

Reading

1 Read the article quickly and choose the best title.

- a Four ways to have a good house share
- b Four types of people who share a house
- c Four things NOT to do when sharing a house

2 Read the article again and match paragraphs 1–4 with headings a–e. There is one extra heading you do not need.

- a Communication is important
- b Keep it tidy
- c Don't eat other people's food
- d Sharing bills
- e Be nice

3 Read the article again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 You should tidy your room every day.
- 2 Everyone in the house should do the cleaning.
- 3 It's easier to wash up dishes just after you use them.
- 4 Decide how to share bills after a few months.
- 5 You don't need to keep a record of things people buy for the house.
- 6 You can leave messages for each other in the kitchen.
- 7 You should plan when visitors come.
- 8 You should never do someone else's housework for them.

4 Match the words in bold in the article with meanings 1–4.

- 1 a thing that you can write on with a special pen
- 2 parts of a house that you all share
- 3 arrive
- 4 things you use to change the taste of food



1 You can tidy your room when you want to, but think about the **communal areas** like the kitchen and living room. You need to share the cleaning with your flatmates, but also clean up after you use something yourself. It's a good idea to wash up immediately after eating. That way dishes and other things are easier to clean, too.

2 Make sure you agree with your flatmates how to share the bills from the beginning. It's not just bills, there are other things it's a good idea to share, such as cleaning products and common **condiments** like salt, pepper, cooking oil, etc. Keep a chart for who pays what and when.

3 It's a good idea to have a **whiteboard** somewhere like the kitchen where everybody can see it. You can write messages on it for each other when you're not there, and clean them off when everyone's read them. It's also a good idea to have a visitor calendar for when your friends or family come to stay. You don't want to be in the situation where two or more of you invite people to stay and when they **turn up** you realise you don't have any space.

4 There are lots of ways to do this, from a simple 'please' and 'thank you' at the right times, to offering to help when others have a problem. If you have time, offer to do someone else's housework when they're busy. You might find you need their help one day!