
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

News Report

Sharing accommodation



Leaving home and going to university is one of the major steps in the life of a young person.

In the UK, it's common for university students to share **digs** that are provided by the university. However, in some cases students are being forced to share single rooms.

The situation has **come about** because the government **raised the cap** on student numbers in the UK, allowing universities **to recruit** an extra 30,000 students.

As a result of offering places to thousands more than usual, a few universities have been unable **to house** all their first-year students in **halls of residence**.

This has led to first-years sleeping in **bunk beds** in rooms meant for one, with a single sink and desk.

The universities have agreed that the situation is **not ideal** and have offered the students **discounted** rent and free food until they find them more suitable accommodation.

After leaving full-time education and entering the workforce, many young graduates still find themselves having to share accommodation. In many cities the cost of buying or renting even small properties is **prohibitively expensive**.

It's not always possible to pick and choose who you live with and there can be a number of problems that arise.

One survey suggests that untidiness, disgusting personal habits and **petty pilfering** of food are some of the most common complaints among flatmates.

The "borrowing" of personal belongings without permission was also **a big gripe**.

Despite these problems, many people love the experience of sharing, at least for a few years.

Vocabulary

digs

rented accommodation

come about

happened

raised the cap

made the limit higher

to recruit

to offer places at university to

to house

to find accommodation for

halls of residence

accommodation which is owned by the university

bunk beds

two single beds joined together with one bed above the other

not ideal

unsatisfactory

prohibitively expensive

so expensive that it is impossible to afford

petty pilfering

stealing small items

a big gripe

a big complaint

This story is based on an original BBC News story:

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