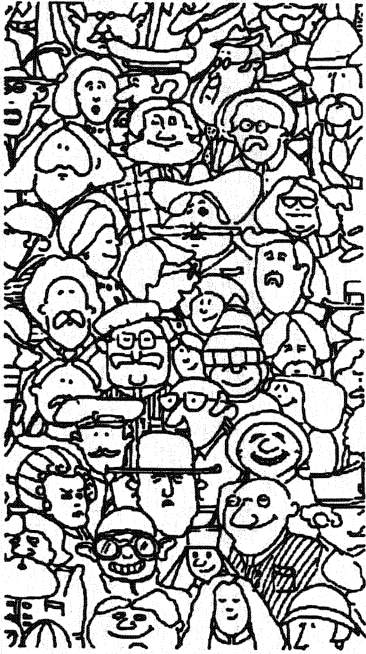
## LESSON B

### Recognizing How Housing Choices Affect Relationships

**FOCUS:** Relationships are sometimes altered or perhaps even acquired as a result of housing choices. Distance, space, and responsibility affect our relationship with parents, siblings, friends and roommates.

#### ACTIVITIES:

1. Discuss how relationships with your parents, your brothers and sisters, your friends, etc. might change after you move out. How might this be different if you are living in the same city and working, on campus in student housing, married, etc?
2. Have students choose another person in class to practice interviewing skills for roommate selection. See student worksheet "Roommate Interview". Record answers on the worksheet and complete the analysis and the end.
3. Conflicts among roommates can cause problems in living situations. Have students evaluate themselves by (honestly) completing the Student Handout, "Personal Inventory". Discuss conflict management and how to avoid conflict before it starts by acknowledging and working with the information from the worksheet.
4. Pass out pieces of the jigsaw puzzles with situations written on them. Students match up by finding the other students with the missing pieces to their puzzle. Have students share their solutions. (If there are more students than situations give more than one group the same situation and compare solutions or have students make-up a situation of their own.)



## ROOMMATE INTERVIEW

Selecting a roommate requires thought, understanding of yourself, and an understanding of the potential roommate. To practice the skills of interviewing another individual as a possible roommate, select a person in class, interview that person, and write answers to the following questions. Then analyze your interview.

### Interview Questions

1. How do you like to spend your spare time? (Think to yourself: Do we like to do the same thing?)

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2. Do you like to clean and straighten your room? (Think to yourself: Will I be able to share a space with a person who is less or more neat than I am?)

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3. How do you treat your parents and brothers and sisters? (Think to yourself: I will probably be treated in the same way. Can I handle that?)

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4. Do you like to eat out or cook: (Think: Would we eat alone, share our food, or eat out? What is my food budget in comparison to my roommate's?)

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5. How would we share the rent, utilities, and phone bills? (Think: Would these be shared equally?)

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6. Would you invite friends in to stay overnight/ If so, how long would you let them stay? (Think to yourself: Would I be able to handle having others stay free of charge? Do I need privacy?)

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7. How would we handle the housekeeping chores such as cleaning, buying groceries, carrying out the garbage, doing the laundry, washing the dishes, etc.? (Think: Would the duties be shared or would I end up doing more than my share?)

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8. If we have to provide furnishings, appliances, towels, etc., what do you have to contribute? (Think: Will we have to buy these items or do we have enough to begin setting up an apartment?)

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9. If you have a problem do you like to talk it over? (Think: Will this person communicate with me and share concerns if we were to become roommates?)

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10. If the past, have you paid your bills on time? (Think to yourself: Is this person a financially responsible individual?)

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### Interview Analysis

1. Based on answers you received, list reasons why you would or would not select this individual as a roommate.

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2. List five reasons why it's important to interview a potential roommate.

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3. List any additional questions that you would ask that were not included in this activity.

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4. List at least ten characteristics that you feel a potential roommate must have in order for them to be compatible with you.

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## Personal Inventory

It's easy, initially, to blame the other person when things go wrong or are uncomfortable. In a roommate situation, each person must be responsible for their own share of conflict and conflict resolution. Complete the following "Personal Inventory." Honestly evaluate yourself by placing a check (✓) in the appropriate column that best describes you.

	Usually	Sometimes	Always
1. I am well organized.			
2. I prefer to be alone.			
3. I control my temper.			
4. I get upset when things don't work out the way I want.			
5. I avoid criticizing others.			
6. I am dependable.			
7. It is hard for me to talk out disagreements.			
8. I like to talk.			
9. I can eat almost anything.			
10. I like to be with other people.			
11. I do my share of the work.			
12. I try to change people.			
13. It's hard for me to be wrong.			
14. I can listen to another person's point of view.			

Look over your answers. Will it be easy or hard for you to accept your share of the conflict situation?

**Situation #1**

Jan, Tracy, Pam, and Becca share an apartment while going to school. Tracy and Pam do most of the cleaning. Jan complains that she doesn't know how Becca manages to get out of the work. They each take turns planning the food menu and buying the food for a week at a time. Tracy buys lots of food that no one else likes.

**Situation #2**

Paul and Mike are roommates and both have part-time jobs and go to school part-time. Mike's family has donated more of the furniture, household items, and his stereo, so he is more concerned about household maintenance than Paul. Paul thinks he can invite his friends from home to stay with him weekends. They usually clean out the fridge while they're there.

**Situation #3**

Connie and Kristen are roommates. Connie is extremely well organized. Kristen leaves her things—clothing, food, etc.—all over the place. Kristen likes loud music; Connie prefers quiet.

**Situation #4**

(Make one up.)