

Read the problems again. Then complete the article with solutions A–H.

- A Don't pay in your share, either, and wait until the wi-fi gets cut off. Then suddenly, everyone will pay.
- B Before you move in, get everyone to write their name on a piece of paper, and put them in a hat. The first person to be picked chooses first.
- C Encourage everyone to have a go. Don't criticize other people's attempts. Try to help them improve.
- D Get some ear plugs. Wax ones are the best.
- E Have a rota for all jobs, including washing-up, drying, cleaning, and tidying.
- F If you often need to get ready at similar times, take turns to go first.
- G Make sure everyone has their own fridge shelf space and cupboard space.
- H Suggest that if they are going to stay over often, then maybe they should contribute to rent / bills.

Classic student house arguments – and how to avoid them

Living in a shared student house can be one of university's greatest pleasures, but arguments will happen. What are the solutions?

Who gets the biggest room when moving in? There's always one housemate who is convinced they have the right to the biggest room.

Solutions:

- Adjust the rent, so that the person with the biggest room pays more.
- 1

The mess in the kitchen You come home from a long day at uni and can't get to the sink because of the enormous pile of pots and pans.

Solutions:

- Establish the 30-minute rule – nothing stays unwashed for over 30 minutes.
- 2

The housemate whose boyfriend / girlfriend spends more time in your house than their own They definitely do not live at your house, but you see them more than some of your housemates. And they use the electricity, the water, the wi-fi...

Solutions:

- Explain why it's annoying. It isn't personal, but with them there, there's less space for the rest of you.
- 3

How to pay and split the bills The joint account seemed like a good idea until some people's money stopped going in, and the direct debit 'bounced' (incurring a charge), and the electricity bill, which was enormous, was forgotten about (another charge), and someone has gone to South America for three months.

Solutions:

- Get everyone to put in more money than will be needed in the account – then later pay the excess back (this is a good way of keeping a little extra cash in reserve, too).
- 4

Taking too long in the bathroom What are they doing in there?

Solutions:

- Have a kind word about the fact that there's only one bathroom.
- 5

When they come in at 3 a.m., waking everybody up the night before an exam.

Solutions:

- Make sure your housemates know if you have to be up early for something. Likewise, let them know if you intend to be back late.
- 6

Food stealing, 'borrowing' clothes, etc. 'It was just there, so I took it.'

Solutions:

- Label your stuff, so that it's obvious what's yours.
- 7

Who can't cook, who won't cook? Why is it always you who's left alone to make dinner in the evening? How come as soon as you've finished, everyone suddenly appears?

Solutions:

- Draw up a cooking rota, so you know whose turn it is.
- 8

Glossary

the direct debit 'bounced' a bill that was supposed to be paid automatically through the bank wasn't paid because there wasn't enough money in the account