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REFERS TO TEXAS LAW AND DOES NOT
CONSTITUTE LEGAL ADVICE. IF YOU
NEED LEGAL ADVICE, YOU MUST
CONTACT AN ATTORNEY. THE LAW MAY
HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE DATE OF
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Say It In English!

Talking about Landlord-Tenant Issues



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Purpose

The purpose of this guide is to help non-native English speaking international student communicate with their landlords and others about housing issues. General housing words are grouped together thematically so that international students can better describe their housing situation.

Housing Words

RENT

Raise the rent
Rent increase
Rental agreement
Rental Unit
Pet rent
Renter's Insurance

LEASE

Long term lease
Short term lease
Oral lease
Written lease
Sublease
Lease agreement

NOTICE

Written notice
Proper notice
Reasonable notice
Notice to vacate
24-hour notice
3-day notice
30-day notice

UTILITY

Gas
Water
Electricity
Telephone
Cable
Utility connection
Turn on utilities
Shut off utilities

FEES & DEPOSITS

Late Fee
Application fee
Credit Check fee
Charge a fee
Security deposit
Holding deposit

SUBLET

Summer sublet
Sublease
Sublessor

EVICTION

Proper eviction
Wrongful eviction
Self-help eviction
File an eviction action
Eviction lawsuit
Forcible entry and detainer

ESCROW

Rent escrow
Put your rent in escrow
Escrow account
Escrow office

COURT

Court ordered repairs
Small claims court
Clerk of courts
Court action

CODE

Code Enforcement
Code Enforcement officer
Texas Property Code

Unwelcome Critters

Cockroaches
Roaches
Mice (Mouse)
Rats
Ants
Snakes
Termites
Raccoons
Vermin

DUTY

Landlord duties
Tenant duties
Statutory duty

TENANT

Lessee
Co-tenant
Tenant union

Describing Repair Problems

Leaky faucet
Backed up toilet
Toilet does not flush
Broken or cracked window
Heat or electricity turned off
Water damage to the bathroom wall
Chipped or peeling paint
Garbage disposal does not work
Light fixture is broken
Fire alarm is broken
Cabinet door is off the hinge
Mildew on the walls
Unsafe wiring
Basement flooding
Windows or doors do not lock properly
Smoke detector does not work
Fire hazard
No screens in the windows

Contact Us

If you have a landlord/tenant problem or wish to prevent one, please call the Commuter Programs office at (806) 651-2394.

Commuter Programs has translators available in several languages to assist with reading leases and describing housing issues.

Feel free to stop by our office or website to pick-up any more information.