

3.6 Speaking

Organising a place to live

I can suggest, agree to and object to a course of action.

- 1 In pairs, put these factors in order of importance when looking for a flat to share with friends.

decoration/furniture ☐ location ☐
rent ☐ size ☐ security ☐ privacy ☐

- 2 Compare your ideas from Exercise 1 with another pair. Agree on a final order.
- 3 **CD-1.53 MP3-53** Listen to a conversation between two friends who are looking for a flat to share. Which two factors from Exercise 1 are not mentioned?
- 4 **CD-1.53 MP3-53** Read the **SPEAKING FOCUS** and complete the conversation with one word in each gap. Then listen again and check.

Zoe: I can't believe we've both been accepted into the same university!

Amy: Isn't it great? I'm so excited! And we'll be living together.

Zoe: I know. I can't wait!

Amy: What do you think ¹ _____ living in halls of residence? To be honest, I'm not sure.

Zoe: No, me neither. Do you know Jay?

Amy: Yep, why?

Zoe: Well, his brother studies there and he says the halls are really old and noisy. Maybe we ought to just look for a place of our own.

Amy: You're ² _____ right.

Zoe: The question is, do we want to share with other people? It would probably be cheaper.

Amy: Well, yeah, but ³ _____ it be better to get our own place? Obviously, it depends how much it costs, but if we could find the right flat at the right price, I think I'd prefer not to share.

Zoe: I know what you mean, but I'm not ⁴ _____ we'll be able to afford it. Why don't we ⁵ _____ half way and look for shared accommodation, but in a place where we could have our own rooms?

Amy: I suppose that could ⁶ _____. That way we might even be able to afford something near the university. Given the choice, I'd ⁷ _____ be within walking or cycling distance. And you?

Zoe: Totally. I don't even mind if it's a small room as long as it's close to the campus.

Amy: That's ⁸ _____ then. So, let's have a look online and see what we can find.



SPEAKING FOCUS

Suggesting a course of action

What do you think about (+ -ing)?

Maybe we ought to (just) ...

What would you say if we (+ Past Simple)?

Given the choice, I'd rather ... And you?

Objecting

No way!/Absolutely not!/You must be joking! (informal)

Fair? I think it's completely unfair.

(Well, yeah, but) wouldn't it be better to ... ?

I know/see what you mean/what you're saying, but ...

I'm not convinced (we'll be able to afford it/that's a good idea/that'll work).

Compromising

If you agree to (pay more), I'll (take the smaller room).

We could (split the cost/go halves/share).

Why don't we compromise/meet half way (and agree that ...)?

I guess so./I suppose that could work.

OK, that seems like a fair compromise.

Agreeing

True./Right./Absolutely./Totally.

You're absolutely right.

I fully/completely agree.

OK, that's settled then.

- 5 Three teenagers are going to share a flat. Here are some possible rules that could make sharing a flat easier. Look at each rule and decide if you think it's a good or bad idea. Note down your opinion about each rule (with reasons). Then think of one more rule of your own.

1 We need to have a plan for cleaning the flat every week. We should write down exactly who is doing what and when.

2 We need to have a cooking rota so that we all cook for the others on different days.

3 We should have a rule about noise! Like, after a certain time we should keep our noise down so others can sleep or work.

4 Parties! We can have parties but we need to tell the others and always invite them!

5 The bathroom – we need a timetable for who uses the shower and bathroom at different times in the morning.

6 We all need to give the same money to decorate the living room and choose the colours and do the work on it together.

7 We DON'T eat our flatmates' food in the fridge or use their things without asking.

- 6 In pairs, compare your ideas from Exercise 5 and then decide whose extra rule is better. When you disagree, try to reach a compromise. Then look at all the rules again and choose the two best ones.