

5. Renting an Apartment

Quick Reference

The following abbreviations and words are often used in ads.

A/C: Air conditioned

Apt: Apartment

Bdrm or BR: Bedroom

Bldg: Building

Brkr: Broker (company or person who gets a fee for finding an apartment—which usually means you pay them an amount equal to one or two month’s rent)

Bth: Bathroom

D/W: Dishwasher

Effcy: Efficiency (one room with kitchen and bath)

Flr: Floor

Furn: Furnished or with furniture

Immed occup: Immediate occupancy (you can move in now)

Incl: Including

Kit: Kitchen

Livrm or LR: Living room

Lge: Large

Lse: Lease (a legal contract to stay in apartment for a given period)

Mod: Modern

Nr: Near

Rm: Room

Sec: Security (usually equal to one-month’s rent to cover any damages you might cause in the apartment. You get it back at the end of your lease.)

Sml: Small

Studio: Similar to an efficiency apartment

Sublet: To rent an apartment from someone who’s already renting it

Supt: Superintendent

Util: Utilities (gas, heat, electricity)

W/D: Washer & Dryer in apartment unit

Looking for an apartment can be like decoding a secret message. All the codes in the ads are about **rent, fees,** and other **expenses.** If you take some time to learn exactly what the ads say, finding the actual cost of renting a home is no great mystery!

Which apartment should the people in questions 1–2 rent? Read the facts about each and then help them choose. Remember to include transportation costs in making your decision. The first problem is done for you.

1. Rose Chan’s net monthly income is \$1,800. She wants to rent either apartment A or B. She can walk to work from A, but the utilities will cost her at least \$45 a month. She has to ride from B at \$1 a ride for 40 trips a month.

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APARTMENTS FOR RENT

A Main St. Studio. Lge rm with kit & bth. \$590 plus util. Call eves. 672-4785.

B UPTOWN EFFCY. Luxury apt with livrm, kit, and full bth. \$590 incl util. Call Supt. 699-9424.

Actual Costs	A	B
Rent	\$590	\$590
Utilities	45	0
Transportation	0	40
TOTAL MONTHLY COSTS	\$635	\$630
Can Rose pay the total cost for each apartment?		YES
Which apartment should she rent based on cost?		B

Use what you've learned

2. Jimmy Santos's weekly paycheck is \$314 or _____ monthly. His budget for rent and transportation is 35% of his monthly income. How much is this? _____ Utilities cost about \$25 a month. Jimmy can walk to work from apartment B. The cost of transportation from apartment A is \$1.50 a trip, and Jimmy makes at least 40 trips a month.

Actual Costs	A	B
Rent	_____	_____
Utilities	_____	_____
Transportation	_____	_____
TOTAL MONTHLY COST	_____	_____
Can Jimmy pay the total monthly cost for each apartment?		_____
Which apartment should Jimmy rent based on cost?		_____

A

Broad & 16th (southside) 1 BR, Lr, bth, eat-in kit incl util. \$400/month
332-0687

B

Snyder & Hunting Park (north) 1st flr, mod, 3 rms. \$400/month plus util.
485-2327.

On Your Own

You have a choice between the two apartments at right. Apartment A is within a one-ride zone, so that a one-way trip to work will cost only \$1. Apartment B requires two rides of \$1 each time you go to work. The average cost of utilities for each is \$19.

A

1 BR Apt North Hills. Mod, furn, nr park. High flr. Immed occup. \$450 plus util.

B

1 Bdrm Apt South Shore Lge rms, kit with d/w. \$390 plus util. Avail Jan 1

Actual Costs	A	B
Rent	_____	_____
Utilities	_____	_____
Transportation	_____	_____
TOTAL MONTHLY COST	_____	_____

Which apartment should you rent based on cost?

Answer Key

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Use what you've learned.

Paycheck is \$1,256 monthly, rent/transportation budget is \$439.60.

Actual Costs	A	B
Rent	\$400	\$400
Utilities	0	\$25
Transportation	\$60	0
Total Monthly Cost	\$460	\$425

Can Jim pay the total monthly cost for each apartment? No

Which apartment should he rent? Apartment B